

Croydon Council

For General Release

DRAFT REPORT TO:	Full Council 14 October 2013
AGENDA ITEM NO:	9
SUBJECT:	BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
LEAD OFFICER:	Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Democratic & Legal Services
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Steve Hollands Chairman of Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	The constitutional requirement that Council receive a Scrutiny Business Report.

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Council is asked to note the Scrutiny work programme for 2013-14(attached) and scrutiny activity since the last council meeting on 1 July 2013.
- 1.2 All Members are asked to consider what contribution they or their constituents can make to the topics selected for Scrutiny.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This is the report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee, covering the period 2 July to 13 October 2013 as required by the Constitution. The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 This report provides an account of Scrutiny activity carried out by the following committees between 2 July and 13 October 2013:
 - The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
 - The Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
 - The Health, Social and Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The Council's Constitution (Part 4a Council Procedure Rules 3.05) states that the purpose of the Scrutiny Business Report is "To update the Council on Scrutiny activity since the previous Council meeting. Also to advise on any major issues that needs to be considered by Scrutiny. Incorporating (1) written questions and (2) oral questions on the items contained in the Business Report".

The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

ATTACHMENTS: SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013-14

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE



Cllr Steve Hollands

2 July – 13 October 2013

1. Recent Scrutiny Committee Meetings

- 1.1 This report provides an account of Scrutiny activity carried out by the following committees between 2 July and 13 October 2013:
- The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
 - The Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
 - The Health, Social and Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

2 Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee

At the meeting of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee on 17 September 2013, members considered items relating to:

- The mentoring scheme and other anti-gangs work
- Community safety and crime levels in the Borough
- Request for a report on key decisions by Councillor Sean Fitzsimons

The mentoring scheme and other anti-gangs work

- 2.1 Members received a report and additional information from the Youth Offending Service, gangs workers, the police, Lives Not Lives and two former gang members.
- 2.2 Members heard that gangs in the Borough had distinct characteristics, that 180 gang members were registered on Croydon's Police Gang Matrix and that in general terms the make-up of gangs comprised socio-economic groups affected by high levels of deprivation rather than any particular ethnic group.
- 2.3 Two young former gang members informed the Committee that they had not considered themselves to be in a gang but more part of a family, that financial need was a major motivator and that these factors made it difficult to leave a gang lifestyle. They also said that support from mentors in addition to great personal determination was essential to make a successful transition into a new way of life.

- 2.4 Members were informed that Lives Not Knives has developed a mentoring programme, that this involves some ex-gang members and that it delivers the Mayor's Mentoring Programme. To date 70 mentors have been trained and matched to 30 young people with the aim of matching the remaining 40 by December 2014. The role of Lives Not Knives in schools was also discussed and that some preventative work was underway.
- 2.5 The police provided an overview of gang-related offending and their work with council colleagues in the Turnaround centre and confirmed that the earlier a young person received support and intervention the lower the risk of escalation to serious offences. Information sharing was cited as being important and the recently established Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub enabled a better alignment of services and shared IT systems.

Community safety and crime levels in the Borough

- 2.6 The Committee received a report from the Director of Environment on community safety and crime levels which highlighted information about the new policing model and the strategic approach to these issues being taken by the Safer Croydon Partnership.
- 2.7 Improvements in performance in relation to anti-social behavior were reported and examples of effective partnership working (including recent initiatives in London Road and the town centre and the 'Beds in Sheds' work by the Fire Brigade) were provided. Members were informed that the Drug and Alcohol service was to be re-commissioned that that this process would take into account recent underperformance in relation to treatment, changing patterns of drug addiction and the role of drug and alcohol abuse in domestic violence, other violent acts and crime. The cumulative impact of the proliferation of outlets selling cheap alcohol for extended periods of the day was cited as being unhelpful and difficult to police.
- 2.8 The Borough Commander informed the Committee that the last two years had been turbulent in policing terms and that the redevelopment of the town centre would present further policing challenges. He confirmed that 70 additional police officers had joined the force to date and that a further 47 (117 total) would join by December 2015.

Request for a report on key decisions by Councillor Sean Fitzsimons

- 2.9 Councillor Sean Fitzsimons asked the Committee to request a report following the decision not to categorise the sale of part of the Riesco Collection as a Key Decision, referring to The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, PART 3 Regulation 8(1) in his statement.
- 2.10 In discussion, members noted that the Borough Solicitor had been consulted about the initial decision and was content with the basis of the decision made at the time and that the decision had been made in line with the Constitution.

- 2.11 Members agreed that greater transparency was in the public interest and resolved that the process relating to Key Decisions be added to the openness and transparency review (agreed at the 11 June 2013 meeting) to be undertaken at a later date.

3 Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- 3.1 The meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee to be held on 15 October 2013 will focus on Youth Employability. Members will examine:
- Young people's career choices and how these compare with vacancies in the labour market
 - Careers advisory services in schools
 - Apprenticeships and work experience opportunities
 - Employment opportunities for school leavers
 - Partnership working between schools, colleges and businesses in the borough to give school leavers a good start in the labour market
- 3.2 In preparation for this meeting, local businesses, head teachers, governors and young people have contributed their views on youth employability through surveys carried out in the summer. It is anticipated that the meeting will be attended by some of these contributors.

4. Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

At its meeting on 3 September 2013 at Christ Church, Purley, the Sub-Committee considered:

- 4.1 A presentation regarding Croydon Health Services NHS Trust including its 7 key priority workstreams, a review of governance arrangements and information about staff engagement and its patient experience 'Listening in Action' programme.
- 4.2 An update about the South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) - Better Services Better Value where members heard that the consultation had not yet started and that scrutiny officers from the London Borough of Richmond were in discussion with the BSBV team with a view to arranging a meeting in October/ November 2013 prior to the start of the consultation process.
- 4.3 The Sub-Committee resolved to convene an additional meeting on 21 October 2013 to discuss the Child & Adolescent Health Service (CAMHs) on the suggestion of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 4.4 At its meeting on 19 November the Sub-Committee will consider:
- The responses to the recommendations following the review of NHS Croydon finances by the South-West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)
 - An update from Croydon Health Services NHS Trust following the CQC review of the Trust performance.