

Essex County Council
People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PAF)

APPENDIX 1

DRAFT 1 – 14 JANUARY 2019

Review Topic (Name of review)	Drug gangs, knife crime and county lines
Type of Review	Full Committee or Task and Finish Group - TBC
Rationale for the Review	<p>The incidences and profile of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines operations is increasing. The issue was discussed at Full Council on 12 December 2018 and the following motion passed:</p> <p><i>'This Council recognises the impact of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines as a local, regional and national issue.</i></p> <p><i>This Council commends the work of multi-agency statutory and voluntary partners in Essex, Southend and Thurrock in relation to these issues, particularly given the judgement of "Outstanding" by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, following a recent inspection.</i></p> <p><i>This Council is pleased to see this work is being recognised by the Home Office in awarding the sum of £640k to the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner's Office to further expand this multi-agency work.</i></p> <p><i>This Council therefore:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Calls upon all political parties to work together to drive down the impact of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines on the residents of Essex.</i> • <i>Requests that the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee Has oversight of and contributes to the multi-agency strategy and its development.'</i>
Indicators of success	<p>Contributing and influencing the development of a multi-agency strategy. To bring further public clarity and transparency to the destructive impacts of gang culture.</p> <p>To bring further public clarity and transparency to the roles and responsibilities of agencies and encourage and influence further improvement in the levels of system co-operation and partnership working</p> <p>To bring local member knowledge of locality specific issues to the broader discussion.</p>
Timescales	The review should be conducted over a three month period. Any extension beyond that would need to be approved by the Scrutiny Board.
Provisional Timetable	February 2019 – Full Committee first initial meeting. Scoping Document to be approved. Determine format of review. February onwards – Seek evidence from witnesses, site visits etc.
Terms of Reference	To consider the adequacy of current agency work to reduce the destructive impacts of gang culture in Essex. To have oversight of, and contribute to, the multi-agency strategy and its development.

Key Lines of Enquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To gain assurance that challenges being faced have been clearly defined and recognised by all agencies; (ii) To gain assurance that the role and responsibilities of all agencies is clear; (iii) To gain assurance that, to the extent necessary, there is an organised and robust system wide (and partnership) working in challenging and reducing the destructive impacts of gang culture; (iv) To understand ECCs specific role and its contribution as a key contributor to and driver of actions being taken.
What primary/new evidence is needed?	<p>Initial briefing update from Head of Youth Offending and Essex Police to understand the issues and challenges being faced.</p> <p>Seek clarification on the role of partner agencies and their inter-dependencies and connecting governance structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Education – e.g. incidences of individuals being out of school (ii) Youth Services re: prevention role. (iii) District Councils’ crime and disorder role. (iv) Public Health (v) ECC’s Adult Services
What secondary/ existing information is needed?	<p>Look at supporting governance and intelligence sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequacy and connectivity of differing IT systems. - Funding framework. <p>Are agencies recognising the changing population demographics and needs in the county? Is the current design of services still appropriate?</p>
Relevant briefings and site visits	TBC
Other work being undertaken/Relevant Corporate Links	<p>The issue is relevant to the Council’s strategic objectives and corporate priorities, namely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Help Keep Vulnerable Children Safer and Enable Them to Fulfil their potential (ii) Help to Secure Stronger Safer and More Neighbourly Communities

WHO DO WE NEED TO CONTRIBUTE/CONSULT?

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Cabinet Member, Children and Families
Key ECC Officers	Tanya Gillett, Head of Youth Offending
Partners and service users	TBC

WHAT RESOURCES DO WE NEED?

Lead Member and Membership	Either Full Committee or Task and Finish Group membership to be determined.
Co-optee’s (if any)	TBC

Lead Scrutiny Officer/Other	Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Expected Member commitment	TBC – a guide would be two commitments per month for the duration of the review.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS/CONSTRAINTS?

Risk analysis (site visits etc.)	
Possible constraints	

WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED FROM STAKEHOLDERS?

Internal stakeholders	Is any support from the Communications team likely to be needed?
External stakeholders	

WHO ARE WE DIRECTING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TO?

Recommendations to (key decision makers):	To relevant Cabinet Member(s), and other agencies and partners that identify opportunities for more partnership working and interventions,
Reporting arrangements	
Follow-up arrangements	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/NOTES

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