

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 3 September 2018

7.30 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Peter Babudu
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jason Ochere
Martin Brecknell
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer

Reserves

Councillor Jack Buck
Councillor James Coldwell
Councillor Eleanor Kerlake
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Jane Salmon

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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Contact Shelley Burke on 020 7525 7344 or email: Shelley.burke@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 24 August 2018



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 3 September 2018
7.30 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
PART A - OPEN BUSINESS		
1.	APOLOGIES	
2.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4.	MINUTES	1 - 6
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the open section of the meetings held on Monday 23 rd July 2018 & Wednesday 25 th July 2018.	
5.	KNIFE CRIME REVIEW REPORT	7 - 32
	Report to be introduced by councillor Jasmine Ali.	
6.	EHCP MINI REVIEW REPORT	33 - 36
	Report to be introduced by councillor Jasmine Ali.	
7.	WORK PLAN	37

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ANY CLOSED ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 24 August 2018

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 23 July 2018 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
 Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
 Councillor Humaira Ali
 Councillor Peter Babudu
 Councillor Victor Chamberlain
 Councillor Helen Dennis
 Councillor Tom Flynn
 Councillor Jon Hartley
 Councillor Jason Ochere

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Sunny Lambe
 Councillor Ian Wingfield

OFFICER SUPPORT: Norman Coombe - Head of Corporate Team
 Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny
 Ferenc Morath - Investment Manager, Housing & Modernisation Department

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alice Macdonald and Margy Newens.

VIDEO - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URrPp6gxAC0>

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

- 2.1 There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. LEDBURY ESTATE - MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE LEDBURY

4.1 Ferenc Morath (Investment Manager, Housing & Modernisation Department) presented the report. He explained that this report was a review specifically of the repairs history, with a set of recommendations for improving the systems. He gave a short background to the structural issues for the estate, for the benefit of new committee members. An options appraisal for the high rise blocks was currently being conducted and would be reported to cabinet in October.

4.2 Ferenc Morath explained that for independence, this report had been commissioned by the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance and carried out by external auditors, RSM. The recommendations and management responses were all contained in the report, and the department accepted all the recommendations.. He added that housing was in the process of introducing Apex, a new application for managing and tracking repairs data. This would improve the department's analysis of stock condition and spend. The published version of the report had identified some residents' details in error – this had been withdrawn and would be reported as a data breach. A redacted version of the report would be provided.

4.3 In response to members' questions, he explained the process for resident involvement in estate walk about and major works schemes. The department would be improving its system of repairs codes in order to better identify indications of structural issues in properties. This would also form part of monthly meetings with contractors. He was happy to come and report back further to OSC if members wished. He was confident that the department could achieve the deadlines for implementing the recommendations – much of the work was already under way and some were complete. He said that Arup were being commissioned to follow up their previous desk top survey with detailed surveys of all the system built blocks in the borough. Arup would advise on the risk management of this exercise. He agreed to think further about how to feed back to tenants on repairs problems reported on their estate. Key performance indicators for fire risk assessments would be introduced by 1st October 2018. The Apex application allows fire risk assessment action plans to be tracked in detail. Beyond the system builds, blocks will be surveyed as they come into the major works programme, and detailed fire risk assessment conducted at the same time. He said that it was not possible to resolve the issue of poor historical record keeping as this related to the period when the council's records were stored in paper form in neighbourhood offices across the borough. Many records had been lost over time. Looking forward, all systems are digital. He described how the system of surveys of council stock would be informed by repairs data, fire risk assessments, feedback from residents, as well as the survey itself.

4.4 Danielle Gregory and Glen Holmes from Ledbury Action Group welcomed the report and said it showed a history of disrepair which was not a surprise to residents. They hoped its recommendations would be applied to all housing stock, not confined to Ledbury. Trends in repairs were not being identified, ultimately costing the council more money as repairs are patched rather than fundamentally addressed. Residents could not

assess the potential risk around any repair, so it was important their views and the technical experts' views are drawn together and considered in tandem. There were too many examples of repairs not completed, complaints not responded too, freedom of information requests being delayed. The system for routine estate walk arounds outside the scope of major works projects could be better developed and better advertised to tenants. There is also an opportunity to take tenant feedback on repairs as part of the annual tenancy check – the council could make better use of this.

4.5 Ferenc Morath confirmed that the recommendations would be applied to housing systems borough wide. He accepted the point about trends in repairs and said that the improved Apex system would assist repairs analysis. The department continues to work on improving responsiveness to repairs complaints and is aware that performance is not yet good enough.

4.6 A member suggested that there might be a role for Audit, Governance and Standards Committee in reviewing the findings of this report as part of its management of systems and risk controls. The chair agreed to follow this up, alongside scrutiny follow up.

5. COUNCIL PLAN 2018/19 -2021/22

5.1 The council plan sets the backdrop for scrutiny work planning. The chair suggested that work planning was deferred until the new scrutiny structure was in place, given that council assembly date had moved

6. MOVING TO A NEW SCRUTINY MODEL AND ESTABLISHING THE BASIS FOR REVIEW

6.1 The principles for review were accepted. A member asked how follow up work from task and finish bodies would be managed, and the chair said this would be a role for OSC.

7. KNIFE CRIME REVIEW REPORT

7.1 Item deferred to next meeting as councillor due to present report had been unable to attend.

8. EHCP MINI REVIEW REPORT

8.1 Item deferred to next meeting as councillor due to present report had been unable to attend.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 10.20 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G01C - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

- Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
- Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
- Councillor Humaira Ali
- Councillor Peter Babudu
- Councillor Helen Dennis
- Councillor Victor Chamberlain
- Councillor Tom Flynn
- Councillor Jon Hartley
- Councillor Margy Newens
- Councillor Jason Ochere

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alice Macdonald.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

2.1 There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS 2018/19

RESOLVED:

1. To note the size and composition of the Overview and Scrutiny committee, as agreed by annual council assembly.
2. To appoint the following scrutiny sub-committees (to be known as commissions) based on the broad themes:
 - Healthy Communities
 - Community Safety
 - Local Economy and Life Long Learning
 - Housing and Environment

3. That the following be appointed as chairs for the commissions:
Note: the chairs would be matched up to the specific commissions afterwards.

Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Leanne Werner
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Helen Dennis

4. That the following be appointed as vice chairs for the commissions:

Healthy Communities Commission

Vice chair – Councillor David Noakes

Community Safety Commission

Vice chair – Councillor William Hougbo

Local Economy and Life Long Learning Commission

Vice chair – Councillor Victor Chamberlain

Housing and Environment Commission

Vice chair – Councillor Graham Neale

5. That Community Safety Commission to have responsibility for crime and disorder and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have responsibility for health matters, given the statutory requirements.

Meeting ended at 10.25pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Knife Crime scrutiny review

Foreword : Councillor Jasmine Ali

The Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee asked children and young people in Southwark what they would like us to scrutinise. They told us they were deeply troubled by the high instances of knife crime in London.

Knife crime is a very sad and grave issue and something that I know is an urgent concern to our communities in Southwark and across London.

It is a phenomenon that is growing, that drags young people into a cycle of tragedy that is heart-breaking for everyone directly involved.

Last year in Southwark alone we witnessed an 11% increase in Violence Against the Person offences. For the period June to May 2018 Southwark saw a 0.35% decrease in knife crime offences compared to the same period the previous year. Overall the Metropolitan Police reported an increase of 16.7% during this period. Yet even with this decrease, Southwark remains one of the boroughs with the highest incidence in knife crime in the capital.

