



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**15 JULY 2019**

**BRIEFING NOTE:**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP – GANGS AND KNIFE  
CRIME**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group to undertake comprehensive Scrutiny activity regarding gangs and knife crime
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Graham Walker (Chair); Councillor Jane Birch (Deputy Chair); Councillors Aziz, Lane and Russell
- 1.3 At the first meeting of the Working Group, Councillors agreed the scope of the review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee's approval.

**2 UPDATE**

- 2.1 In discussing the rationale for the review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required objectives and outcomes should be:

**Objectives**

- To investigate how Northampton Borough Council (NBC) can play an active role in tackling knife crime and gangs in Northampton

**Key lines of Inquiry:**

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations, and the Police to address these issues
- Whether there are links between knife crime, gangs other issues
- How Agencies can work with Community to reduce and respond to

- How young people can be engaged with in preventing knife crime and gangs
- To raise awareness of knife crime and gangs in Northampton
- Whether there are any common factors that lead to involvement in Gangs
- To explore best practice elsewhere in identifying and providing support to victims of knife crime and gangs
- To understand what NBC is doing outside the Scrutiny process in relation to knife crime and gangs

### **Outcomes Required**

- To make evidence based recommendations to improve the role that NBC has in tackling gangs and knife crime
- To make recommendations, as appropriate, regarding partnership working in tackling gangs and knife crime

2.2 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

June 2019 – January 2020

- 18 June 2019 - Scoping meeting
- 23 July - Evidence gathering
- 12 September - Evidence gathering
- 14 November - Evidence gathering
- 13 January 2020 - Approval of the final report

2.3 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period, as required.

2.4 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00 pm and be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall.

2.5 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol, the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group – Gangs and Knife Crime, as attached at Appendix A.

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25 June 2019