

	<b>Children, Education, Libraries &amp; Safeguarding Committee</b> <b>23rd March 2016</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Draft Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Director of Commissioning, Children and Young People
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1: Draft Children and Young Plan 2016-20
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## Summary

The new Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020 establishes the vision, key priorities and outcomes for children and young people in Barnet, providing a strategic framework for activity in the borough.

Barnet is the most populous borough in London, with a large and growing number of children, young people and families. Our vision is that Barnet is the best place to live for families in London by 2020. The concept of Family Friendly Barnet is introduced in this Plan and the outcomes and priorities focus on how partners can support families to be resilient and strengthen communities which evidence tells us is central to delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

The Plan is not prescriptive but concentrates on the outcomes and priorities which will make the biggest difference to children, young people and families in Barnet.

The Plan's outcomes and priorities have been informed both by engagement with key stakeholders including children and young people, parents and carers, and professionals as well as quantitative analysis of need for example from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

## Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Library and Safeguarding Committee consider and comment on the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2016-20 including the revised vision and key outcomes as summarised in 1.1 to 1.11.**
  
- 2. That the Children, Education, Library and Safeguarding Committee agree that the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2016-20 contained in Appendix A and summarised in paragraph's 1.1 to 1.11 are approved for further public consultation.**

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1. Barnet's Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) is a four year partnership plan setting out local priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people in the borough. The plan is developed by and owned by key partners including the council, NHS Barnet, Barnet Borough Police, schools and the voluntary sector.
  
- 1.2. Barnet has large and growing population of children, young people and families with numbers predicted to reach 98,914 by 2020. Data about the boroughs population has informed the plan with key objectives reflecting the boroughs changing demographics.
  
- 1.3. The Plan sets out a proposed vision for partners' across the borough which focuses on making Barnet an even better place for families to live. The vision for partners across the borough is that:

*We want Barnet to be the most Family Friendly borough in London by 2020. Children, Young People and their families are safe, healthy, resilient, knowledgeable, responsible, informed and listened to.*

- 1.4. Barnet is a good place to live for families, with excellent schools, open spaces and low levels of unemployment. Family Friendly Barnet is introduced in the Plan, a concept which builds on evidence showing that the resilience of

parents and families is a key determinant of improved outcomes for children and young people.

- 1.5. The outcomes and objectives in the plan focus on how partners can enable families to be resilient and strengthen communities.
- 1.6. The draft CYPP and its outcomes and objectives has been developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including children and young people, parents and carers, health, police, voluntary sector, schools and the council to ensure that there is joint ownership of the priorities.
- 1.7. Children and young people have been actively engaged in the process through Barnet's Youth Convention held in November 2015. The plan has also been informed by quantitative data including from the 'Profile of Children and Young People in Barnet', and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - which both provide data to support key areas of need.
- 1.9. The Plan sets out four key outcomes for a borough to make it more Family Friendly where children and families are able to:
  - keep themselves safe
  - achieve their best
  - be active and healthy
  - have their say
- 1.10. Under these outcomes are a series of objectives and the plan describes how partners will work together to achieve these.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The recommendations in this report have been developed through a stakeholder engagement process, as well as review of quantitative data around the needs of children and young people in the borough.
- 2.2 The proposal contained in this report is recommended for further consultation, after which the Council will make a decision to approve the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The Council has the option not to publish a Children and Young People's Plan as this is no longer a legal requirement, however it is seen as a valuable statement of intent and is a useful mechanism for partners to hold each other to account.

- 3.2 The Council has the option of not consulting on the draft Children and Young People's Plan, however, this will mean that the public will not have an opportunity to influence the vision and outcomes set out in the Plan. This is not recommended.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 If the Committee approves the draft's release to public consultation, this will be carried out as described in paragraph 5.81.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.2 The implementation of these recommendations would work towards the achievement of our corporate objectives, which promote improving the opportunities that we offer to residents, creating more involved and resilient communities, and which aim to support Barnet's children and young people to have a great start in life.

##### **5.3 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.3.1 The Children and Young People Plan sets out what all partners will do to improve outcomes for children and young people in Barnet. It has been developed in consultation with service managers and will inform service plans in the council and partner agencies.

- 5.3.2 Council budgets already support key partnerships in Barnet to achieve the desired outcomes in the Children and Young People's Plan. Key partnerships include Barnet Safeguarding Children Board and Health and Wellbeing Board which is supported by a wide variety of Council budgets.

- 5.3.3 Any financial implications of the Children and Young People's Plan will be contained within the existing budget.

##### **5.4 Social Value**

- 5.4.1 In taking forward the Children and Young People's Plan due regard will be paid to the Social Value Act. The Social Value Act will be a useful tool in ensuring that our activities are embedded in prevention and early intervention. We will seek to look for added value that our partners can bring to deliver desired outcomes.

- 5.4.2 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are

going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## 5.5 Legal and Constitutional References

5.5.1 The Children Act 2004 (CA 2004) provides the legislative framework for integrated planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services and for lines of accountability through the appointment of directors of all Children's Services. It created a statutory framework for local co-operation between local authorities, key partner agencies (health, police, schools, housing, early years, youth justice, probation etc) and other relevant bodies including the voluntary and community sector, in order to improve the wellbeing of children in the area.