Both the Council and Southwark's diverse communities are rallying together to address the problem of knife crime and the wider issue of youth violence. In the course of this review an event at All Saints Church, Peckham, was held to combat knife crime, which has influenced the report. We are grateful to Community TV Trust, community organisations and Cavendish School pupils who created the short films showcased at the event, referred to in the review.

The Education and Children's Scrutiny sub-committee held a one-day scrutiny event to look into this terrible problem. We packed out one of the pods in the Peckham Library with standing room only. A diverse section of the community attended the sessions which heard evidence from the deputy mayor dealing with Knife Crime at the GLA, the Southwark Cabinet member for Community Safety, people from the Youth Council, young people with experience of gangs and officers from the council dealing with related issues of youth violence, safeguarding and sexual exploitation.

I would like to thank Julie Timbrell our Scrutiny manager, all of the speakers and every one of the participants from the local community who actively joined in on this deep dive into knife crime. For everyone that took part, the 'scrutiny in a day' was not just about holding local politicians and officers to account but about developing policy initiatives ourselves, working together to strengthen our community's response.

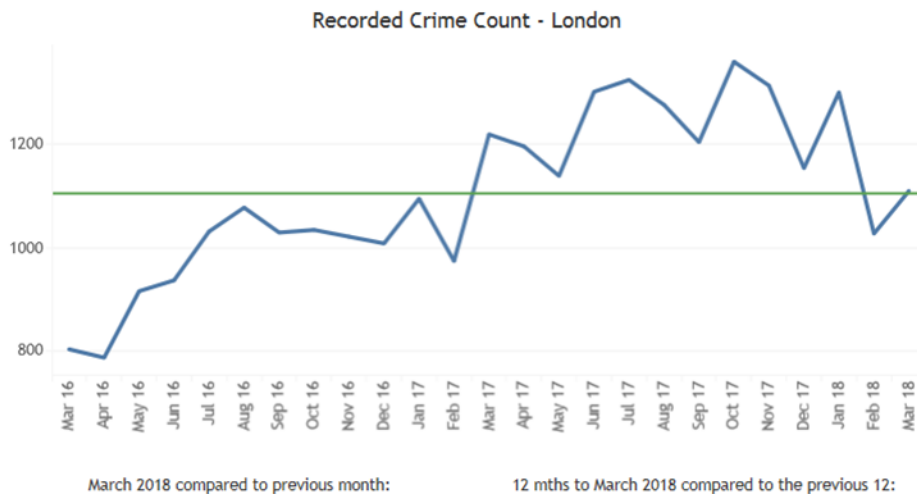
- We urgently want to identify real causes
- We urgently want to look for those reactions that we know can help reduce the threat and the incidence of knife crime.
- And we urgently want to find ways to mend the hurt to our communities.

The hurt we all feel brought our communities together and the results are documented in the attached paper which, if implemented, will help us forge safer, stronger communities in the future.

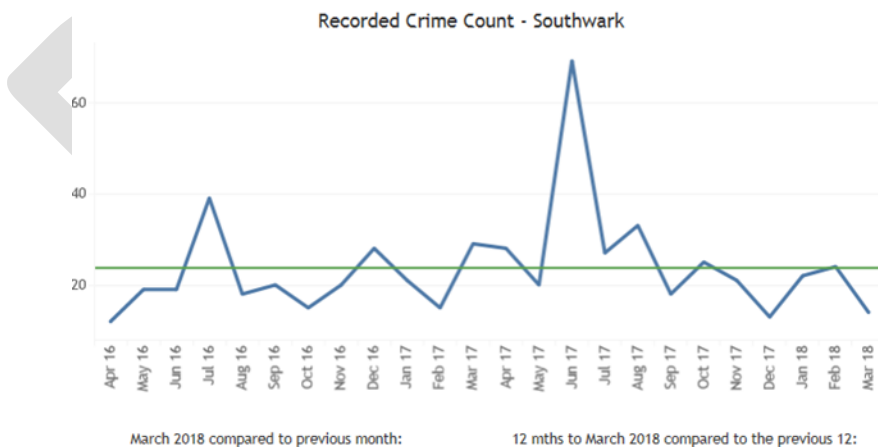
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This is the final report of the scrutiny review into Knife Crime. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee decided to conduct a review in July 2017. The aim of the review is to make recommendations to the Cabinet, the Southwark Children's Safeguarding Board and the police.
- 1.2 The review set out to address these issues in particular.
 - How to best safeguard young people in care from knife crime & knife carrying (with a focus on young people in need because of social / emotional deprivation & mental health needs).
 - The links between knife crime, girls, gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation
 - How best to work with schools, including primary schools, and the community to reduce and respond to knife crime
 - Engaging young people and youth services in preventing knife crime and knife carrying (particularly the Youth Council, voluntary & statutory youth service)
 - Wider strategies and good practice in combating violence, in particular Scotland and the WHO Public Health approach to tackling knife crime and violence
- 1.3 The sub-committee chose this subject in response to the recent rise in incidents of knife crime and the terrible impact knife crime injuries and deaths have had on young people and their families, in particular. Knife Crime a big concern within the local community. There is also widespread anxiety amongst young people, families and schools about the extent of knife crime and knife carrying, associated with a strong desire to reverse the present trend and work to end knife crime.
- 1.4 Previous sub-committee reviews into Mental Health, Care Leavers and achievement in school committee have all touched on youth violence. There is evidence that young people are more at risk of knife crime if social, mental health and educational issues are not addressed.
- 1.5 After a drop in knife crime incidents, in the early years of this decade, the UK and London has seen a reversal of this trend.
- 1.6 In the year ending March 2017, there were 34,700 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales. This is the highest number in the seven-year series (from year ending March 2011) the earliest point for which comparable data is available.

1.7 In the 12 months to March 2017 there were over 12,000 knife crimes were recorded in London. The latest Metropolitan Police statistics to March 2018 show this is still rising by 21 %.



1.8 There were 314 incidents of 'knife crime with injury' in Southwark during 2017-18, compared to 255 in 2016-17: a rise of 23 % per cent.



1.9 The last year has seen significant steps by both the Mayor of London, local police and the council to tackle knife crime. There is both a Mayor of London knife crime strategy, and a Southwark Knife Crime and Knife Carrying action plan. The latter is a joint priority for the Southwark Safeguarding Adults' Board

(SSAB) and Southwark Children's Board (SSCB). In Southwark two scrutiny committees and the Youth Council have all identified tackling knife crime as a priority.

- 1.10 At the same time the Metropolitan Police's anti knife crime initiative Operation Sceptre has publicly recognized its own weakness in engaging with communities most affected by youth violence.
- 1.11 The Mayor of London has provided a good overview in his report, and identified trends such as men and the BAME community being significantly more at risk, and that although women are less likely to be victims and significantly less likely to be perpetrators there are some worrying trends around domestic abuse and CSE.

EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

Committee meeting

2.1 On 5 September 2017 the review first received a paper from Southwark officers and lead member, Cllr Barrie Hargrove, setting out current work being carried out by local statutory agencies to tackle knife crime in Southwark and the recently published Knife Crime and Knife Carrying action plan, and a discussion was held with the committeeⁱ.

