

TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY REVIEW – TERMS OF REFERENCE [UPDATED]

1. Topic

Early intervention with children and young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity in Northamptonshire

2. Purpose of the scrutiny review

To examine the provision in Northamptonshire of targeted early intervention services for children and young people who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with the police and ultimately may enter the criminal justice system.

Scrutiny of this topic by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel is intended to reflect that the Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for the way in which he carries out his responsibilities. The PFCC's Police, Fire and Crime Plan 2021-26 includes the strategic priority to "Protect and support those who are vulnerable", with the supporting action to "Work with all partners to ensure that our approach to and delivery of early intervention services are joined up and effective."

Key lines of enquiry

- What early intervention support is currently provided in Northamptonshire by the PFCC and what positive outcomes is it producing? What is the cost of this support and what resources are available for it? How is support directed, including between different areas in the county? How sustainable is current provision and what demands on capacity are likely to occur in the near future?
- What early intervention support is provided by other organisations in Northamptonshire? How effectively does this link up with the support provided by the PFCC? Are there opportunities to improve how the overall resources available in the county for this purpose are used?
- What are service users' and their families' perceptions of the early intervention support provided in Northamptonshire and the outcomes it is producing?
- Are there examples of good practice relating to early intervention support in other areas from which Northamptonshire could learn?

3. Outcomes

To make evidence-based recommendations for consideration by the PFCC intended to contribute to the provision of effective and sustainable early intervention support in Northamptonshire.

4. Approach

The scrutiny review will be carried out by a task and finish working group made up of the following Police, Fire and Crime Panel members:

1. Councillor Zoe McGhee (Chair)
2. Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage
3. Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
4. Councillor Gill Mercer
5. Mrs Anita Shields
6. Mrs Pauline Woodhouse

5. Information required

- A baseline overview of the early intervention support currently provided by the PFCC, from appropriate OPFCC representatives
- Relevant local policies and strategies
- Relevant national and local research
- Examples of good practice from other areas
- Views / case studies about service users' and their families' experiences
- Views from local partner organisations, for example, the two Northamptonshire local authorities; relevant voluntary and community sector organisations.

The working group may invite partner organisations and similar stakeholders to provide information to the scrutiny review where relevant to the purpose but this would be on a voluntary basis, with no power to compel the provision of information.

6. Resources and support

Secretariat officer support for evidence-gathering and for production of the report by the working group.

7. Timetable and key dates

Confirmation of updated scope by the Panel	6 February 2024
Evidence-gathering (specific dates for meetings and other activity to be set by the working group)	February – May 2024
Approval of draft report by working group	May 2024
Agreement of final report by Police, Fire and Crime Panel	13 June 2024
Presentation of final report to PFC Commissioner	June 2024

(This timetable is based on an assumption that the working group must complete its work within the 2023/24 municipal year. This represents a tight timescale and it should be recognised that the amount of time available to the working group will therefore be a key factor in determining its remaining activity).