

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 1 February 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Implementation of the *Prevent* duty in Merton's schools task group

Lead officer: Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Cllr Dennis Pearce, Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel considers and endorses the report arising from the scrutiny review of the implementation of the *Prevent* duty in Merton's schools, attached at Appendix 1; and
- B. That the Panel agrees to forward the review report to Cabinet for approval and implementation of the recommendations, by means of an action plan to be drawn up by officers working with the Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To present the implementation of the *Prevent* duty in Merton's schools task group report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel for endorsement and to seek agreement to forward to Cabinet for its consideration.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel has recognised the importance of the role schools play in their implementation of the *Prevent* duty to help keep children and young people from risk of radicalisation.
- 2.2. In commissioning the task group, the Panel's aspiration was to highlight, collate and share *Prevent* practice in Merton's schools as well as support the Merton community to work collectively to prevent radicalisation.
- 2.3. The report of the implementation of the *Prevent* duty in Merton's schools task group is attached at Appendix 1.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. In carrying out its review, the task group questioned council officers, heads of service and directors as well as consulting with representatives from the

Merton community and making visits to schools to see how the Prevent duty is being implemented.

- 4.2. Appendix 1 of the task group's report lists the witnesses at each meeting.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The task group was established by the Council's Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel and so this report will be presented to its meeting on 1 February 2018 for the Panel's approval, with a view to presenting to Cabinet at its meeting on 26 March 2018.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this covering report. Any specific resource implications will be identified and presented to Cabinet prior to agreeing an action plan for implementing the report's recommendations.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to broadly benefit all sections of the local community.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- 11.1. Appendix 1 – the implementation of the Prevent duty in Merton's school task group report

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None for the purposes of this report.