Outreach

2.2 A community event addressing Knife Crime was attended. This was organized by Rev Jonathan Mortimer, of All Saints Church in Peckham and Chris Haydon, Chair of Peckham Settlement and director of Community TV Trust. The evening of story telling featured an update on Operation Sceptre, with Dr Victor Olisa QPM, along with contributions from retired detectives, serving community and safety officers; ex-offenders, ex-gang leaders; an aspiring boxer from Camberwell, two filmmakers, an artist/entrepreneur, young people at school in Bermondsey, an England boxer recently in the news; a local theatre company using forum theatre techniques; a representative of IAG and a Stop & Search consultant and local residents.

'Scrutiny in A Day' event was held on 21 March 2018 on ending Knife Crime

2.3.1 The event was opened by Sophie Linden, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, London, who presented on the London Knife Crime Strategy. Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Leisure and Southwark Borough Commander Simon Messenger spoke about Southwark's Knife Crime and Knife Carrying action plan. Southwark Youth Council representatives, Hannah Olomola and Tobi Ayeni spoke briefly about knife crime, voted a top concern by Southwark young people. Quince Garcia contributed to the panel discussion on breaking the offending and reoffending cycle. An informed and lively audience debated the issues with the panel participants. (See appendix 1)

2.3.2 Two workshops were held: on: a) Community workshop on prevention and support and b) intersections between girls, gangs, and CSE and knife crime

2.3.3 The community workshop brought people together to share different perspectives on causes, impact, responses and alternatives, listening to what is working well and what needs to be done differently. Considering:

- The root causes and how we might tackle them
- The ripple effects on the whole community
- How we can better respond as a community when traumatic incidents happen
- What fresh approaches we can take to help prevent future tragedies

(See appendix 2)

2.3.4 The workshop on the intersections between girls, gangs , CSE and knife crime first heard from leads from the Police, Council and voluntary sector on Anti Violence work, CSE and recent work in the community (see appendix 3)

Background research

2.4 Background research was done on Scotland Violence Reduction Unit & World Health Organization's work on taking a Public Health approach to violence and statistical information available from government sources.

3 Main issues

3.1 Youth violence, crime and gangs

3.1.1 The London Knife Crime Strategyⁱⁱ notes that most knife crime is robbery or street violence, and their research said that the most common reason young people give for holding a knife is perceived protection from this threat. Other reasons given to carry a knife are to increase status or to commit a crime.

3.1.2 This report states that recent data suggests that the majority of knife crime is not gang-related; with gang flagged crime accounting for 5% of all knife crime with injury during 2016 – down from almost 9% in the preceding year. However, gang-related knife crimes are usually of a more violent nature than other knife related offending.

3.1.3 National data trends indicated that robbery is actually decreasing, however uses of a knife for the purpose of committing a rape or a sexual offence and threats to kill and attempted homicide have risen significantlyⁱⁱⁱ. This review did not look at national increases to sexual offences and the link with knife crime to see if this was a significant issue for Southwark and it did not feature in discussions held.

3.1.4 Anecdotal evidence from the police, ex-gang members, and young people and youth leaders at the events all pointed to the drugs trade and other criminal enterprises as a significant driver for violent crime, and that young people were turning to this, in part, because of a combination of poverty, a lack of opportunities or self belief. A youth leader commented that we now have groups of young people in London who have

decided they will not be successful and that they are adopting other approaches to raising revenue that unfortunately involve serious violence.

3.1.5 The other driver mentioned was role of social media in escalating disputes, particularly posting of YouTube videos. Ex- offenders and local residents at the All Saint Church event cited concerns over Drill music; hyper local music videos where groups of young people rap, with the images and lyrics referencing local neighborhoods, drug dealing and threats of violence, on occasions to identifiable opposing individuals and revile groups/ gangs. Police do sometimes remove these videos. Young people present at the All Saint Church event criticized this as curtailing one of the few creative outlets available and that the music business offers a legitimate route out of poverty. However, ex- offenders/ gang members supported their removal by the police when they depicted actual threats. Recent events in Southwark have seen lethal and non lethal violence that involves people associated with some Drill videos and particular gangs/ groups of young people that are known to be in dispute.

3.1.6 Community TV Trust's worked with Cavendish School and its pupils to create short videos in which pupils spoke openly. Young people said it was common knowledge that certain groups of young people were in conflict and who they were.

3.1.7 Other people cited the positive role of music in youth culture. Drill's aesthetic is to depict the reality of young people's lives; with young people defending the genre as reflecting the real challenges they face. While much Drill music appears nihilistic there are alternative types of Drill music, most notably 'Gospel Drill'^{iv} with a very different ethos – both types are big in Southwark. Music, art and writing were also cited as ways for people to express and come to terms with psychological and social issues, and improve mental health.

3.2 Mental Health

3.2.1 A paediatric doctor at the scrutiny event at Peckham Library highlighted that many of the young people involved in knife crime have frequently experienced many Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). ACEs include domestic abuse, emotional and physical abuse and neglect, bullying, parental separation, family substance misuse.

3.2.2 Scotland's Public Health response to violence identified that prevention of ACEs could lead to a 52% reduction in perpetration of crime and 51% reduction of victimization.

3.2.3 Apart from prevention of ACEs there are other protective factors for young people; children who have at least one stable and positive relationship with a close adult appears to be protective them from the worst effects of ACEs.

3.3.4 Access to timely support from Early Help and more intensive support from CAMHS is important and there were concerns about the level of support for young people who did not meet high thresholds, due to steady reduction in funding.

3.2.5 All the professionals emphasized the importance of partnership work and sharing information in order to help young people most at risk: the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) undertake this work.

3.2.6 Offenders and those at the edge of offending will often need help with Mental Health; both therapeutic, community and faith support was cited as effective in making significant changes to mental health, attitude and lifestyle.

3.3 Child Sexual Exploitation

3.3.1 The majority of young people at risk from CSE are girls; and young men are usually the perpetrators. On average Southwark perpetrators are about 18 years old and victims about 14. The young women involved often have low self esteem and crave attention.

3.3.2 Mental health is frequently an issue; girls are often in Snowfield and also drug use is frequently a problem, particularly strong strains of cannabis.

3.3.3 Professional said that exploitation is the common theme with gangs and girls can be used to carry knives and pay drug debts through sexual favours / coercion. There are networks that tend to perpetrate CSE, which are very similar to gangs and interlink. Police officers present at the workshop said that the more they engage with CSE the more they understand how much it intersects with other types of criminal exploitation.

3.3.4 MASE is a multi agency hub that works with around 50 young people at high risk - mainly girls, however there are a few boys.

3.3.5 The workshop heard reports of boys being targeted for sexual humiliation as a result of gang activity and rivalry; police said this is more used as a tactic to silence and degrade. This is traumatic and can lead later down the line to acting out. Frequently perpetrators have also been victims.

3.3.6 There are a wider cohort of girls at risk of CSE who may not be known by services or do not reach the threshold required for intensive protection. Southwark have a 'make safe' programme aimed at the wider community, such as taxi drivers, to enable the community to be aware of risks and take protective action. Services also undertake contextual safeguarding where they look at signs of abuse in certain localities. More work needs to be done with schools to tackle CSE.

3.3.7 The police go into schools and reported that there are unhealthy attitudes to sexual relationships amongst teenagers and as early as Year 9, and at this age exploitation has become normalized among some young people e.g. buying gifts for favours. The service has some excellent resources to tackle CSE, including a pack on CSE developed with Bubble Theatre.

