

Resources Department
Town Hall, Upper Street
London, N1 2UD

Report of: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 7 September 2023

Ward(s): All

Subject: Making Children Visible – Review of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. This report requests that the Executive receive the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review into Making Children Visible. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2. That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1. The review was held between July 2022 and June 2023. The overall aim of the review was to assess the way the council works to improve the visibility of vulnerable children and ensure that there are equitable processes and inclusive practices that enable the

voice of these children and young people to influence the support and services for them to thrive.

3.2 The Committee also agreed to the following objectives:

- To further understand and consider the current and future challenges for children and young people who may be at risk of invisibility to the children's system and how the council is responding to these.
- To explore how support to attend school, learn and prepare for the world of work can be strengthened for the following children and young people at risk:
 - Children with a social worker.
 - Care-experienced young people.
 - Vulnerable adolescents.
- To look at whether where a child attends primary school affects outcomes (for example, in terms of securing earlier diagnosis/support/intervention).

3.3 In undertaking the review, the Committee met with young people, community partners and colleagues from across the borough, to look at the support services in place for children and young people; how it was provided, whether there were any areas for improvements, and particularly, how the voices of children and young people can be heard in decisions that affect them.

4. Implications

4.1. **Financial Implications**

4.1.1 The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2. **Legal Implications**

4.2.1 Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

4.3.1 There are no environmental implications or contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 at this stage. Any environmental implications and contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 will be identified as part of the Executive

Member response.

4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report. Any equality impacts will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 Ten recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. The Committee would like to thank all the witnesses that gave evidence in relation to the review. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Appendices:

- Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Making Children Visible

Background papers:

- None

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