

Scrutiny Recommendations: Stage 1

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	3 November 2020	Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2019-20	<p>The antenatal visits in Croydon were significantly lower than our statistical neighbours and felt that there was neither recognition of this nor detail on how performance would be improved.</p> <p>Health visitor developmental checks are well below target and recently performance has deteriorated. Developmental checks are a clear opportunity to identify the potential for neglect yet this synergy with the Neglect priority group appears not to have been recognised.</p>	That the Partnership is invited to 19 January meeting of the Children and Young People Sub-Committee to provide further assurance that the significantly low number of antenatal and developmental check visits in the borough was being recognised, understood and that action was being taken.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	3 November 2020	Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2019-20	The Children & Young People Sub-Committee and the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Chair/Scrutineer needed to find a synergy in their work, as there was a risk of duplicating their scrutiny functions.	The Chair of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee meets with representatives for safeguarding arrangements and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning to discuss a forward course of action to ensure the bodies work productively alongside each other in fulfilling their functions.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones

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Children & Young People Sub-Committee	3 November 2020	Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2019-20	As the targets for neglected children had only been partially achieved, there was insufficient context in the report to explain the reasons for this.	That a written briefing be prepared for the Children & Young People Sub Committee providing further information and assurance on what the partly achieved and not achieved outcomes meant for the children and how they were being addressed.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	3 November 2020	Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2019-20	There was a lack of evidence to show how children with and without disabilities were being meaningfully communicated with and how their experiences were understood. There was insufficient evidence to indicate whether children at risk had any influence on how the outcomes were measured.	When the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership returns to the Children & Young People Sub-Committee in 12 months additional information is provided on how the objectives for the children in the disability priority group were being put into practice and achieved.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	3 November 2020	Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2019-20	The targets were not quantified so progress and results achieved were difficult to gauge	That future annual reports of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership include much greater reporting of outputs and outcomes.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones
Health & Social Care Sub-Committee	10 November 2020	Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-19	There was a lack of evidence of staff awareness and adequate training on communicating with and understanding the needs of with people with disabilities such as Autism.	That a training needs assessment be carried out and for the partnership to continue to challenge its self on increased awareness of and improving the experiences of people with disabilities	Janet Campbell	Guy Van Dichele

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Health & Social Care Sub-Committee	10 November 2020	Croydon Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019-19	Although work had begun to unpick the experiences of the BAME community, Members were not reassured that the partnership yet has a clear pathway to managing the issues with communication and engagement with the BAME community.	That a briefing be provided to the sub-committee on what steps the partnership will take on improving the experiencing of BAME.	Janet Campbell	Guy Van Dichele
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	17 November 2020	Croydon Renewal Plan	The Committee welcomed the action taken by the executive leadership team to begin to recognise the extent of the workforce challenges, however it is essential that developing a full understanding of the situation be treated as a priority to allow processes to be put in place to ensure change can be driven forward effectively.	The Council's culture needs to change and the renewal plan must set in train meaningful proposals to enable this, including developing a mechanism that allows Scrutiny to judge whether progress is being made.	Hamida Ali/Stuart King/CalltonYoung	Katherine Kerswell

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	17 November 2020	Croydon Renewal Plan	The confirmation of the situation regarding the Council's financial reserves in the S114 report was both disappointing and alarming, and as such it was imperative that the necessary steps be taken as part of the financial recovery plans to increase reserves to a prudent level based on an assessment of the risks facing the authority. Measures must be put in place to ensure that the reserves are maintained at the required level with alerts in place should they fall below acceptable levels.	That the Council should increase the level of General Fund reserves held from its current 3% to 5% target to a more prudent level recommended by Section 151 Officer of around £50m.	Hamida Ali/Stuart King/CalltonYoung	Katherine Kerswell
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	17 November 2020	Croydon Renewal Plan	The Committee welcomed the early opportunity to contribute towards the development of the Croydon Renewal Plan and recognised that it was still an emerging plan that had yet to evolve into the full set of strategies and action plans to allow for in-depth scrutiny.	The Council should review its other existing plans and other reviews that are currently being undertaken to avoid duplication or inconsistency.	Hamida Ali/Stuart King/CalltonYoung	Katherine Kerswell

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	17 November 2020	Croydon Renewal Plan	It was vital that clearly defined steps be taken when designing the future operating model of the organisation, as there were concerns that without this the Council could repeat past mistakes which had led to poor budget setting processes, weak financial monitoring and a failure to deliver promised saving either at pace or at all.	That the Council, as part of its proposals, is clear on defining its future operating model.	Hamida Ali/Stuart King/CalltonYoung	Katherine Kerswell
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	17 November 2020	Croydon Renewal Plan	It was evident that the appropriate tools required to maintain sound financial management had not been in place to date and in driving forward improvements, robust measures to close the budget gap must be sought and implemented.	The Leader and Cabinet must ensure that a robust monitoring and accountability framework is an integral part of the plan, which is transparent to the residents of Croydon, the Council's workforce, and councillors.	Hamida Ali/Stuart King/CalltonYoung	Katherine Kerswell

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	17 November 2020	Croydon Renewal Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee concluded that the lack of the senior leadership's maintenance of line of sight and openness had been exposed by recent events and the executive leadership team must now prioritise addressing this. 2. Careful consideration needed be given to the role of the public in the Council's improvement journey and the communication strategy it would adopt to ensure effective dissemination of information to residents. 3. Engagement with staff should be sought in order to incorporate their views and ideas in shaping the Council's plans. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Engagement Plan is appended to the Croydon Renewal Plan as it would evidence how engagement with staff, councillors and the community will be included in its renewal plan. 2. The Council reassess the mechanisms and processes in place for access to information for Councillors 	Hamida Ali/Stuart King/CalltonYoung	Katherine Kerswell

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	17 November 2020	Croydon Renewal Plan	It was important that the political and executive leadership of the Council supported the Scrutiny & Overview Committee in maintaining a line of sight over the Council's new priorities and principles and in seeking assurance on the trajectory of its plans and visions as appropriate.	The Council set outs how both the Scrutiny & Overview Committee and the General Purposes and Audit Committee will be facilitated to carry out their governance roles in regards of the Croydon Renewal Plan, including defining the remit of both Committees, the information that will be provided and the level of support that can be expected.	Hamida Ali/Stuart King/CalltonYoung	Katherine Kerswell