3.3.8 Online grooming was discussed in the workshop. Social care officers said this needs careful handling as nowadays we are all very attached to our mobile phones. The danger with banning is that inappropriate relationships can go underground; rather the

emphasis ought to be more about forming trusted relationships with young people so they can disclose risks and be supported in developing healthy relationships.

3.3.9 There was general consensus that more needs to be done at an earlier age to tackle CSE and the intersection with knife crime, in an age appropriate way. Youth workers, church leaders and teachers present all welcomed this, and would welcome more professionals support to work with children, young people and parents.

3.4 Youth activities and community engagement

3.4.1 The last decade has seen a significant fall in funds available to local services, including youth work. The council's lead members and senior officers spoke about difficult decisions they have made to reducing spending and that they have focused funds on youth offenders, and other young people at high risk, while keeping as much face to face generic youth work going as possible.

3.4.2 The All Saints Church event spent significant time showcasing community youth projects; featuring short videos about a community boxing club and Brixton street gym, both of which emphasize the importance of community and providing a place where young people not only keep fit but also develop, make real friends and be supported. These voluntary projects are often explicitly offering an alternative to street life and what were described as the false attractions of gang life, by a young interviewee. Community TV Trust's worked with Cavendish School and many of the public gave their perspective. Church leaders and youth workers also talked about their work with young people.

3.4.3 There is clearly a community appetite for providing youth and community work to meet the needs of young people at risk; by mentoring, facilitating positive social relationships, and providing opportunities for young people to make the most of their talents as well as diverting young people from offending and other risky behavior. Church youth leaders at events wanted professional input to assist their pastoral work with parents on knife crime and related issues, such as CSE.

3.4.4 The community workshop in Peckham Library explored the impact knife crime had on the participants, whether young people, parents, community volunteers or professionals. It was clear that many people had been deeply affected. Participants welcomed the opportunity to talk and wanted more planned opportunities for people to come together to find solutions. Young people highlighted their ability to reach and influence other young people and their desire to act as conduit. Professionals wanted the involvement of young people in planning to ensure strategies reflected the realities of young people's lives.

3.4.5 It was noted that when there are incidences of crime knife there needs to be a response to both the victims and the community, when there will often be trauma and sometimes heightened tensions. The council has recently invested in Peer Navigators to work with young people who are impacted by knife crime; officers need to make links with the community so they are deployed effectively when needed.

3.4.6 Young people often know where the flash points are and who is involved, however more thought needs to be given to enable sharing of information safely. There are platforms out there to report issues e.g. Crimestoppers, youth equivalent: 'Fearless', and a community enterprise platform in development: HUNCH. However while these solutions are there they either do not work as well as they could, or are not well known or there are other issues that need to be resolved. This is something that the Southwark Knife Crime and Knife Carrying partnership needs to get to grips with, in collaboration with young people and the wider community.

3.5 Prevention: early intervention and schools

3.5.1 Southwark Knife Crime and Knife Carrying partnership was instigated because of a Serious Case Review into Child U^v. This highlighted the need for better partnership work amongst professionals involved in helping the young man who died from knife wound.

3.5.2 Schools play a central role in the life of young people and have come to scrutiny in the past sharing their frustrations with being able to effectively refer to CAMHS and to always access appropriate social and employment support for their young people at risk. A headteacher at All Saints Church event detailed the extensive work they do to search for employment and training placements for young people at risk of becoming NEET and disaffected. The council does have an extensive investment in apprenticeships for young people; more still needs to be done to link this programmes with schools and young people in need

3.5.3 At the other end of the age spectrum young people and professional both spoke about the need to reach children early to provide positive relationship models, to address CSE and knife crime, and ensure that there is wider social and mental health support available for children who need this.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 **The Council continues to support and invest in the continuation of these conversations and events** which a) bring people with shared experience together and b) bring people of different age groups and experiences together. There was also a strong feeling that these meetings are promoted throughout the whole community recognising and supporting the power of the community to help to heal and also to come out and take action.

The events ought to be coordinated and ensure that community is empowered and able to mobilise to act.

4.2. **There needs to be a coordinated approach to offering a variety of meaningful roles to young people as experts in helping to solve problems and find solutions: as volunteers and paid consultants, mentors, advisers, youth panel members**

Linked to this is a need for the Council and other agencies to continue to ask young people for their ideas, experience and expertise and that they have a variety of ways of continuing to check in with young people about the shaping and development of those ideas. This includes seeing the original idea from its beginning to its implementation - how it is named, how it is publicised. For example, one younger participant suggested that immediately following an attack i.e. when the young person is still at the hospital that they have access to another young person that:

- they may know
- has been trained to listen
- that has understanding of the situation and the issues
- may have been through the same experience

It is recommended that the Safeguarding Board facilitate a forum for young people active in this area to come together and that this links the Safeguarding Board's role in delivering the Knife Crime and Action Plan (KCAP). The forum ought to include the diversity of young people concerned: Change Makers, Southwark Youth Council, Speaker Box, Peer Navigators, young people active in voluntary and church groups etc.

4.3. There is a need for the Council and other agencies to support the community to continue to focus on innovative ways to help young people feel safe.

For example:

- a number they can call/'speak' to someone through text or the offer of safe places
- a programme to look at "snitching" or "ratting" so that people can make supported and safe choices about when they can genuinely report something they see that they are worried about that is happening in their community and sharing information without fear of being a "snitch" or a "rat" or a "grass"

A consultation exercise ought to be held with young people that looks at existing arrangements and community provision (e.g. Fearless, Safe haven, HUNCH, Out of Hours social care and youth provision) to see if they are fit for purpose, with a view to ensuring they are revised to meet the needs of young people and that there is then a communication strategy to ensure young people are clear how to report concerns and get help.

4.4. There is a need for a better service for those who are trying to leave a criminal lifestyle, including those who have come out of prison, to get both immediate emotional support and practical support and advice, such as writing CVs, access to benefits.

All the relevant agencies involved: the prison service, VCS and Council (e.g. Anti Violence Unit, YOS, and Mental Health services) ought to ensure that the pathways to leave crime are clear and that there is a high level of awareness available amongst all people who are likely to come into contact with offenders seeking to exit. The prison service ought to lead this work.

4.5. There is a need for the Council and other agencies to prioritise early interventions and recognise how a gradual involvement in a negative cycle can develop. This includes interventions in schools and in the community as early as year 4 that focus on building children's sense of identity; confidence building; feeling effective; building self esteem and empowering them to make right decisions; recognising and fostering children's individual talents.

The current Early Help offer to schools ought to be as coherent and coordinated as possible with education leaders in organisations and networks including the council, SASH, primary schools network, academy chains, and church diocese all playing their part to ensure that this happens.

It is universally recognised that young people who have experienced trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences are much more at risk of being involved either as victims or perpetrators of knife crime. Information protocols must be in place so that children at risk are identified early and get the additional support they need.

4.6. There is a need for staffed services and support to be offered beyond 9-5 on weekdays. This should be available in the evening, at night and during the weekend, as most of the situations in which young people are most vulnerable and when crime happens, are outside regular working hours.

The council has produced a list of the current youth services its delivers and commissions (see appendix A). There are other services that young people and responsible adult can contact if young person is in immediate danger (e.g. 111). Other services in development are provision of Trusted Adult for young people in need of extra adult input.

A list of all services available to young people, depending on need, ought to be put online so these are coordinated, accessible and visible.

