



## **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

20<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### **Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## **Youth Offending Task Group Terms of Reference**

### **1.0 Detail**

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested that terms of reference for a Youth Offending Task Group be presented to them in order for members to agree a way forward for this piece of work. In 2009/10, the then Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee began a task group on youth offending, but this was still in its formative stages when the election took place in May 2010. Since the new Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been formed, members have indicated that they would like to continue this work, but that they want to change the scope and emphasis of the review.
- 1.2 New terms of reference for the review have been drafted and are attached at appendix 1 to this report. The task group will still focus on preventative services. However, in line with the committee's request, evidence will be sought, where possible, from young people who are already in the youth offending system to understand better the reasons why they have ended up in the youth justice system and to get their views on the services available in Brent. The terms of reference are in draft and members should use the time at the committee meeting to suggest amendments to them.
- 1.3 There are a number of issues for members to consider before beginning this work. A green paper on youth offending is due before the end of the year and this is likely to be followed by a white paper in 2011. The implications that these papers will have on youth offending services is unclear at present. Similarly, the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review could also have an impact on youth offending services, particularly non-statutory preventive services. In carrying out this review, the task group will need to keep these issues in mind and respond accordingly.
- 1.4 At this stage, the committee is asked to endorse the terms of reference to the task group and nominate three members to carry out this piece of work. Normally task groups are made up of three councillors, but not necessarily members of the

committee that sets up the task group. However, because this is the first task group of this municipal year and also of the new Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is recommended that three members of the committee work on this task group.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

(i). Endorse the terms of reference for the Youth Offending Task Group, attached at appendix 1 to this report.

(ii). Nominate three committee members to work on this task group.

### **Contact Officers**

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