

	<b>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</b>  <b>20 October 2022</b>
<b>Title</b>	Barnet Young People's Survey 2021/22
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of the Committee - Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1: Young People's Survey 2021/22
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<b>Summary</b>	
<p>Barnet's strategic vision is to be family friendly, as part of that work we have a programme to hear the voice of young people and ascertain information about their experiences. The Young People's Survey (YPS) is a bi-annual face-to-face survey of Barnet young residents aged 11-18, undertaken by an independent research company. The survey has been undertaken since 2016 which gives the Council indications of trends in young people's views over time. 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022. To ensure a cross section of young people are represented, quotas are on age, gender, disability and ethnicity. Confidence levels for a sample of 500 is +/-4.3% at the 95% confidence levels. Results of the survey looks at the local area perceptions, as well as a range of demographic and usage indicators.</p>	

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee note and comment on the Young People's Perception Survey results as detailed in Appendix 1**
- 2. That the information is utilised to support service and partnership planning.**

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 Barnet is committed to listening to young people and acting in their best interests. Regular surveys provide feedback on what is important to young people. The YPS has been used to inform the development of the key strategies affecting young people including the Children and Young People's Plan and Health & Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.2 The approach and survey method will allow for the results to be directly comparable to previous surveys administered in 2019, 2017 and 2016, and the survey is carried out in such a way so that it is engaging for young people. It will also enable comparisons, where available with to National and London data.
- 1.3 A representative sample of the young people population were interviewed face-to-face between 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022. 500 young people took part in the survey. As well as schools, interviews were carried out at shopping centres, cinemas and youth centres.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The results of the YPS informs decisions, processes and procedures that directly affect children and young people. It enables the opportunity to directly target improved services assisting with better outcomes.
- 1.6 The YPS is part of a suite of initiatives which seek to hear the voice of children including Bright Spots (for children in care and care leavers) and the recently launched My Say Matters participation strategy.
- 1.7 The YPS provides important information on the views and opinions of young people in Barnet. (See appendix 1)
  - The majority of young people feel Barnet (89%) is a family friendly place to live, compared to (84%) in 2019, (84%) in 2017 and (81%) in 2016
  - The measures also show what young people think about the council, and have improved significantly since the start of the survey:
    - is doing a good job (90%), compared to (92%) in 2019, (73%) in 2018 and (63%) in 2016

- provides the services young people need (81%), compared to (86%) in 2019, (71%) in 2017 and (54%) in 2016
- does enough to keep young people safe (78%), compared to (75%) in 2019, (69%) in 2017 and (54%) in 2016
- acts on the concerns of young people (75%), compared to (67%) in 2019, (66%) in 2017, and (47%) in 2016
- listens to the concerns of young people (73%) compared to (63%) in 2019, (54%) in 2017 and (39%) in 2016
- has a say on things the council is going to do (70%), new for 21/22 survey
- keeps young people informed (65%), compared to (60%) in 2019, (52%) in 2017 and (40%) in 2016

Further analysis on the data is underway with young people focus groups to provide a deeper understanding of the results.

## **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 people. However, this could have an impact on inequality and the council's duty to fairness.

## **4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The views of young people are central to policy, procedures and decision making. They will help inform planning and development of key strategies such as the Children and Young People's Plan. The responses from children and young people assists in supporting improved outcomes. This will be in addition to the feedback and comments received from members.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

- 5.1.1 Creating a place where children excel and enjoy living, enabling opportunities for young people to achieve their best is a key aim of the Barnet Family Friendly vision for the borough.
- 5.1.2 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

Barnet Plan 2021-25, 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 Insight**

**5.5.1** Data in this report is provided by Opinion Research Services (ORS), an independent social research company, commissioned to conduct the interviews for this survey. Safeguarding Committee has 'Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.

## **5.6 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 surveys reduce risk and help to drive forward improvements towards good outcomes.

## **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 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.

5.7.2 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.

5.7.3 The approach taken was to ensure that a representative sample of children and young people were interviewed. The sample is representative of the 11 to 18 year olds population of Barnet with an equal representation of young people across each ward. Quotas were set on gender, age, ethnic origin, faith and disability. See Appendix 1.

## **5.8 Corporate Parenting Principles**

- 5.8.1 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.'
- 5.8.2 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.
- 5.8.3 During the summer 2021, a survey by Bright Spots in partnership with Coram Voice and the Rees Centre was commissioned. The survey was set up to discover what matters to children in care and care leavers. The aim is to improve care experience for young people and give young children a voice on their own well-being.

## **5.9 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.9.1 Consultation and engagement with children and young people is central to developing strategies that provides support and improves 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.
- 5.9.2 The Young Persons Survey (YPS) is a regular face-to-face survey of 500 Barnet young residents aged 11-18 carried out since 2016.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None