4.7 Develop a plan for enabling skilled facilitation of workshops on knife crime and related issues (violence reduction, criminal exploitation, and CSE, sex and relationship education) and promoting healthy relationships to take place with children, young people, parents, family members and the wider community.

Teachers and youth and church leaders at the event said they want to work with their children, young people, parents, grandparents etc. about knife crime and related issues, such as CSE. They would welcome expert help and support to do this well.

Surrey Square Primary School are presently hosting discussions led by the police with children and then with parents/ carers. This work ought to be reviewed and lessons learnt.

The workshop discussions ought to be honest, informed, age appropriate and focused on outcomes; such as enabling parents/ cares and family members to create to right kind of relationships with young people, provide guidance on tricky issues such as social media, and help them address concerns and seek support if needed

Peer support is recognised as effective and ought to be part of this: young people assisting young people and parent/ carers assisting each other.

Consider commissioning or developing in-house bespoke training for teachers, youth & community leaders and volunteers to deliver this.

4.8 Promote healthy relationships by adopting ‘being kind to each other ‘as a Council Fairer Future promise. The underlying challenge is that knife crime and violence are symptoms of unhealthy relationships. Borough wide work is needed to promote healthy relationships: being kind to each other, tackling bullying in school and the workplace, resolving conflict constructively, communicating effectively and promoting values such as kindness and empathy.

4.9 Take a Public Health approach to knife and violent crime learning from Scotland and considering how this could be adopted in Southwark

4.10 The planned refresh of the council’s Domestic Abuse strategy ought to keep in mind how early experience of violence and domestic abuse can play out later in unhealthy relationships and peer violence.

4.11 Funding for Safer London to come back (higher risk). This was cut and there was plea for this to be reinstated.

4.12 Focus services that enable young people to make the most of their talents in a difficult economic climate on those most at risk; these needs to be broader than just conventional career routes.

Some disadvantaged young people do not see legitimate routes out of poverty, and consistently ask for a range of support and options to develop their potential. They want imaginative work experience opportunities (music, business, design, social care, politics etc.), mentoring, and quality apprentices. These will often need to include soft support, and be about broadening young people’s horizons and providing networks.

The Councils Skill Strategy and Apprenticeship scheme ought to proactively link with children in need and organisations such as schools, YOS etc. who can refer young people at risk.

4.13 Protecting children from adverse experiences, addressing Mental Health needs, providing Victim Support and recognising the role of trauma, all have an important role in tackling knife crime.

Prevention is better than cure, but young people with a number of ACEs will be at more at risk of violence and may well need to access CAMHS.

There are other protective factors for young people; children who have at least one stable and positive relationship with a close adult appears to protect them from the worst effects of ACEs. Agencies need to be aware of this importance and facilitate this through Family Early Help and the Trusted Adult programme.

Offenders will often need help with Mental Health; both therapeutic, community and faith support was cited as effective in making significant changes to lifestyles.

4.14 There are many parts of the council and agencies leading on knife crime; one lead person would help coordinate the work and provide additional accountability.

4 Report Contributors

4.1 Education and Children's Services scrutiny sub committee

Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
 Councillor Rosie Shimell (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Karl Eastham
 Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada
 Councillor James Okosun
 Councillor Catherine Rose
 Councillor Kath Whittam
 Martin Brecknell
 Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer

4.2 Officer and partner support:

Chris Haydon, Community TV Trust & Peckham Settlement
 Cavendish School (video input and headteacher input to the All Saints Church event)
 Sophie Linden, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.
 Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Leisure
 Hannah Olomola, Southwark Youth Council representative
 Tobi Ayeni, Southwark Youth Council representative
 Simon Messinger, Southwark Borough Commander
 Quince Garcia, writer, producer & director
 Luton Sinfield, Community Safety officer
 Julia Honess, Community Facilitator
 Daisy May James, Supervising Social Worker/ Training Lead Southwark Fostering Service
 Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager
 Caroline Thwaites Assistant Director Community Safety & Partnerships
 Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities, Housing and Modernisation
 Jenny Brennan, Assistant Director Family Early Help & Youth Justice
 Lizzie Jones MD, Police CSE lead
 April Bald, Assistant Director Children's safeguarding
 Pauline Campbell, Senior Anti Social Behaviour officer
 Julie Timbrell, scrutiny project manager (report author)

Appendix

1. Panel discussion write up
2. Workshop 1 How will we end knife crime ?
3. Workshop 2 Intersections between girls, gangs, and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and knife crime.

ⁱ <http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=47092>

ⁱⁱ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mopac_knife_crime_strategy_june_2017.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ House of Commons briefing Number SN4304, 16 March 2018. Knife crime in England and Wales.

^{iv}

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p065zhf8/radio-1-stories-gangs-drill-and-prayer>

^v <http://safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk/learning-from-case-reviews/>

Panel discussion knife crime

1. **The London Knife Crime Strategy, presented by Sophie Linden, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.**

Sophie Linden, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, said that hearing the views of the community has an important role in policy development.

She said that the work that the Mayor of London is doing to on knife crime and violence reduction was a response to increases in London, and this was part of a national trend.

The London Knife Crime Strategy is focused on enforce and prevention. Police will use their powers, but this is only one part of the solution. She said we need to get ahead of this and address the causes so we are not just dealing with the problems. In order to do the strategy is linking with schools and integrating resilience in safeguarding with children as part of the anti-knife crime work.

The young people involved have often have had some very traumatic past experiences and incidences of knife crime has a traumatic effect on young people and the community.

An audience member interjected and raised concerns about cuts to funding and the impact, particularly on young people in need.

Sophie acknowledged the wider cuts to services as a result of central government funding decisions, however she said that they are funding services; one of which is bringing youth workers to work with young people who are victims in trauma centers and other places. Victims often become perpetrators so this is about responding to trauma and ending cycles.

She drew attention to the social media campaign: "London needs you alive" which builds on research with young people, and feedback that young people do not see enough positive images.

She finished by emphasizing that only a small proportion of young people are doing this; many more are reaching their potential and making better choices and she said that we can learn from them. She ended by saying that we need to help young people access the means to fulfil their promise and this can be done by ensuring access to apprenticeships, education, training and other mean to reach their potential.

2. **Southwark' Knife Crime and Knife Carrying action plan – with Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Leisure**

Councillor Barrie Hargrove started by explaining that the council initiated a multi-agency knife crime plan as a result of a serious case review into child U who died of a knife wound. This case highlighted communication breakdowns between agencies. He explained that the council is building a plan with partners and this includes work with Southwark Youth Council. This is a long term plan that will take time to reap results.

He said that council budget restrictions meant that cuts have had to be made to youth services; these have been to staffing levels rather than delivery. Quality is as important; we want our youth services to be high quality and enable young people to progress.

Recent results are somewhat encouraging: Southwark has moved from being one of the boroughs with the highest levels of knife crime to being sixth.

3. Southwark Youth Council representatives, Hannah Olomola and Tobi Ayeni will speak about briefly about knife crime, voted a top concern by Southwark young people, and join the panel discussion.

Hannah and Tobi jointly presented and spoke about their role representing schools and localities and their work engaging other pupils and young people in issues such as knife crime.

Tobi said there is danger of escalation with threats and bigger weapons being invoked; this is a not a winnable scenario. It's important to work with victims - perpetration is often retaliation which is often driven by fear.

If young people were given option of £10,000 or ending committing knife crime then people would make a difference choice.

Diversion is important. Young people need to be encouraged and enabled to pursue different options other than just education.

