

	<p style="text-align: center;">Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee 14th June 2016</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director, Children and Young People</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Children and Young Plan 2016-20 Appendix B: Consultation report: Children and Young People Plan 2016-2020</p>
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Summary

The 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. Evidence tells us this 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.

A full six-week public consultation on the Plan has recently been concluded with comments considered. Overall there were 40 responses to the consultation and respondents were positive about the new Plan, its vision, key outcomes and objectives. Key changes to the Plan following consultation were:

- a refreshed Child Poverty Action Plan linking to the government's new Life Chances Strategy and clearly aligned to resilience
- incorporating issues raised by Members of the Youth Parliament at CELS Committee on 18 May 2016 around safety on public transport and support for migrant families.
- a focus on resilience; both in social work practice, parenting programs, and health promotion
- inclusion of objectives on initial health assessments for looked after children and increasing immunisation rates.

Recommendations

1. That the Children, Education, Library and Safeguarding Committee consider and approve the revised Children and Young People's Plan 2016-20 as summarised in 1.1 to 1.11 and contained in Appendix A.

2. That the Children, Education, Library and Safeguarding Committee delegates authority to the Commissioning Director for Children and Young People to work with partners to develop an action plan and implement the new Children and Young People's Plan.

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 a 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 borough's 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.
- 1.8. The draft Plan went out to public consultation for six weeks between April and May 2016 with 40 responses received in total. Responses to the consultation were positive and all comments were considered. Following consultation some amendments were made to the Plan including:
 - a refreshed Child Poverty Action Plan linking to the government's new Life Chances Strategy and clearly aligned to resilience

- incorporating issues raised by Members of Youth Parliament at CELS Committee on 18 May 2016 around; safety on public transport and support for migrant families.
 - a focus resilience; both in social work practice, parenting programs, and health promotion
 - inclusion of objectives around initial health assessments for looked after children and increasing immunisation rates
- 1.9. Students from Middlesex University designed logos as part of a competition to develop a new logo for Family Friendly Barnet. Entries were judged by children from across the borough with the final logo agreed by partners and included in the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.10. The Plan sets out four key outcomes for the 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
- 1.11. 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 Following full public consultation between April and May 2016, the proposal contained in this report is to recommend the revised Children and Young People's Plan 2016-20 and the implementation of its key outcomes and objectives.

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.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the Committee approves the Plan, partners will work together to develop an implementation plan to ensure the Children and Young People's Plan's outcomes and objectives are met and will include how progress against these will be measured.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 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.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 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.
- 5.2.2 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.
- 5.2.3 Any financial implications of the Children and Young People's Plan will be contained within the existing budget.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 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.
- 5.3.2 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.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Regulations made under the Children Act 2004 require local authorities to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan. The plan must set out the improvements which the local authority intend to make during the plan period to the well-being of children and young people. Well-being includes:

- physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing;
- protection from harm and neglect;
- education, training and recreation;
- the contribution made by them to society; and
- social and economic well-being

5.4.2 Each plan shall include the following:

- (a) a statement as to how the authority intend to achieve the improvements referred to above, with specific reference to the following—
- (i) the integration of services provided by the authority and its relevant partners to improve the well-being of children and relevant young persons;
 - (ii) arrangements made by the authority under section 11(2) of the Children Act 2004 (arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare); and
 - (iii) arrangements for early intervention and preventative action;
- (b) a needs assessment against the outcomes;
- (c) an outline of the key actions planned to achieve the improvements so far as relating to the outcomes;
- (d) a statement as to how the authority's budget will be used to contribute to those improvements; and
- (e) a statement as to how the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services for children and relevant young persons.”

5.4.3 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.

5.4.4 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.

5.4.5 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

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 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 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

5.7.1 In compliance with the council's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equalities Duties¹ (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.

5.7.2 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.

5.7.3 The protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

5.7.4 At this stage it is anticipated that the CYP plan will have a neutral/positive equalities impact. The equalities impact assessment will be kept under review and the specific impact of particular proposals will be assessed as they develop and reported back to decision makers

5.7.5 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.

5.7.6 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.

5.7.7 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.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 On 23 March 2016 CELS committee approved the draft version of the Children and Young People's Plan to go out to public consultation. Consultation was 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.

5.8.2 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

5.8.3 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

5.8.4 Following approval of draft Plan on the 23 March 2016, formal public consultation commenced on 14 April and ended on 26 May.

5.8.5 The consultation ran for six weeks and consisted of an online consultation - published on Engage Barnet which included a link to the full strategy and a

consultation document which summarises the strategy and key questions. Residents were able to give their views via an online questionnaire. Alternative formats were also made available on request

5.8.6 Workshops were held with young people across the borough, facilitated by Barnet's Members of Youth Parliament.

5.8.7 In total 40 responses were received and showed a high level of support amongst respondents for the vision, outcomes and objectives of the plan as well as the Child Poverty Action Plan and Youth Charter. A detailed summary of findings is included in Annex B, key findings included:

- over 37 out of 40 respondents agreed with the Plan's vision
- over three quarters of respondents agreed with the four key outcomes
- the large majority of respondents agreed with the objectives under each of the four outcomes
- over three quarters of respondents agreed with the priorities set out in the Child Poverty Action Plan, with almost all respondents agreeing with the key actions
- 20 out of 23 respondents agreed with the Youth Charter, with no respondents disagreeing.
- of those respondents who identified themselves, 74% were Barnet residents, and 88% were parents.
- 71% of those who identified themselves in the survey were female, and the majority were white.

5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 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.

5.9.2 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.