Subject: Time for Action - Update

Report to: Time for Action Panel

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 3 November 2011

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

This report sets out background information to the Panel’s question and answer session with Cllr. Steve Reed, London Councils Executive Member for Children’s Services and Skills and Employment; Lizzie Noel, Mayor’s Adviser Social Action and Volunteering; Roger Hadwen, Senior Policy and Project Officer – Community Safety; and Ray Lewis, Mayor’s Champion for Mentoring.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Panel is recommended to put questions to the expert guests on progress with the Mayor’s Time for Action programmes, with specific focus on Project Titan and the role of mentoring in helping to avert young people from youth crime and violence.

3. Background

Launched in November 2008, “Time for Action”\(^1\) aims to “set out practical strategies for harnessing and re-directing the energies that lead to youth violence”. The Mayor proposed that his programme should focus on the critical moments in a young person’s life when things can go wrong: early years, the transition to secondary school, the entry to the job market and when young people are incarcerated.

3.2 Time for Action identifies two essential contributions the Mayor can make:
- To provide leadership; and
- To use the resources of the GLA to facilitate programmes in which the Group can play a key role.

3.3 The Mayor’s strategy proposes five core programmes:
- Project Daedalus: supporting young people who are in custody for the first time;
- Project Brodie: keeping young people in education;
- Mayor’s Scholars: London Academies, Apprentices and looked after children;
- Project Titan: developing character and responsibility; and
- Project Oracle: establishing and disseminating what works best.

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\(^1\) http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/mayor/publications/safety-and-policing/time-action
The strategy also proposed expanding sport and music opportunities but there was little detail of what this meant in practice.

3.4 The Assembly established a Panel, chaired by Joanne McCartney AM, to prepare a response to the initial consultation stage of the strategy. The Panel spoke to a number of experts including from Children’s Services, Feltham Young Offenders Institute and the Metropolitan Police Service and put questions to the Deputy Mayor for Policing. The Panel’s response made a number of recommendations for changes to the final draft and highlighted further areas that needed to be incorporated and developed in the revised strategy.  

3.5 Two years on from the launch of the strategy the Business Management and Administration Committee, at its meeting on 23 September 2010, decided to re-establish the Panel with the following term of reference:

*That the Panel seeks a detailed update from the Mayor on the programme of work as set out in Time for Action.*

3.6 The Panel then wrote to Kit Malthouse, the Deputy Mayor for Policing on 25 November 2010. His reply can be found - [http://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=4386&T=10](http://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=4386&T=10) (page 11 onwards). A Panel meeting was held on 16 March 2011 to discuss with the Deputy Mayor for Policing progress with the main Time for Action programmes.  

3.7 A further Panel meeting was held on 21 July 2011 with a particular focus on the value of mentoring in supporting and diverting young people away from criminal activity and the Mayor’s role in supporting children in care. Expert guests included Pam Chester, Mayor’s Advisor on Health and Families, Steve Matthews, Chief Executive Mentoring and Befriending Foundation and Helen Hibbert, Strategic Director, Partnership for Young London.

4. **Issues for consideration**

4.1 This meeting will hear from Cllr. Steve Reed who will set out the context for the provision of youth services in London and the role of the boroughs in tackling serious youth violence.

4.2 Following the award of a £1.3m grant to a consortium led by University of East London to deliver the Mayor’s mentoring programme, further questions about objectives and the practicalities of running the scheme will be put to Lizzie Noel and Ray Lewis.

5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 The Panel has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

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3 An update report was published in September 2009
4 The transcript for that meeting can be found at: [http://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=4888&T=9](http://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=4888&T=9)
5 The transcript for that meeting can be found at: [http://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=5205&T=9](http://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=5205&T=9)
6 The Panel raised a number of questions about the tendering process and responses from Lizzie Noel can be found here: [http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/assembly_investigation/Time-for-Action](http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/assembly_investigation/Time-for-Action)
6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
Background Papers
Correspondence from Lizzie Noel, Mayor’s Adviser Social Action and Volunteering:
http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/assembly_investigation/Time-for-Action
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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: As quoted above in the footnotes.

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