4. Southwark Borough Commander Simon Messinger.

Borough Commander Simon Messinger said that partnership work to tackle knife crime is very important; the police will use their powers, such as stop and search, but on its own enforcement will not be able to end or significantly reduce knife crime.

Community intelligence is very important in tackling knife crime; the older generation needs to listen to young people to understand what is happening and how to tackle knife crime effectively.

Presently knife crime rates are increasing at 39% London wide, whereas in Southwark the rate of increase has dropped to 3%.

5. Quince Garcia will contribute to the panel discussion on breaking the offending and reoffending cycle.

Quince explained that he changed his life around through writing and film making. The last time he was in prison he resolved to become not just a dad but also a good father. On leaving prison he attended University.

His writing revealed to him the underlying mental health issues and enabled him to examine the changes to attitude and temperament required.

He now runs programmes to enable other young people at risk of offending to realize their talents.

6. Luton Sinfield , Community Safety officer, will contribute to the panel discussion on Southwark' Knife Crime and Knife Carrying action plan

Luton said that he held an operational role on developing the knife crime action plan.

The chair invited questions and discussion.

The first questioner said that Scotland treat knife crime and violence as a Public Health issue - rather than a crime issue. She said this is an evidence based programmed that London ought to adopt; it has had great success.

Sophie Lindon responded that the Mayor's office have been working with Scotland on their Public Health approach; people from the GLA have met and spoken in depth with colleagues in Scotland. Scotland does focus on the enforcement side a lot, as well as other measures.

An audience member introduced herself as a pediatric doctor. She said that young people who have experienced 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' (ACEs) are significantly more at risk of violence; both as victims and perpetrators. She said that many of the children she comes across have had many adverse experiences. She raised concerns with the level of therapeutic and social support: Early Help is good but it stops after two years and then intervention may only happen if there is a significant behavioral problem - the intervention at this stage can then be exclusion from school. She said it is very important that we have joined up approach, for example with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

A police officer present assured the doctor that there is a move towards this kind of approach. There is close work with safeguarding. She agreed that the evidence is that the young people involved in knife crime will have had adverse experiences.

An audience member commented that the council and policy leaders frame the society: 'you have the power'. He said that people who hold knives do not have much power – they are slotting into a pre-existing framework. The government has the data on policy initiatives that work. He said he had looked at the data and told the audience that each murder costs

millions pounds. He said that cuts to services, such as youth work, have an impact later on and are not cost effective.

A young person commented that young people listen to, and are more receptive, to other young people so it is important that we are used as conduits.

A council officer explained that 'peer navigators' are been developed - through Family Early Help. One of the issues is getting these young people linked in to help where and when they are needed, and for that the council and wider partnership need community relationships and support.

A primary school teacher commented that preventive work with primary schools is need and her school is open.

A youth worker introduced himself and said that he conducts peer safeguarding Serious Case Reviews nationally, which look at child deaths. He questioned the legitimacy of the comparison with the rest of the nation for rates of knife crime, remarking that the London knife crime situation is much more acute. He said that we have groups of young people in London who have decided they will not be successful. They are adopting other approaches to raising revenue that unfortunately involve serious violence. He added that the messages from middle and senior officers are very positive and progressive towards policing the community. However on the ground there is something of a different approach and a disconnect.

A young person commented that he grew up locally with a single mum who worked full time but received a relatively low income. He said his mind was always on 'what's the next money making scheme' – so he could have some money and enable his mum to go out and enjoy herself occasionally.

A father who had lost his son to knife crime spoke about dedicating his life to working in communities to combat this; in football clubs, as a pastor, etc. Currently he is now working with the local hate partnership linking together people and making connections in order to hold conversations on the reasons for youth violence and to find solutions.

A young person from a church spoke about working with young people and emphasized that their work was about building relationships and fostering good values: care; humility, etc.

The Southwark Youth Council representatives, Tobi and Hannah, affirmed the values of the church and the importance of a mind set that drives poor or good choices.

Quince commented that faith and relationships are often cited as routes out of offending, but what about the relationship to yourself? That is the primary building block of relationships with god and each other. He said that addressing his mental health was crucial to breaking his offending cycle.

Cllr Hargrove commented that he agreed with the comment on the importance of values and in particular for people in power to have the humility to listen.

**How Will We End Knife Crime?
Community Workshop for Southwark Council Scrutiny event
21st March 2018**

We cannot stress enough how grateful we are to the people who generously shared their heart-felt personal experiences about how they have been affected by knife crime and also took time to listen carefully to the experiences of others. This provided a strong foundation from which to make recommendations.

The points that we have compiled are mostly from contributions from participants in our workshop, but also include a point made in the opening session by someone in our workshop that we didn't have the opportunity to discuss*:

- There was general agreement that one-off events are of great value, but must be part of a continuous coordinated approach to tackling knife crime
- The point was made about the need for continuous examination of how statutory and delivery organisations change their structures and behaviours, in addition to focusing on behaviour changes of the people most affected by knife-crime*
- There is need for greater recognition that every story is unique and no two people's reasons for becoming involved in criminal activity will be exactly the same
- Access to services and opportunities is often blocked by jargon, complicated and funder-friendly language rather than language that young people would actually use in real life
- There is a need for coordinated information about all the positive initiatives, resources and schemes that young people can get involved in. In our workshop there was a lot of information shared about existing schemes and opportunities that they didn't know about. The point was also made that the Scrutiny event had not been widely publicised enough

The following recommendations have been compiled from comments and discussions in the workshop. The group did not prioritise recommendations and they are not listed in order of priority.

1. The Council continues to support and invests in the continuation of these conversations and events which a) bring people with shared experience together and b) bring people of different age groups and experiences together. There was also a strong feeling that these meetings are promoted throughout the whole community recognising and supporting the power of the community to help to heal and also to come out and take action.

2. There needs to be a coordinated approach to offering a variety of meaningful roles to young people as experts in helping to solve problems

and find solutions: as volunteers and paid consultants, mentors, advisers, youth panel members and that these should be coordinated

Linked to this is a need for the Council and other agencies to continue to ask young people for their ideas, experience and expertise and that they have a variety of ways of continuing to check in with young people about the shaping and development of those ideas. This includes seeing the original idea from its beginning to its implementation - how it is named, how it is publicised. For example, one younger participant suggested that immediately following an attack i.e. when the young person is still at the hospital that they have access to another young person that:

- they may know
- has been trained to listen
- that has understanding of the situation and the issues
- may have been through the same experience

3. There is a need for the Council and other agencies to support the community to continue to focus on innovative ways to help young people feel safe. For example:

- a number they can call/'speak' to someone through text or the offer of safe places
- a programme to look at "snitching" or "ratting" so that people can make supported and safe choices about when they can genuinely report something they see that they are worried about that is happening in their community and sharing information without fear of being a "snitch" or a "rat" or a "grass"

4. There is a need for a service for those who are trying to leave a criminal lifestyle, including those who have come out of prison, to get both immediate emotional support and practical support and advice, such as writing CVs, access to benefits.

5. There is a need for the Council and other agencies to prioritise early interventions and recognise how a gradual involvement in a negative cycle can develop. This includes interventions in schools and in the community as early as year 4 that focus on building children's sense of identity; confidence building; feeling effective; building self esteem and empowering them to make right decisions; recognising and fostering children's individual talents

6. There is a need for staffed services and support to be offered beyond 9-5 on weekdays. This should be available in the evening, at night and during the weekend, as most of the situations in which young people are most vulnerable and when crime happens, are outside regular working hours.