5.5.2 Specifically s10 Children Act 2004 imposes the following statutory duty on Local Authorities

"Each Local Authority in England must make arrangements to promote co-operation between—

- (a)the authority;
- (b)each of the authority's relevant partners; and
- (c)such other persons or bodies as the authority consider appropriate, being persons or bodies of any nature who exercise functions or are engaged in activities in relation to children in the authority's area.

(2)The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area so far as relating to—

- (a)physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- (b)protection from harm and neglect;
- (c)education, training and recreation;
- (d)the contribution made by them to society;
- (e)social and economic well-being."

5.5.3 for the Children Act 2004 allows provides the framework for Children's Trusts within which agencies have been able to integrate commissioning and delivery of children's services with arrangements for pooled budgets. The Act also imposes a duty on the relevant agencies to carry out their functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to guidance provided by the Secretary of State. The duty continues to apply including situations where services are contracted out.

5.5.4 The Children and Young People Plan provides a strategic framework from which to coordinate activities across the partnership and will assist the council in fulfilling its statutory duties.

5.5.5 This paper outlines the current arrangements to co-ordinate service provision to support children and young people to achieve good outcomes. Work is undertaken on an on-going basis to ensure that functions and services across the partnership enable Statutory Duties to be upheld.

5.5.6 Annex A of the Responsibility for Functions, outlined in the council's constitution, states that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has the responsibility to 'Approve the children and Young People and associated sub strategies promoting the following areas:

- Education
- Inclusion
- Child poverty
- Early intervention and prevention

## **5.6 Risk Management**

5.6.1 There is a risk that key initiatives within the plan will not be carried out, which could adversely impact on the council's reputation. In order to mitigate this risk, extensive consultation was carried out with partners, early in the planning process with attention paid to the financial implications of plans.

5.6.2 Reducing resources may have an impact on partners' ability to undertake actions they have committed to, however, we have sought to mitigate this by developing actions alongside partners' business and finance planning.

## **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

### **5.8 Equalities and Diversity**

5.9 In compliance with the council's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equalities Duties<sup>1</sup> (PSED) this report sets out how, as a Public Body, Barnet Council (and other organisations acting on its behalf) has approached its statutory obligation in relation to the proposed Children and Young People Plan.

5.10 As set out in the Equality Act 2010 the council pays active due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.11 The protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil

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partnership, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

### **Barnet's Fairness Agenda**

- 5.12 At their first meeting on June 10 2014, Barnet's Policy and Resources Committee discussed the concept of fairness and how Council Committees should be mindful of fairness and in particular, of disadvantaged communities when making their recommendations and this has also been taken into account.
- 5.13 The Children and Young People Profile describes the demography of the current population of children and young people in Barnet on an annual basis helps us to ensure that actions accurately target the diverse needs of Barnet's children and young people. Equality and diversity issues were considered in the review of the Children and Young People Plan to ensure that such considerations are reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services.
- 5.14 The Children and Young People plan contains the key principle of targeting resources to narrow the gap in achievement for those at risk of not achieving their potential. This principle aims to reduce the inequalities between groups of children and young people in the borough.

### **5.15 Consultation and Engagement**

5.15.1 This report recommends that the committee approve the draft version of the Children and Young People's Plan to go out to public consultation. Such consultation must be carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:

- Comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage;
- The consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response;
- There is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals;
- There is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker / decision making body when making a final decision;
- The degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting; and
- The consultation is clear on the reasons why, and the extent to which alternatives and discarded options, have been considered.

5.15.2 Barnet Council is committed to involving residents, businesses and service users in shaping the borough and the services they receive. Consultation and engagement is one of the key ways the council interacts with and involves local communities and residents, providing them with opportunities to:

- Gain greater awareness and understanding of what the council does
- Voice their views and understand how they can get involved

- Feed in their views to the democratic decision making process.

### **Preliminary consultation and engagement**

5.15.3 In developing the Children and Young People Plan the council has consulted widely with partners, children and young people across the borough, as well as parents and carers to inform and to develop the Draft Plan..

### **Formal Public Consultation**

5.15.4 If the draft Plan is approved formal public consultation will commence following CELS on the 23 March before the final Plan is agreed by CELS on 14 June 2016.

5.15.5 This draft document will have its final design stage in January to ensure it meets corporate design guidance, before the consultation starts.

5.15.6 The consultation will run for eight weeks and will consist of an online consultation - published on Engage Barnet which will include a link to the full strategy and a consultation document which summarise the strategy and key questions. Residents will be able to give their views via an online questionnaire. Alternative formats will also be made available on request

### **5.16 Insight**

5.16.1 In developing the Children and Young People Plan the council has drawn on insight from the 'Profile of Children and Young People in Barnet', and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - which both provided data to support identification of key areas of need across the borough.

5.16.2 In addition consultation workshops took place with partners, children and young people, parents and carers, whose feedback also informed the development of the Draft Plan.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.