

**PREVENTING YOUNG PEOPLE BECOMING INVOLVED IN DRUG DEALING –
JOINT TASK & FINISH GROUP REPORT**

Reason for the Report

1. This report enables the Committee to approve the draft report of the Children & Young People Scrutiny and Community & Adult Services Committees joint Task & Finish Inquiry, attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. At its meeting in September 2017 the Committee agreed to undertake a joint Task & Finish investigation into “preventing young people becoming involved in drug dealing. The issue was raised by Councillor Lynda Thorne in a letter to the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. The Terms of Reference for the task group were to:

Identify and Investigate:

- The contributing factors that give rise to young people becoming involved in drug dealing in the city
- The positive contributing factors that communities can put in place to protect and prevent young people becoming involved in drug dealing in the city
- Determine the effectiveness of current policies and services in protecting and preventing young people becoming involved in drug dealing in the city.
- Identify good practice

- Determine how best statutory agencies can work with communities to ensure they are informed about services and support available and are confident to report concerns
- Make recommendations to be taken forward to the Safer & Cohesive Communities Programme Board

3. Members of the Task & Finish group were:

- Councillor Lee Bridgeman
- Councillor Saeed Ebrahim (Chair)
- Councillor Kathryn Kelloway
- Councillor Ashley Lister
- Councillor Mary McGarry
- Councillor Mike Phillips
- Councillor Kanaya Singh

4. The Task Group reviewed the evidence gathered from discussions with a wide range of witnesses including Council Members and officers (including Youth Service); third sector organisations; Community Safety Board Members; schools; Cardiff & Vale UHB; residents and community representatives; and Probation. The Members also reviewed a number of publications and reports, and developed, distributed and analysed a community survey to gain a snapshot of opinion across Cardiff. Arising from this, a number of key findings were identified from which a number of recommendations were agreed, as set out in the attached report at **Appendix A**.

Way Forward

5. The draft report of the Task & Finish Group, is attached at **Appendix A**. Members' attention is particularly drawn to the recommendations section.
6. Members may wish to consider the report, make any amendments and agree whether to approve the report to be considered by the Cabinet.

Legal Implications

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the draft report of the Task and Finish Group, copy attached at **Appendix A.**
- ii. Endorse the report, subject to any comments the Committee may wish to make, for submission to the Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 December 2018