Julia Honess and Daisy May James
March 2018

Workshop in pod 2: Intersections between girls, gangs, and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and knife crime.

Workshop facilitator: Cllr Jasmine Ali.

Jenny Brennan, Assistant Director Family Early Help & Youth Justice gave a short introduction to the resource pack on Exploring Healthy Relationships, produced by London Bubble Theatre Company and Southwark Council. This includes a film: 'His Girl' and discussion materials. The film shows an emerging exploitative relationship between a younger girl, a young man and his associates. The resources were developed after research on the local profile of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in order to explore with young people what unhealthy and healthy relationships look like. The film and pack are available for use in school, youth clubs and the community.

Police CSE lead Lizzie Jones MD, and April Bald, Assistant Director Children's safeguarding, presented briefly on CSE. They explained that in Southwark on average perpetrators are about 18 years old and victims about 14. The young women involved often have low self esteem. They want likes on Instagram's and the kudos of older boys' interest which they equate with love. Often this is because they are not getting enough love and attention either at home or in school or in their community. Families want help - but often do not know how to make progress.

Girls can be used to carry knives and pay drug debts through sexual favours / coercion.

Mental health is frequently an issue. Mental health includes significant levels on self harm, and some have required admission to Snowfield. Drug use is also frequently a problem, particularly strong strains of cannabis.

MASE works with around 50 young people at higher risk. MASE is Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meeting. It's a strategic meeting where partners come together on monthly basis, and have a single oversight of those young people we are most concerned about and at risk of CSE, and includes the perpetrators

The purpose of the MASE meeting is:

- i) To have tactical oversight of CSE cases, information, intelligence and activity both across Southwark and for Southwark children placed out of borough.
- ii) To identify and deliver a partnership response to short, medium- and longer-term themes, trends and patterns emerging from CSE cases.
- iii) To direct resources and activity in response to identified trends or patterns
- iv) To identify and remove blockages or obstacles in cases

MASE works with around 50 young people - mainly girls, however there are a few boys. 40% are in care, 20% on child protection plan, 15% worked with, 5% Early Help, others are on a Child in need plan (CIN) and some are still in the assessment phase.

The risk factors for CSE are is not just the parents and immediate family but also the wider community: their peer group, community and the wider social and economic system.

As well as working on with identified targets of CSE we are also working on looking out for symptoms of abuse: e.g. seeing condoms and noticing signs of place based exploitation, this is referred to as 'contextual safeguarding'.

In addition to the young people at high risk that MACE work with there are lots of other children and young people at lower levels of risk that need the wider networks of support to keep them safe.

There are networks that tend to perpetrate CSE. These are very similar to gangs and interlink.

What about Rotherham? The young women who were targeted have reported that lots of people in the local community would have been aware of the signs of abuse they were experiencing. Southwark have a 'make safe' programme. This did enable a taxi driver to deliver young women to the police after recognising something was awry. There is MACE which meets to monitor and assist high risk young people. This works well but we do need more coordination; particularly with schools.

Police officers present said that the more we engage with CSE the more we understand how much it intersects with other types of criminal exploitation.

A contributor who is doing a PHD on the CSE remarked that sometimes CSE amongst young people is referred to as 'peer on peer' CSE; when it looks like rape to her. She asked if this reframing can diminish the seriousness of the offence. Police officers agreed this phraseology can risk minimising the seriousness: an 18 year old is raping a 14 year old. Someone else commented we need to hold on to the fact they can be children.

Police officers present said that they do workshops in Year 9 on CSE. It has been quite shocking to see the extent that by this age exploitation has become normalised e.g. buying gifts for favours.

Jenny Brennan spoke about the work undertaken with Youth Offending. This is often working with other issues e.g. drugs but also Brooke Advisory who are delivering work on sexual health.

There is a concern with girls groups and how unhealthy the relationships can be.

The police officers present commented that there are other gang related incidents where young people have been sexual exploited, but this is more motivated by the desire to humiliate and silence. This is traumatic and can lead later down the line to acting out. We try and find out if perpetrators have also been victims. There are many examples of where that happens.

A committee member commented that we need to focus on the the victim and their needs when something happens. Officers agreed. They remarked that they had one case where it took 18 months for the victim to start talk. That is a resource challenge. Pauline Campbell, Senior Anti Social Behaviour officer, remarked that with a partnership approach that is easier and the advantage of this drawn out timescale is that it does enable us to keep engaging with that young person.

Pauline Campbell then spoke about her work with people involved in gang violence and seeking to exit. Her small team provide intense support in a safe space. Formally they worked with whole families; now due to cost pressures it is with one person. The cohort she works with is in the age range of 15 /16 years old to early adulthood. Over the last few years the service has taken on women. Their stories indicate 90 % have experienced trauma. Other issues are drug dependency, frequently to 'skunk', a strong strain of cannabis. With the 16 year olds they are trying to change the mind-set. Young people are saying: ' I am making a grand a week on the street why are you asking me to sign on?' .This about saving lives if you look at the statistics .We have 62 life places , 40 on high risk ratings. There are regular meetings, which are well attended. There is also a London Gangs Exit programme. There is a hub to bring young people back and to debrief. The key thing is the mental health and trauma.

A question was asked about online grooming. Social care officers said this needs careful handling as nowadays we are all very attached to our mobile phones. There is a danger with banning in secure units; confiscating a young person's mobile phone can trigger runaways. The other danger with banning is that inappropriate relationships can go underground; there was a case where parents banned social media use but the young person was groomed via a game. The emphasis ought to be more about forming trusted relationships with young people so they can disclose risks and be supported in developing healthy relationships.

The chair invited participants to make recommendations:

We would love you to come to our church to enable us to inform young people and have honest conversations. We would also welcome professional support to help us inform and support parents and approach families.

The police reported that they are going into Surrey Square Primary school to work with year 5 & 6 and then they are going to hold a session work with parents. The Police said it will straightforward and upfront. Going into primary schools was supported.

There was a discussion about coming to a church congregation or smaller groups. The church youth leaders present said that they can talk to their peers - they know the reality, however the parents may not know.

Mentors were recommended and starting young.

Educate younger and get this right. Could Peer Navigators be used?

Teaching parents / grandparents / children - through church's and other community venues

Educating parents - so they can create the right relationships.

Fund peer networks.

The underlying challenge is that this is about relationships - being kind to each. How can we promote healthy relationships, resolve conflict constructively and promote values such as kindness, empathy etc. Could we have 'being kind' as a council value? For example could being kind to each other be a council principle as part of the Council Fairer Future promises.

Gang violence is related to domestic violence and abuse.

Funding for Safer London to come back (higher risk). This was cut and there was plea for this to be reinstated.

Community engagement and this needs to be multifaceted.

Victim support.

Group work.

