

	<h2>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</h2> <h3>22 September 2020</h3>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Barnet Young People's Survey November 2019 & Young People Online Survey July 2020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee- Councillor David Longstaff</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>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix 1: Young People Survey November 2019 Appendix 2: Young People Online Survey July 2020</p>
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<h2>Summary</h2>	
<p>The Young Persons Survey (YPS) is a bi-annual face-to-face survey of Barnet young residents aged 11-18, undertaken by an independent research company. 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between 12th November – 20th December 2019. The survey looks at the reputation, service and local area perceptions, as well as a range of demographic and usage indicators.</p> <p>Following the COVID-19 crisis, children in Barnet are facing new challenges. The government lockdown left many in uncertain situations with high levels of anxiety. An online survey was carried out, aimed at Year 5, Year 6 and all secondary school students, to which 853 young people responded between 8th July – 30th July. The results highlight concerns and worries and provide useful information to support young people, which will be used to inform a Life Chances strategy.</p> <p>This paper seeks comments from the Committee on the results of the two surveys.</p>	

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee consider and comment on the Young People's Perception Survey results set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee consider and comment on the Post Covid-19 Online Survey results set out in Appendix 2.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The YPS provides important insight on what young people think about living in the borough, their perception of the council, the services they receive, and also helps to understand young people's priorities and concerns
- 1.2 The results of the YPS help to inform decisions, processes and procedures that directly affect children and young people. It enables the opportunity to directly target improved services assisting with better outcomes.
- 1.3 The YPS provides important information on the views of young people in Barnet. (See Appendix 1)
 - The majority of young people (84%) feel Barnet is a family friendly place to live which is in line with 2017 and an increase from 2016 survey (81%)
 - All results regarding the council's image have improved. Young people think the council:
 - is doing a good job (92%, up from 73% in 2017)
 - provides the services young people need (86%, up from 71% in 2017)
 - does enough to keep young people safe (75% - up from 69% in 2017)
 - acts on the concerns of young people (67%, up from 66% in 2017)
 - listens to the concerns of young people (63%, up from 54% in 2017)
 - involves young people when making decisions (60%, up from 57% in 2017)
 - keeps young people informed (60%, up from 52% in 2017)
- 1.4 The post COVID-19 online survey helps to provide understanding of the worries and concerns young people may have during the crisis enabling improved targeting of services to provide support.
- 1.5 The results of the post COVID-19 survey inform a revised Life Chances strategy as well as future priorities. Young People's views will help develop better ideas to provide support and improve outcomes.

- 1.6 The YPS online survey reveals the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people (See Appendix 2)
- The majority of young people consider the effect of the crisis to be, doing less physical activity (51%) followed by harm to their long-term education (50%), and their mental health and well-being being affected (43%)
 - Young people say they were most worried about their education and exams (55%) during lockdown, followed by staying safe from the coronavirus (35%) and their mental health and well-being (34%)
 - The majority of young people think more support should be provided for dealing with stress and isolation (51%) followed by close and regular contact with teachers (46%) and exercises for children while at home (45%)

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee is asked to provide scrutiny and feedback responses that will assist in developing policies and strategies to drive improved outcomes. It will ensure the work has effective oversight and input.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The alternative option is to not to conduct surveys gathering the views of young residents. However, this could have a profound impact on inequality and successful outcomes.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The views of young people will affect policy, procedures and decision making. It will help inform planning and development of strategies affecting children and young people supporting improved outcomes. This will be in addition to the feedback and comments from members during the meeting.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Ensuring that residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected is one of the Council's three strategic outcomes set out in its Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure

- where responsibility is shared, fairly where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

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

The work to drive improve outcomes utilising the results of the survey will be delivered from within existing resources of the Council and its partners.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1** The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wide 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** Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings.
- 5.4.2** The Council's Constitution, Article 7 notes that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has 'Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.'

5.5 Risk Management

The nature of services provided to children and young people provides a certain element of risk. Poor information can affect response or affect decision making that could lead to poor outcomes. Good quality data reduce this likelihood and increase the chances of children developing into successful adults and achieving and succeeding. The results of the respective surveys reduce risk and help to drive forward improvements towards good outcomes.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

- 5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. The approach taken was to ensure that a representative sample of children and young people were interviewed and data about this is included in Appendix 1.
- 5.6.3 Protective characteristic questions relating to age, disability, race, religion and sex were asked during the respective surveys. Analysis of data is used to determine if measures are needed to support particular groups. An action plan will be developed to address any issues revealed which officers will take responsibility for delivering.

5.7 Corporate Parenting Principles

- 5.7.1 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy *Keep on Caring* outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require *all departments* within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'
- 5.7.2 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:
1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
 2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
 3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;

4. to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 Consultation and engagement with children and young people is central to developing strategies that provide support and improve outcomes. It is important that the work is child-centred and that we know, understand and capture their lived experience which leads to service improvement.
- 5.8.2 The Young Persons Survey (YPS) is a regular face-to-face survey of 500 Barnet young residents aged 11-18.
- 5.8.3 The Young People's Online Survey was conducted with Year 5, Year 6 and all secondary school students. 853 young people responded.

6. BACKGROUND PAPER

None