

## MAJOR SCRUTINY REVIEW: *CHILDREN'S SELF HARM*

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor David Simmonds Councillor Philip Corthorne
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Education and Children's Services Social Services, Health and Housing
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Nikki Stubbs/Nav Johal, Central Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A: Children's Self Harm Working Group Final Report

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To receive the Children's Self Harm Working Group's report providing recommendations which seek to build upon the Borough's approach and strategy in dealing with the issues related to children's self harm.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	Putting our residents first: Our People
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no direct cost implications arising from this report.
<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s)</b>	External Services Scrutiny Committee, Education & Children's Services and Social Services, Health and Housing POC
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Welcomes the report of the Children's Self Harm Working Group; and
2. Accepts the recommendations of the Working Group report as reflected below:
  - i. endorses the Working Group's view that children's self harm is an issue of great concern and that failure to tackle this will have a significant impact on many families in the Borough. As such, Cabinet agrees that further work needs to be undertaken to establish and collate the support that is currently available in the Borough for children and young people.
  - ii. supports the proposal that the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Housing be asked to ensure that Social Services front line staff are trained on the signs of self harm and mental health issues for children. Cabinet also agrees that best practice drawn from the Well Being Project should be incorporated into this training and that progress on training be reported back to the Cabinet Member.

- iii. agrees that there is a need for a more joined up approach when dealing with issues of self harm and asks the Chief Executive to progress the issue with the Local Strategic Partnership.
- iv. agrees that clinical coding used in hospitals and A&E departments for self harm needs to be improved and asks the Director of Public Health to progress the matter with The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust and report back to the Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Housing within 6 months.
- v. supports the proposal that the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) be asked to create a webpage regarding self harm on the Council's website with links to the Samaritans, ChildLine, NSPCC and CFACS/CAMHS. That Cabinet also agrees the LSCB develop together with external agencies an early intervention strategy.
- vi. agrees that the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services be asked to ensure that all junior and secondary schools within the Borough are advised of the training that is provided by CFACS/CAMHS with regard to self harm.

## **INFORMATION**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

The recommendations are aimed at building upon the work currently undertaken by the Council and partner agencies in relation to those children who self harm and their families. An improved service will contribute to improvements in residents' health and wellbeing.

### **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's Self Harm Working Group was set up by the External Services Scrutiny Committee to review and recommend measures to address children's self harm and the issues faced by children, young people and their families.
2. To ensure that Borough residents receive the best possible service, children who self harm and their parents/carers should be made aware of procedures and advice that are available to help them. Current procedures need to be reviewed to ensure that sufferers are not overlooked.
3. The aim of the review was to recommend, review, improve and formalise the Council's arrangements for addressing children's self harm in the Borough. The Working Group sought to look at: how residents' expectations and concerns about children's self harm were reflected in delivery of services by the Council; how the Council's services could be improved and standardised; and look at how staff could be properly equipped to detect and assess such cases.

4. 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.
5. The review took place between January 2011 and March 2011 and was presented to the External Services Scrutiny Committee on 30 March 2011 for its endorsement before submission to the Cabinet.
6. Relevant officers have been contacted and are happy to progress and follow up the recommendations within the report. It should be noted that the Local Strategic Partnership has agreed a new reduced list of objectives to take forward. One of these objectives is to develop a prevention strategy for children and young people undertaking risky behaviours.
7. 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. 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 support offered to children, young people and their families who have been affected by self harm.

#### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

The Committee took evidence from residents, 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.