

SOCIAL CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EARLY HELP TO PROMOTE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES

Committee name	Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Anisha Teji - Democratic Services Thomas Murphy - Assistant Director of Early Intervention Prevention & SEND
Papers with report	Review into The Effectiveness of Early Help To Promote Positive Outcomes For Families by the previous Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee Appendix 1 - Final report on Review into The Effectiveness of Early Help To Promote Positive Outcomes For Families Appendix 2 - Update on recommendations
Wards	All

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an oral update on delivering the recommendations by the previous Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee into The Effectiveness Of Early Help To Promote Positive Outcomes For Families in 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1. Note the updates provided by officers.**
- 2. Question officers about progress following the The Effectiveness of Early Help To Promote Positive Outcomes For Families review.**
- 3. Request officers provide further updates, if required by the Committee.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The previous Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee undertook a review into The Effectiveness of Early Help To Promote Positive Outcomes For Families in the Borough. The Terms of Reference of the review were as follows:

Setting the context

- 1. To gain an understanding of the range of early help available to families in Hillingdon;*
- 2. To gain an understanding of how this help is accessed and organised; and*

3. To gain an understanding of the role intervention services plays in reducing 'front door' demand for social care services and in supporting families to 'step down' from the need for statutory intervention.

4. The review will consider services provided by:

- a. The Council;
- b. The voluntary and community sector;
- c. Schools;
- d. Public Health Services; and
- e. Health Services.

Understanding and responding to need

5. To explore how the need for early help and preventative intervention is assessed and responded to. Activity will include consideration of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment findings and other related sources of intelligence.

6. To consider how poverty and other factors can increase the likelihood of prevention or early intervention being required.

7. To explore approaches to assessing individual and family need.

Assessing impact and outcomes

8. To consider the impact and outcomes of early help;

9. To identify gaps in the early help offer;

10. To identify where improvements might be made to the early help available to families; and;

11. To propose ways in which the Council could work more effectively with its partners to meet families' need for early help.

The review heard evidence from a variety of officers and the CNWL - Hillingdon. In addition to this, site visits were undertaken to three Children's Centres.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were approved by Cabinet in February 2016:

1. That Cabinet endorses the work undertaken by the Council to support families through the provision of Early Intervention and Prevention.

2. That the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services considers the following recommendations in light of the Committee's review:

a. That officers further develop partnership working in order to ensure effective delivery of early intervention and prevention services to promote positive outcomes for families. In particular, this would be achieved through:

i. Developing the use and sharing of data and intelligence required for effective service delivery, so that individuals, families and communities in need of early support are identified and supported.

ii. Identifying how the effectiveness of partnership and collaborative working can be enhanced.

b. That officers further investigate how the early help offer can be effectively promoted to families and professionals, with a particular focus on digital promotion.

c. Within existing resources, consideration be given as to whether funding that Children's Centres and the Key Working Service receive should be dependent on local levels of need or whether funding should be allocated universally.

d. That officers seek to ensure that principles and best practice in relation to the provision of early help are embedded through the provision of training and development to early intervention staff and practitioners.

e. That an assessment of the development and implementation of the new services be undertaken once the changes have become embedded, with consideration given to a progress report to the Cabinet Member and the Policy Overview Committee's meeting towards the end of 2016. If considered appropriate, this could be followed by regular progress reports to the Committee.

3. That the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services recommends that the following areas be investigated further in light of the Committee's review:

a. That a review be undertaken of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) at the earliest possible opportunity during 2016/17. It is further proposed that this be a joint review to involve the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee, the External Services Scrutiny Committee and other bodies, if appropriate.

b. That the concerns raised during the review in relation to levels of child obesity in Hillingdon be passed to the relevant Council Committee(s) and officers for them to consider whether further investigation or review would be appropriate.

c. That concerns raised during the review in relation to child dental health be passed to the relevant Committee and officers, while noting that a review of child oral health in Hillingdon was undertaken by the Social Services, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee earlier in 2015, with an update due to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2016.

Appendix 1 provides further detail on how these recommendations have been implemented.

To assist Members, and those new to the Committee, a copy of the full review report on this is attached.

Implications on related Council policies

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

None at this stage.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL