



Report to:	People Committee	Date:	6 December 2018
Report title:	The Sutton Fairness Commission: Final Report		
Report from:	Jessica Crowe - Assistant Director, Customers, Commissioning and Governance		
Ward/Areas affected:	Borough Wide.		
Chair of Committee/Lead Member:	Councillor Marian James		
Author(s)/Contact Number(s):	Simon Breeze, Policy and Projects Manager (Partnerships) - 020 8770 4276 Sutton Fairness Commission, Chair Alison Navarro (Community Action Sutton)		
Corporate Plan Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Being Active ● Making Informed Choices ● Living Well Independently ● Keeping People Safe 		
Open/Exempt:	Open		
Signed:		Date:	19 November 2018

1. Summary

- 1.1 In 2017 London Borough of Sutton (LBS) paused its Equality Diversity Forum to support a partnership based Fairness Commission. The Fairness Commission chose to focus on the life chances of children in the borough. This covering report gives further context, introduces the findings and final report (Appendix A) from the Commission.

2. Recommendations

The People Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the findings of the Sutton Fairness Commission which refer to the whole system for children in Sutton.
- 2.2 Endorse the recommendations for change as they refer to the work of London Borough of Sutton.
- 2.3 Nominate a member/s to attend the proposed annual Children's partnership conference.



3. Background

- 3.1 Before the Sutton Fairness Commission was launched in early 2017, the London Borough of Sutton (LBS) ran an Equality and Diversity Forum. The Forum was chaired by the lead councillor for equalities, attended by residents, voluntary sector and members from both groups. The Forum was structured and managed in a similar way to a committee. However, over time the membership of and attendance at the group declined and it was decided that action was needed to ensure that LBS and the wider partnership had a fully representative and active equalities function. Feedback from partners found that they wanted to focus on key equality issues (as defined by them) rather than scrutinise council reports, and to meet as needed, as opposed to on a quarterly basis.
- 3.2 Following discussions between Sutton Centre for Voluntary Services (now Community Action Sutton) and the lead member for equalities, a Fairness Commission was proposed. The Commission was to be comprised of a range of partners (NHS, police, education, housing, fire and rescue, voluntary services and residents), hosted externally from the LBS and focused on issues determined by the commissioners. Appendix A is the final report from the Sutton Fairness Commission which focused on the life chances of a child born in Sutton in 2017 with the aim of determining what changes could maximise those life chances.

4. Issues

- 4.1 The need to look at whole system leadership for children will be picked up via the Sutton Plan partnership. The next Sutton Plan meeting will be held on the 7 February 2019 and the aim will be to consider the future priorities for partnership. The recommendations of the Commission, in addition to ongoing work on commissioning and engagement around children and young people, will be used to inform and drive this discussion.
- 4.2 In addition to work on the Fairness Commission, LBS is reviewing its internal Equality and Diversity Framework and also its ongoing approach to external equality and diversity. The findings of the Fairness Commission, specifically the future role of the Commission, will be incorporated into a proposal to be put to the Strategy and Resources Committee in the first half 2019.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1 The other option would have been to continue with the Equality and Diversity Forum. This as stated above would not have been a viable option and could have led to LBS no longer being able to discharge its legal duties regarding equality and diversity.

6. Impacts and Implications

Financial

- 6.1 There are no financial implications.

Legal

6.2 There are no legal implications.

Equality Impact

6.3 This proposal is intended specifically to deliver the council's legal duties on equalities and so no negative impact is anticipated. Any future service change resulting from this work will need a full equality impact assessment.



7. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix letter	Title
A	The Fairness Commission - Final report

Background documents
none

Audit Trail		
Version	FINAL	Date: 19 11 18
Consultation with other officers		
Finance	No	N/A
Legal	No	N/A
Equality Impact Assessment required?	No	N/A