

Health and Wellbeing Board	
11 May 2023	
Title	Draft Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2023-2027
Report of	Executive Director Children’s and Family Services
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Appendix A – Draft Children and Young People Plan 2023- 2027
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Summary

The draft Children and Young People’s Plan 2023 – 2027 sets out the ambition, direction, priorities and objectives of partners in Barnet to support children and young people in the coming years. It outlines the priorities, needs and aspirations of our local population with the intention of making Barnet an even more family-friendly place to live. Children and young people have been central to the development of this draft from the outset and a broad range of partners as well as parent carers have been engaged in its development. The draft has been approved by the Children’s Partnership Board, which has representatives from the key partners across Barnet, including from Public Health, as well as by the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee. A consultation is due to launch at the beginning of May. This report seeks comments as part of the consultation ahead of finalising and launching the Children and Young People’s Plan in mid-June.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board consider and comment on the draft Children and Young People Plan 2023-27 including the vision and key outcomes**

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 Barnet's Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) is a four-year plan setting out priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people in the borough. The plan has been co-produced through consultation and engagement that has included children, young people, young carers, children with SEND, children in care, parent carers and key agencies from across the partnership that support them.
- 1.2 The partnership remains committed to the vision to make the borough the best place to live for families in London in line with our concept of Family Friendly Barnet. This Plan builds on that vision where outcomes and priorities focus on how partners can support children, young people and families to be resilient thereby strengthening communities.
- 1.3 The plan's aim is for children and young people in Barnet to have the best start in life and the right support, when they need it, to live their lives successfully into adulthood.
- 1.4 Since the development of the Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2019-2023 there have been significant changes impacting the lives of young people in the borough. These include national policy changes affecting the delivery of essential services as well as raising standards in social care. There have also been changes in the way that health and police are structured, as well as a pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis. The Plan has therefore been developed in response to these changing needs.
- 1.5 The Plan has been driven by input from children and young people from the very beginning as part of a co-production approach. Following the Youth Perception Survey, which involved interviews with 500 young people across Barnet, there was a series of focus groups in summer 2022 with specific groups of young people such as children with a disability, young carers and those in the more deprived wards in Barnet.
- 1.6 Sessions were then held with Barnet Youth Board and Youth Assembly and Barnet On Point in September 2022 to gain initial ideas and views from young people. Meetings with Barnet Young Carers took place in December 2022 gathering their opinions and views. There have then been further meetings with Youth Board at various points in the process to get their feedback on drafts as the plan has developed.
- 1.7 As well as children and young people, there has been a range of engagement across Barnet at various stages of the plan's development, which has included parent carers, professionals and volunteers who support children and young people. There was a small working group that oversaw the development of the plan from the outset which included colleagues from Public Health.
- 1.8 The plan sets out four key themes resulting from our conversations with children, young people and parent carers as well, as our own data and research. There are priorities under each of these themes set out in the plan. The plan has also been aligned with priorities set out in other current strategies.
- 1.9 The four themes in the plan are:
 - Safe & Secure - ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected, safe and supported to make the best choices and to build trusted relationships.

- Family & Belonging – supporting all our children, including those in care and care experienced young people, to live their lives successfully, to develop a sense of identity, improve wellbeing and to have fun and play. •
- Health & Wellbeing - supporting our children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent avoidable illness and improve their social, physical and mental wellbeing, including through integrated health and social care. •
- Education & Learning – supporting children and young people to reach their educational and academic potential, by closing attainment gaps and reducing exclusion.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to provide comments and feedback on the draft plan ahead of the plan being finalised and launched in June.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 3.1 The Council does not have a legal requirement to have a children and young people's plan, however the Council has a significant number of statutory duties in relation to these individuals and having a key strategic plan will enable it to plan how it will meet these duties.

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 The consultation on the Children and Young People's Plan is due to launch in the first week of May and to run for six weeks. Following the end of the consultation period, comments will be incorporated into the final version which will be published and launched in June.
- 4.2 Implementation of the Plan will be monitored through regular reports presented to the Children's Partnership Board. This will enable review and scrutiny and highlight progress against objectives.

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 Family Friendly is one of the priorities set out in the new Barnet Plan 2023-26. It sets out the aspiration of 'resilient children thriving in resilient families living in resilient communities' and the Barnet Plan reflects many of the priorities and aspirations set out in this draft Children and Young People's Plan.

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

- 5.2.1 The Children and Young People's 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 children, young people, parent carers and those who support them.
- 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 Partnership 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 existing budgets.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004 and education duties in relation to the diversity and quality of education in the Borough and support for children who are not in school and those who have special educational needs and disabilities. The duties are wide ranging and include specific and general duties, including 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 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.
- 5.3.2 Under the Council's Constitution Article 7 (Committees, Forums and Partnerships) the terms of reference of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee includes the 'responsibility for all matters relating to children, care experienced (up to the age of 25), schools and education.'

5.4 Insight

- 5.4.1 The development of the Children and Young People Plan has drawn on insight from official data sources to support identification of key areas of need across the borough along with a range of other findings and consultations including a regular young people survey capturing their views and opinions.

5.5 Social Value

- 5.5.1 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.
- 5.5.2 The Plan is designed to proactively include young people in making decisions and providing their views about council activities that promote their safety and wellbeing.

5.6 Risk Management

- 5.6.1 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 plan aims to 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 Plan takes account of the diverse population in Barnet. Information on children and young people relating to gender, disability and ethnicity is set out in the plan and includes the needs of these different groups. In developing the plan, there has been engagement with a wide range of children and young people across Barnet.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

- 5.8.1 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.

5.8.2 Barnet On Point (the Children in Care Council) have been engaged in the development of the plan through sessions run by the Participation Team. The plan includes a range of priorities and actions that aim to improve outcomes for children in care and care experienced young people, and aligns with the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.9.1 Consultation and engagement with children and young people is central to the Corporate Plan 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 Engagement has taken place with children, young people, young carers and those that support them including services and external partners. Their feedback has been critical in the development of the draft Plan.
- 5.9.3 The consultation and engagement process will launch at the start of May and will run for six weeks. It 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.
- 5.9.4 This draft strategy document will have final approval for sign off via the chief officer and chair of the CES Committee to ensure it reflects the feedback from consultation and meets corporate design guidance.

5.10 Environmental Impact

- 5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

6. Background papers

None