

MAJOR SCRUTINY REVIEW: *CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ABUSE THEIR PARENTS & CARERS*

Cabinet Member	Councillor David Simmonds Councillor Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio	Education and Children's Services Social Services, Health and Housing
Officer Contact	Nikki Stubbs, Deputy Chief Executive's Office
Papers with report	Appendix A: Children & Young People Who Abuse Their Parents & Carers Final Report

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To receive the Children & Young People Who Abuse Their Parents & Carers Working Group's report providing recommendations which seek to build upon the Borough's approach and strategy to dealing with parent abuse.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	A Safer Borough.
Financial Cost	There are no direct costs implications arising from this report.
Relevant Scrutiny Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Welcomes the report of the Children & Young People Who Abuse Their Parents & Carers Working Group; and
2. Accepts the recommendations of the Working Group report as reflected below:
 - i. That Cabinet endorse the Working Group's view that there is evidence available to suggest that, in some families, one or other parent is a victim of abuse by their child. This is an issue of great concern and failure to tackle it now will have a significant impact on many families in our Borough.
 - ii. That Cabinet agree that the Domestic Violence Strategic Coordinator work with the Education and Children's Services Directorate, the Youth Offending Team and partner agencies to identify and enhance the support currently

available to those families where one or other parent is a victim of abuse by their child.

- iii. That Cabinet note that families where one or other parent is a victim of abuse by their child are currently viewed and have the same stigma as victims of Domestic Violence did fifteen or so years ago. The Working Group asks that we address this matter in a more timely way with a robust action plan.**
- iv. That Cabinet support the inclusion of information relating to services available for families where one or other parent is a victim of abuse by their child in the Council's *Directory of National and Local Agencies and Help Lines* for victims of Domestic Violence and Transition Services.**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The recommendations are aimed at building upon the current support given by the Council and partner agencies to families suffering parent abuse. An improved and more joined up service will contribute to improvements in residents' health, wellbeing and safety.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject or amend one or more of the Working Group's recommendations.

Supporting Information

1. The Children & Young People Who Abuse Their Parents & Carers Working Group was set up by the External Services Scrutiny Committee to review parent abuse in 2009/10 to enable the Council to build on the support it, and its partners, already provided to families. It was also tasked with looking at the provision of a more joined up service.
2. The aim of this review was to establish how support was currently provided to families dealing with parent abuse and identify ways to improve the service. As well as hearing evidence from a number of representatives from relevant organisations, the Chairman of the Working Group also met with an abused parent who suggested various measures that would help parents and carers being abused by their children and young people.
3. Working Group Members were acutely aware of the need to not raise expectations too high. This, along with suggestions for improving the support currently available, were considered when producing the recommendations.
4. The review took place between October 2009 and March 2010 and was presented to the External Services Scrutiny Committee on 31st March 2010 for its endorsement before submission to the Cabinet.
5. The Committee's report (attached) gives full details of the review.

Financial Implications

At this stage, there are no financial implications relating to this report as the Domestic Violence Strategic Coordinator will incorporate this into their existing workload. Any further developments of this service will have to apply for funding through the appropriate methods.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The Committee's recommendations will provide a springboard for the Council to take those steps necessary to improve services offered to families subjected to parent abuse.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The Committee took evidence from victims, officers and experts as described in the attached report.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and is satisfied that there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any further developments of this service will have to apply for funding through the appropriate methods.

Legal

Under the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet has the appropriate powers to agree the recommendations proposed at the outset of this report. There are no other significant legal implications arising out of this report to bring to Cabinet's attention.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.