

## Communities Scrutiny Committee

### Mini Themed Review 2023-24: Combating Serious Violence in Waltham Forest

#### Proposed Response

Recommendation	Accept, Amend or Reject the recommendation	Organisation	Comments
<b>Recommendation 1:</b> The Council to explore more ward level youth-only spaces, which allow young people to feel safe and relaxed.	Accept	Stronger Communities	Agreed commitment by 'stronger communities' to explore providing a youth spaces in all wards. There are currently 23 youth spaces happening across the borough each week.
<b>Recommendation 2:</b> Youth workers employed by the Council are Mental Health First Aid trained and proficient in Trauma Informed responses.	Accept	CS&P/ Stronger Communities	No youth workers directly employed by the council. However the LA will commit to deliver an annual training event on Mental Health First Aid and Trauma Informed Responses to all staff working in youth provisions, which council commission/employ.
<b>Recommendation 3:</b> The Council to explore offering gym memberships and other sports activities to young people with a reduced cost.	Accept	Parks & Leisure	Community Safety has fed into the strategy on physical activity and have requested subsidised gym and or other sports activity memberships to be explored for children at risk of exploitation. Park's and Leisure have agreed to explore this possibility as part of their new strategy.
<b>Recommendation 4:</b>	Accept	CS&P	Our community engagement officer will reach out to all food banks in the borough and provide them with

<p>The Council to work with food banks to support them in exploring ways to enable young people to access services easily.</p>			<p>information to distribute on provision available in the borough for young people.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b> The council to facilitate training (and refresher courses) delivered to all MET police about trauma informed approaches and engagement, building up trust with young people and their families.</p>	<p>Amend</p>	<p>Police and CS&amp;P</p>	<p>Please amend to ‘The Council and Police to explore the feasibility of all SNT and response officers to have training on trauma informed approaches and engagement’.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b> YA/YIAG extend their training and refresher courses to all police officers and not just new employees.</p>	<p>Amend</p>	<p>Police and CS&amp;P</p>	<p>Please amend to ‘The Council and Police to explore the feasibility of all SNT and response officers to have the YA/YIAG training’.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 7:</b> The Council to explore how to enhance the promotion of life-based lessons in primary and secondary schools. Such as, budgeting, tax, and bills.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>CS&amp;P</p>	<p>VRCs will link with school leaders and explore what current training is available and link schools up with any free training. Alternatively develop a bespoke online seminar that children can access.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 8:</b> Community Safety Officers work with education colleagues when talks are being delivered</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>CS&amp;P</p>	<p>VRCs will link with school leaders and provide access to information of support available and bespoke seasonal information so that this is available when schools provide presentations.</p>

in schools, to promote what's available for young people.			
<b>Recommendation 9:</b> Officers to develop support for parents who may fear negative repercussions if they ask for help, such as the Godwin Lawson Foundation.	Accept	CS&P	VRCs will improve awareness of the current offer of prevention workshops targeted at parents and our bespoke Parent Champions work. We will also promote our Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) training, which is available for parents.
<b>Recommendation 10:</b> The Council to consider ways they can promote a sense of belonging and positive sense of self with young people who live in the borough, in partnership with schools and VCSE organisations.	Accept	CS&P/ Stronger Communities	VRCs, Streetbase and Space for all providers to promote with schools and VCS organisations the complete youth offer in the borough and some of the bespoke interventions such as the Saturday girl's group etc.  We are also committed to exploring personal development and leadership programmes aimed towards black and ethnic minority boys/young men.
<b>Recommendation 11:</b> The Council to find out what schools are offering for young people and providing additional provisions, seeking to build on the existing offer.	Accept	CS&P	VRCs to continue to map schools offer and undertake gap analysis to inform commissioning and seasonal planning.
<b>Recommendation 12:</b> Council services champion co-design and collaboration with young people from the early stages when introducing new policies and strategies.	Accept	CS&P/ Stronger Communities	We feel strongly that Council services do currently champion and co-design with young people. One such example being the serious violence duty strategy and violence reduction partnership refresh, which engaged extensively with young people (including those with lived experience). Nevertheless there is always more

			that can be achieved in this area and as such a new framework / strategy for our engagement with young people across the council is currently being developed.
<b>Recommendation 13:</b> When work has been done with young people, the Council ensures they are kept informed about the result of their input.	Accept	CS&P/ Stronger Communities	The aforementioned new strategy / framework will also include how we close the feedback loop with young people.
<b>Recommendation 14:</b> The Council to research into the effects of domestic violence as a driver of serious violence, promoting the results.	Amend	CS&P	A wealth of literature already exists, including an LBWF commissioned report exploring the correlation between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) (including DA) and serious violence. More recently a 'lessons learnt thematic' in LBWF also highlighted this. (The lessons learnt thematic considered five cases of children who had come to serious harm or death and who were considered by One Panel for statutory review). The report will be circulated in due course along with links to existing research in this area.
<b>Recommendation 15:</b> The Council to circulate information about safe spaces and initiatives in libraries and cafes as well as digitally.	Accept	CS&P/ Stronger Communities	A commitment by CS&P and Stronger Communities to circulate the information as requested in libraries and cafes.
<b>Recommendation 16:</b> Officers to demonstrate how they are working with young people across the Council.	Accept	CS&P/ Stronger Communities	The aforementioned new strategy / framework will also include how all directorates should be working with young people to inform service design and delivery.

