

15 January 2020		ITEM: 14
Cabinet		
School Protocol to Reduce Serious Youth Violence		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Councillor James Halden Portfolio Holder for Education and Health		
Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas, Assistant Director, Education and Skills		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director, Adults, Housing and Health / Interim Director of Children's Service		
This report is: Public		

Executive Summary

We believe that protecting children and young people is a core principle of our work. The recent publication of our Education Support Strategy has set out how we are working in partnership to support children and young people access educational provisions that offers a well-rounded and balanced curriculum.

We recognise that some of our children and young people need additional support and our new protocol to reduce vulnerability factors to safeguard children and young people from serious youth violence is one way in which we are supporting this aim. Thurrock's continued commitment to cross directorate working has enabled us to develop this work in partnership with a range of colleagues both internal and external of the council.

- 1. Recommendation(s)**
 - 1.1 Cabinet to approve the Schools Protocol to reduce vulnerability factors and safeguard children and young people from serious youth violence.**
 - 1.2 Cabinet continue to invest and identify positive activity programmes to provide alternative pathways for vulnerable children and young people.**
 - 1.3 Cabinet continue to endorse the cross directorate working that is in place to support our wider community safety ambitions for children and young people.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Much of the nation has seen an increase in the number of knife crime incidences and other serious youth violence offences, due to the changing nature of crime. The joint work between Schools, Police, Community Safety Partnership, Public Health and the Youth Offending Service is looking to address this on a system wide approach.
- 2.2 The development of the protocol is the combined work of all the agencies coming together to offer a holistic approach on how to tackle serious youth violence. We recognise that early intervention is a key strand to our work and the Local Authority have invested in more youth related activities and programmes developed in partnership with the Police and Youth Offending Service to address issues at an earlier stage.
- 2.3 Raising awareness of what to look for has been a key strand of our communication to schools and other youth and community groups. We continue to ensure that we work in partnership with schools and other agencies to safeguard children and young people.
- 2.4 This year's annual public health report from our Director of Public Health will focus on this subject. This report will be presented in the spring with the aim of providing a clear evidence base around some of the interventions and what impact they have had as what else we can introduce to support children and young people. We recognise that this is a multi-layered issue and we can only address this by looking at the route, cause and designing and co-producing services for young people with young people.
- 2.5 The Youth Cabinet are actively involved in this work and are looking at ways in which young people can be supported. They provide the challenge around how we ensure children and young people have a voice in the designing of services.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The Local Authority in partnership with schools, police, public health, YOS and the community safety partnership have developed the schools protocol to reduce vulnerability factors and safeguard children and young people from serious youth violence. The protocol recognises the joint responsibilities across the key agencies and looks at how we can further develop our holistic approach to support vulnerable children and young people.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

Cabinet have a clear and accountable governance responsibility around how we support and work with schools to provide clear leadership in relation to working with vulnerable children and young people.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.2 Local Educational Providers, Public Health, YOS, Community Safety Partnership, Police.

6. Impact on Corporate Policies, Priorities, Performance and Community Impact

6.1 This report contributes to the following corporate priorities:
- create a great place for learning and opportunity

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

The role of the LA is to offer leadership and support around some of the areas of identified vulnerability for our children and young people. The Community Safety Partnership and the Council's ongoing support for this has provided some additional resources to tackle some of the issues that schools and local communities are facing. However this is short term funding and we need to consider how we can imbed this work around vulnerable children and young people into core budgets going forward.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Legal

Cabinet is asked to note the report content under the remit of Cabinet's terms of reference and powers.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Community Development Team Manager

Supporting our vulnerable children and young people to enjoy school and not become involved in risky behaviours is a key strategic priority. Community engagement is a key to the success of the programmes that we are introducing. The Protocol is one of a number of tools we are introducing to support vulnerable children and young people. Our vision remains offering a

safe vibrant community and recognises the importance of children and young people and how we further develop and work in partnership across all our community partners.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant)** – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

9. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Schools Protocol to Reduce Vulnerability Factors and Safeguard Children and Young People from Serious Youth Violence

Report Author

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