Draft: EHCP mini review report

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This is the final report of the scrutiny review into Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP). The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee decided to conduct a review in July 2017. The aim of the review is to make recommendations to the Cabinet
- 1.2 The review set out to address these issues in particular:
- how well Education, Social Care and Health are working together on the development and delivery of EHC Plans
 - how effective our current arrangements are for children and young people
- 1.3 The committee chose this review as a follow up from scrutiny conducted in 2015/16, when the sub-committee focused on the Youth Offer and the Autism Strategy. The other driver was to check that joint working was as good as it could be in a time of budget pressures.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a new approach to securing the provision needed by Children and Young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND). The 0-25 SEND Code of Practice is statutory guidance on the Act and in the spirit of the Code, Southwark co-produced its policy and processes around the new provisions with all involved agencies, parents and Children and Young people. Parents and Young People have set the vision for SEND in Southwark, '*where children and young people with SEND have the same opportunities as everyone else*'.
- 2.2 The Act and Code introduced new ways of working and statutory duties around:
- The involvement of children, young people and their families in all processes. Coproduction must be at the heart of all we do with all being equal partners in the process
 - A full assessment by all agencies leading to an outcome focused EHCP
 - A clear, transparent Local Offer of services for children and young people with SEND and their families
 - Services to be jointly commissioned between the local authority and health based on the JSNA
 - 0-25 provision for children and young people with SEND with statutory protections extended to cover 16-25 year olds
 - Extension of the use of personal budgets and short breaks so give families choice and control
 - All schools to be brought under the same legislation however constituted.

2.3 A key aspect of the reforms was the introduction of EHCPs for all new assessments, and the need to transfer all children with statements of SEN onto a plan by March 2018, as well as move to a 20 week timeline from the beginning of an EHC needs assessment to issue of the final plan.

2.4 EHC needs assessments should engage children, young people and parents as equal partners in the process alongside all involved professionals. The aim should be to draw all assessments from all partners together into one plan, agree long term multi-agency outcomes and design provision to meet needs that work towards these shared outcomes.

ACTIVITIES AND CONTRIBUTORS

3.1 A roundtable was held at the scrutiny meeting 27 November 2017¹. This session looked at the process for developing EHC plans in Southwark, bringing together representatives from education, health and social care to see how joint working benefits children and young people with EHC plans. The following people contributed to the discussions:

- Bridget Nichola, CCG Designated Clinical Officer for SEND
- Kate Moriarty-Baker, CCG Director of Quality and Chief Nurse
- Yvonne Ely, Head of SEN & Inclusion, Children's and Adults' Services
- Shirley Walker Head of Service Children with Disabilities, Transitions, Out of Hours and National and Specialist CAMHS Social Workers, Children's and Adults' Services
- Nina Dohel, Director of Education
- Sunil Chothi, Independent SEN advocate
- Mrs Helen Poyton – Head teacher, Chair of Southwark primary Headteachers

3.2 An Outreach visit to BOSCO was held on 21 December 2017. The meeting was held with Councillor Kath Whittam, Darren Coghlan and Julie Timbrell. BOSCO work with about 70 students, 11 of whom have EHC Plans. BOSCO is focused on meeting the needs of young people who are not served by other provision. A significant number are on the autistic spectrum.

4 MAIN ISSUES

4.1 Progress in moving plans from SEN to EHC Plan.

The national deadline for moving everybody from SEN to EHC Plans was 31 March 2018, however most local authorities have struggled to complete the conversion by this date. Officers report that they are not straight forward to convert. To date (June 2018) Southwark have had a total of 1500 statements to converted to EHCPs; 98% on time. This earned the council a letter of commendation from the DfE on the high rate. The new deadline for conversion is the end of August, with only a handful remaining.

The independent SEN advocate commented favourably on Southwark's high rate of conversion, compared to many London boroughs.

¹ <http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=48056>

4.2 Relationship with partners & resources

The primary school headteachers' network lead praised Southwark for doing good work, however she said there is insufficient funding to do this work well; there are many children with high needs and expectations. Resources are not keeping pace with demand.

BOSCO was positive about the EHC Plans and particularly their use to fund the employment support service for young adults that they run.

BOSCO recommended a communication protocol between providers and officers which set out matters such as timescale to respond to queries.

4.3 A shorter plan

There was unanimity that EHC Plans can be over long. Southwark is focusing on one page plans, and has received good feedback on this approach.

BOSCO agree the plans can be over long, and could benefit from simplifying. They said that there are different plans and forms for each authority and getting the same format across different boroughs would be helpful. BOSCO suggested that a shorter London wider agreement on a consistent and shorter plan would be useful. This could be something that London Councils might be able to help with. Differentiating by different levels is useful and keeping a tight focus would be more functional, for example just an education focus if that is the relevant issue.

4.4 Explicit about bands

The current Southwark plans specify the bands; this was commended as good practice by the SEN advocate.

4.5 Placements and options

The local services available need to provide more options and capacity at all education levels, but particularly post 16 for higher needs.

The borough has a school capital plan which will enable a rebuild of Cherry Gardens School and an autistic free school. Both will have a nursery. Officers said that they thought local authority and academy schools do well. This assertion is untested and the very limited anecdotal comments received was that SEND practice is mixed with some schools doing very well and other less so.

Previously the Local Offer was for 0-19, now it is for 0-25. The 16 to 25 segment has been most challenging: officers said that colleges have found it befuddling but are getting on board.

BOSCO reported that their Supported Interns scheme is working really well, and keeping young people in the borough. It is aimed at 18 – 25 year olds. They have supported employment for up to a year and the aim is to move them into sustained employment. They are looking to expand this programme. They are placing a much greater emphasis on employment opportunities.

BOSCO said that there is a need for more local places that enable young people to transition to the world of work. Funding was previously agreed by the Learning Skills Council and then

the Young People Learning Agency before being transferred to the local authority. Budgets allocated to the Local Authority were based on historic costing and not current needs. In the past very high funding levels were allocated to high needs students and this does cause issues currently; many of these young people are placed out of borough which is costly and does not support young people to find sustainable adult roles in the community. BOSCO said that post 17 – 18 years it is important to move students into employment and for young people to start to find an adult role in society; it cannot just be a hamster wheel of provision. BOSCO said this can be difficult and time consuming, but that needs to be the aim. Saving and better outcomes could potentially be made by ensuring better local provision.

There is South Thames consortium/ partnership looking to improve the diversity of the local post 16 offer; however BOSCO is not part of this.

4.6 E learning

There was a comment that the e-learning course for professionals was useful. Officers were asked if they had thought about opening this up to families.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Continue to develop shorter, smarter, focused EHC Plans.

5.2 Consider approaching London Councils to develop a consistent format for shorter EHC Plans.

5.3 Develop a strategy to improve EHCP placement options at all levels, particularly post 16 high needs local options, with a view to:

- increasing the quantity and quality of available options and placements
- increasing the focus on outcomes post 25, so young people are, as much as possible, able to find a sustainable role in the local community in employment, or otherwise.
- Ensuring that the South Thames consortium partnership meets the needs of local young people who may need an EHCP

5.4 Offer the e-learning course to families to increase EHCP understanding, adapting if necessary.

5.5 Develop a communication protocol between providers (e.g. schools, colleges and other placements) and the Council.

OSC Meetings For 2018/19 And Suggested Cabinet Member Interviews

Meeting Date	Starting Time	Cabinet Members
15/10/2018	7.00 p.m.	Councillor Peter John Councillor Stephanie Cryan
12/11/2018	7.00 p.m.	Councillor Johnson Situ Councillor Kieron Williams
10/12/2018	7.00 p.m.	Councillor Victoria Mills Councillor Leo Pollak
28/01/2019	1.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Scrutiny Budget Meeting
11/03/2019	7.00 p.m.	Councillor Evelyn Akoto Councillor Richard Livingstone
08/04/2019	7.00 p.m.	Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Rebeca Lury

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19****AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)****NOTE:** Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Shelley Burke Tel: 020 7525 7344

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