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| Item No. 10. | Classification: Open | Date: 16 April 2013 | Meeting Name: Cabinet |
| Report title: | | Access to Maternal Health and Early Years Services for the Gypsy and Traveller Communities in Southwark (Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee) | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Overview & Scrutiny Committee | |

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet considers the recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in respect of provision of travellers' sites and funding of Southwark Travellers Action Group, as set out at paragraph 9.
2. That the cabinet notes the recommendations of the review of Access to Maternal Health and Early Years Services for the Gypsy and Traveller Communities in Southwark, and that the relevant cabinet members bring back a report to cabinet, in order to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee, within eight weeks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. This is the final report arising from the scrutiny review of access to maternal health and early years' services for the gypsy and traveller communities in Southwark.
4. The scrutiny report forms part of a wider review of public health that the Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee is undertaking this year. The sub-committee chose to focus on maternal health and early years' services for two reasons; to link the review with priorities identified by the Marmot Review into health inequalities in England, published in 2010, and to evidence that significant maternal and early years' health inequality is experienced by travellers and gypsies.
5. This review was supported by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), as part of a phased programme focusing on tackling health inequalities. The review used a process, outlined in the CfPS publication 'Tipping the Scales'. CfPS supported six projects throughout the UK, working with three excluded communities: Gypsies and Travellers, sex workers, and homeless people. As part of the review an indicative calculation was made measuring the potential 'return on investment' (ROI) from the scrutiny review in the next 12 months, using a series of financial outcome measures.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 11 March 2013. The committee welcomed the report and the valuable work of the sub-committee.

7. At the same meeting, the committee also received an update on the proposed new written statement (agreement) for council gypsy and traveller sites. This update followed on from the call-in in November of a cabinet member decision in respect of the proposed agreement.
8. The committee noted the actions taken and commitments made following on from the call-in, the actions taken and future actions to be taken following on from the further review of the proposed agreement and the next steps, including dates for the revised cabinet member decision.
9. The committee also heard concerns raised by Southwark Travellers' Action Group (STAG) about overcrowding on sites and noted the work of the group generally and in particular in relation to the proposed new agreement. The committee agreed to recommend to cabinet that:
 1. In view of overcrowding on sites that it be recommended that the consultation due to be launched into the future of housing provision in the borough include future provision for gypsy and traveller sites and that these groups be formally consulted.
 2. That cabinet explores funding for Southwark Travellers Action Group so that they can maintain their services; the committee firmly believes that the services provided by STAG save the council money.

HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE, COMMUNITIES & CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The sub-committee's recommendations are listed below.
 1. Nell Gwyn Nursery School and East Peckham Children's Centre to work, with the support of STAG, to restart a dedicated session for traveller parents and children. This will focus on improving access to children's centres activities, nursery school (Early Years offer), antenatal care, health and social care (such as weaning, parenting skills, immunisation etc).
 2. Pilgrims Way Children's Centre to nominate a dedicated officer to build outreach links with the gypsy and traveller community to improve access to Children's Centre activities and Nursery Schools.
 3. Community Safety & SOLACE to work with STAG to improve access and referrals to the domestic abuse service (including MARAC referrals where appropriate) and to minimise STAG involvement in the handling of domestic abuse cases.
 4. Public Health to work with STAG to improve access to doctors' practices by providing information and support.
 5. Southwark Clinical Commissioning / Public Health / STAG to develop a training programme for health professionals to understand the needs of the gypsy and traveller communities in Southwark.
 6. Social Services and Community Safety to organise and hold a session for the traveller community in Southwark on their safeguarding role and explain

how referrals work, ensuring that accurate information is given and myths dealt with.

7. Social Services and Community Safety to identify lead officers to work with the traveller community in Southwark. These officers should be appropriately trained and understand issues such as health and safety on site. This will enable relationships to be established and promote better understanding between all parties.
8. That the importance of confidentiality in child protection is emphasised with all Social Workers on all occasions.
9. Smoking cessation courses are offered to travellers.
10. The proposed parent and child group at Nell Gwyn to include sexual health sessions for parents.
11. Breast-feeding, weaning and obesity are raised at the proposed parent and child group at Nell Gwyn.
12. STAG proposals on improving employment support are implemented; where feasible. (See Appendix STAG consultation submission for details)
13. The consultation that is due to be launched into the future of housing provision in the borough should include future provision for gypsy and traveller sites and these groups should be consulted.
14. The council develops an over-arching framework for engagement with, and providing services for, the gypsy and traveller communities in Southwark.
15. That cabinet explores funding for Southwark Travellers Action Group so that they can maintain their services; the sub-committee firmly believes that the services provided by STAG save the council money.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda 11 March 2013. The document is available on this web page (item 6): http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ie/ListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&MId=4337&Ver=4 | Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH | Peter Roberts 020 7525 4350 |

APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|------------|---|
| Appendix A | Report of the Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee |

AUDIT TRAIL

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| Lead Officer | Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny | |
| Report Author | Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 4 April 2013 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Director of Legal Services | N/a | N/a |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services | N/a | N/a |
| Chief Officers | N/a | N/a |
| Cabinet Member | N/a | N/a |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Team | 4 April 2013 | |