

**People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Annual Report 2024/2025**

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to give this short introduction to the summary of the Sub-Committee's work during the 2024-2025 municipal year. Details are given below of elements of the Sub-Committee's activity during the past twelve months.

Before I do so, I would like to place on record my thanks to the other members of the Sub-Committee and all the Council officers who have supported work of the Sub-Committee during the course of this municipal year.

I commend this Annual Report and am pleased to submit it to Full Council.

REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee is charged with providing scrutiny for a total of nineteen policy and service areas which sit within the responsibility of the local authority. Among this expansive range of policy and service areas includes Social Care (Adults and Children), Public Health and the Public Protection Service.

Detailed below is a complete list of the policy and service areas for which the People Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee has the primary responsibility for scrutiny and oversight:

- Drug, Alcohol & sexual Services.
- Health & Wellbeing.
- Health Overview & Scrutiny.
- Adult Care.
- Learning and Physical Disabilities.
- Employment & Skills.
- Education.
- Child Protection.
- Youth Services.
- Fostering & Adoption Services.
- Education Traded Services.
- Early Years Services.
- Looked after Children.
- Media & Communications.
- Advertising.

- Corporate Events.
- Bereavement & Registration Services.
- Crime & Disorder.

The Members who served on the People Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee during the year were:

Councillor Jason Frost (Chairman).

Councillor Jackie McArdle.

Councillor Frankie Walker (Vice-Chairman).

Councillor Julie Wilkes.

Councillor Christine Smith.

Councillor Judith Holt.

Councillor Sarah Edwards.

Councillor Robbie Misir.

Co-optees:

Mr Ian Rusha (NEU).

Mr Jack How (Roman Catholic Church).

Mrs Julie Lamb (Special Schools).

There is a vacancy for a Church of England representative.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITY 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Adult and Children Services Complaints and Compliments –

The Sub-Committee scrutinised the complaints lodged against, and the compliments received by Adults and Children's Social Care Services.

Members questioned officers over the number of and nature of the complaints and how they could be reduced in the next quarter and next year. This included a review of any requisite action plan to address any apparent failures of policy and/or procedure on the part of the Council or other related organisation.

Traded Services for Schools and Early Years -

The Sub-Committee scrutinised the traded services used within schools and early year provisions and were pleased to note the breadth and range of services bought-in by local education providers as well the strength and longevity of the relationships between these providers and Havering's Education Traded Services.

Crime, ASB and CCTV -

The Sub-Committee requested updates on local crime, ASB and on the new CCTV centre. Members were concerned that some wards within Havering were ranked as being among the worst for crime and ASB in London. This was despite the fact that, overall, Havering's was ranked above our neighbouring borough in terms of safety and security for the first time in five years.

Members received an updated timeline for the new CCTV cameras and were pleased that the forecast was showing the project would cost less than first estimated.

Healthwatch Havering -

The Sub-Committee was pleased to receive summary reports on the activities undertaken by Healthwatch partners during the course of the municipal year specifically long COVID.

Send & AP Strategy -

The Committee received the strategy for the SEND & AP strategy and noted that Havering had seen an increase in the number of pupils needing those services.

Members took special interest in the collaborative work being undertaken between Education Services and the Parks Team to ensure the provision of more accessible play equipment across the borough's parks and open spaces.

VAWG Strategy -

The Sub-Committee continued to prioritise scrutiny of VAWG and requested that the recently updated Strategy be brought before them. They noted the good work being done within the Council and police to tackle VAWG but noted there was more work to be done to ensure victims are heard and supported.

Havering Safeguarding Partnership -

The Sub-Committee were presented with the annual report for the safeguarding partnership. The members noted specifically the work being carried out around the promotion of free school meals and the 'Pantosaurus' campaign that focused on key areas of sexual abuse.

Member Champion for Young People Annual Report –

The Sub-Committee received the annual report from the Member Champion for Young People which had been presented to Full Council. The report gave details of the work they had undertaken in the previous year and gave information on their findings of areas for improvement within the service. The report provided various recommendations, including the retention of the Children and Young People's budget consultation and to include Children in Care as a protected characteristic, along with various other recommendations. All suggested recommendations were approved by the Sub-Committee and were passed onto Cabinet for consideration.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Legal implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

Equalities implications and risks:

While the work of the Sub-Committee can impact on all members of the community, there are no implications arising from this specific report which is a narrative of the Board's work over the past year.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications and Risks

None – narrative report only.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.