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| REPORT TO: | CABINET 15 OCTOBER 2018 |
| SUBJECT: | STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY |
| LEAD OFFICERS: | RICHARD SIMPSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESOURCES AND S151 OFFICER STEPHEN ROWAN – HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND SCRUTINY |
| LEAD MEMBER: | COUNCILLOR SEAN FITZSIMONS CHAIR, SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE |
| WARDS: | ALL |
| CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: | THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT CABINET RECEIVES RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND TO RESPOND TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE RECEIPT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS. |

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1.1 Receive the recommendations arising from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee (18 September 2018) to provide a substantive response within two months (i.e. at the next available Cabinet meeting on **10 December 2018**)

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Recommendations that have been received from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees since the last Cabinet meeting are provided in the body of this report. The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.

3. 18 SEPTEMBER 2018 – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Sub-Committee considered an item on the Children's Statutory Complaints

Report 2017/18; present was the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning. Subsequent to questions to those present, the Sub-Committee came to the following conclusions:

- 1) That many of the complaints received were relating to poor communication and clear context of how we communicate as a council was not evident in the report.
- 2) There was a lack of data in the report on how the Council's performance compared against other Local Authorities.
- 3) There was little information on the Council's course of action for those that had received a poor service but did not complain.
- 4) That performance against Service-level agreement (SLA) was poor.

The Sub-Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1) An update report was required on progress and improvements to be brought to the Sub-Committee on a quarterly basis as well as an overview report to be brought before the Sub-Committee at its 27 November 2018 meeting.
- 2) Reports to include data on the Council's performance against neighbouring Local Authorities.

3.2 The Sub-Committee considered an item on the minutes from the 19 July 2018 meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel; present was the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning. Subsequent to questions to those present, the Sub-Committee came to the following conclusion:

- 1) That it would be beneficial for new members as well as returning members to attend the sessions that were held in 2017 which enabled members to experience the journey of the child through visits with children's services departments.

The Sub-Committee made the following recommendation:

- 1) The sessions resume quickly and the timetable for the sessions be distributed as soon as the dates have been agreed.

3.3 The Sub-Committee considered an item on the Children's Services Improvement Arrangements; present was the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning. Subsequent to questions to those present, the Sub-Committee came to the following conclusions:

- 1) Whilst there had been some notable improvements there was still a lot of work to be done and in particular in specific areas which remained an acute cause for concern.
- 2) In-depth evidence of partner's commitment to improvement of safeguarding arrangements was needed.
- 3) Further information was required on the figures for children accommodated under Section 20, with high level cases remaining a national issue.

The Sub-Committee made the following recommendation:

- 1) Officers circulate figures on the amount of cases of Section 20 accommodated children to the Sub-Committee after the meeting.

3.4 The Sub-Committee considered an item on Performance Data; present was the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning. Subsequent to questions to those present, the Sub-Committee came to the following conclusions:

- 1) The format that the data was presented in was overwhelming
- 2) Future reports brought before the Sub-Committee would need to be more focused on specific areas at each individual meeting.
- 3) Concise information on range was important and should be included in reporting in order to obtain a clear understanding of average figures.

The Sub-Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1) Officers to produce and circulate to members following the meeting, a cluster of performance indicators by the 1st of November 2018.
- 2) The Sub-Committee work with officers to establish which indicators they would like to explore in further detail.

3.5 The Sub-Committee considered an item on the Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2018/19; present was the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning. Subsequent to questions to those present, the Sub-Committee came to the following conclusions:

- 1) The Sub-Committee would convene an informal meeting on 10 October to look in-depth at the work of the partnership, its effectiveness and threats and issues the partnership will encounter through the transition period of implementation of the new arrangements.
- 2) At the Informal meeting on 10 October, the performance of the Health Visiting team which is now under the Councils responsibility would be further explored.
- 3) Further information was required on the new safeguarding arrangements under the revised structure of 'Working together 2018' and how the partners will manage arrangements.
- 4) It was difficult to get a sense of strong partnership between the partners and further understanding of each role would be beneficial to the Sub-Committee.
- 5) Reassurance was required on how the new structure would manage demands.

The Sub-Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1) The partners to attend a future Scrutiny meeting to answer questions on how they will apply the new guidance to reaching decisions of development under the new proposals.
- 2) The partners to provide evidence to the Sub-Committee on how they are supporting each other, the effectiveness of their multiagency working and the impact on the lives of the children of Croydon.
- 3) The partners to attend a meeting of the Sub-Committee in January 2019 to present their proposals.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The recommendations are presented to Cabinet in accordance with the Constitution.

This requires that the Scrutiny report is received and registered at this Cabinet Meeting and that a substantive response is provided within 2 months (i.e. **Cabinet, 10 December 2018** is the next available meeting).

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background document 1: Reports to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 18 September 2018.

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=167&MIId=1513>