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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 at 6.00 pm
This will be a virtual meeting

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<https://bit.ly/3r6jcr>

Membership:

Councillors : Achilleas Georgiou (Chair), Birsen Demirel, Ergun Eren, James Hockney, Bernadette Lappage, Derek Levy, Ahmet Oykener and Glynis Vince

AGENDA – PART 1

- 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Committee are invited to identify any disclosable pecuniary, other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests relevant to the items on the agenda.

- 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 1 - 18)**

To agree the minutes of the meetings 18 January 2021 and 3 February 2021.

4. POVERTY & INEQUALITY COMMISSION (Pages 19 - 36)

To receive the following reports:

- Update on Enfield Poverty & Inequality Commission
- Update from the police on Safer Schools (recommendation 10).

5. VULNERABLE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE YOUTH PROVISION & ENVIRONMENT (Pages 37 - 48)

To receive a report from Ivana Price, Head of Young People and Community Safety.

6. REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

A verbal update will be provided.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note that future meeting dates will be confirmed at Annual Council in May.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2021

MEMBERS: Councillors Birsen Demirel, Achilleas Georgiou, James Hockney, Bernadette Lappage, Derek Levy, Ahmet Oykener and Glynis Vince (Conservative Group Whip)

Officers: Tony Theodoulou, Executive Director People, Peter Nathan, Director of Education, Sangeeta Brown, Resources Development Manager, Louise McNamara, Finance Manager, Mervin Cato, Head of Secondary Behaviour Support Service, Jo Fear, Head of Admissions and Attendance, Andrea Clemons, Head of Community Safety, Nicholas Clark, Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Enfield CAMHS Clinical Lead, Helen Tanyan, CYP Lead Integrated Care/Designated Clinical Officer , Superintendent Chris Jones, Met Police, Clare Bryant, Senior Governance Officer and Susan O'Connell, Governance & Scrutiny Officer

Also Attending: Cllr Rick Jewell and 3 members of the public

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr Ergin Erbil.

The Chair agreed to amend the running order of the agenda as there were a number of external attendees present for the Exclusions item. However, for clarity the minutes are shown in the order of the published agenda

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

AGREED the minutes of the meetings held on 1 and 10 December 2020.

4. SCHOOL FINANCES

It was noted that Cllr Rick Jewell and Tony Theodoulou were in the meeting but had to leave due to other commitments.

Peter Nathan, Director of Education, Sangeeta Brown, Resources Development Manager and Louise McNamara, Finance Manager introduced the reports.

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1. The first report which outlined the amount of funding received through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and covered the rules around each aspect of the grant and how it is spent.
2. The DSG supports the education function and is the main source of funding for schools in terms of delivering education.
3. There have been a lot of changes in funding arrangements and regulations some of which is detailed in the report.
4. The recent changes have introduced four blocks; Schools Block (SB); High Needs Block (HNB); Early Year Block (EYB) and Central Services Block (CSSB). There is minimum flexibility for the Council to move money around these blocks.
5. The two blocks that the local authority has direct input into are HNB and CSSB.
6. Table 1 in the report shows that HNB is increasing, however 5 years prior to this there were no increases. This has created a lot of pressure leading up to the 2016/17 budget and then the introduction of the SEND reforms were introduced. Whilst the funding is now increasing in this block, it is not sufficient to meet the demands evidenced in Table 2 of the report.
7. For CSSB a small amount of funding is provided to deliver statutory services to all schools including academies and free schools. For maintained schools no funding is received and the Council has to seek their approval to take back money to support maintained schools.
8. Table 4 detailed the breakdown of the DSG. Most of this grant goes to schools for direct education, rows 4-6 are those that support central services. Appendix 1 contains a more detailed breakdown.
9. The second report is the education budget and the table shows the broad areas grouped into for the finance system and details the gross spend, gross Income and net spend. Most of the income is the DSG, various streams of income come in to offset the expenditure. The fees and charges income is £3m.
10. The main areas funded from the council budget are; non schools human resources (ongoing pension costs of people retired on enhanced packages not in the last 4 years but the previous 20 years. This will gradually reduce year on year). The Children Centre costs around £1m every year and the rest is funding for statutory functions.

Questions, comments and queries:

- On the education budget report regarding the overspend what are the political priorities for bridging the gap? On financial management there is a deficit, how is this being managed and where is the money coming from to cover it? Officers advised that the change in SEN legislation in 2014 meant that the age range was extended from 5-16 to 0-25 with no additional funding, some of the provision needed for those 16-25 is expensive. Also, the local authority has legal responsibilities to fund Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP). EHCPs have dramatically increased rising by approximately 10% per year. These legislative changes have meant that across the country many local authorities have high deficits in their HNBs. In London the average deficit is £10m. In

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Enfield, there is a strategy which will be in the management plan required and may need to be provided to the DfE. Enfield is looking at several things such as: bringing more children in high cost out of borough placements back into the borough; intervention work is taking place with autism and speech and language development (discussed under the exclusions item). A review of the HNB was conducted by EY which came up with a number of options which are being looked at presently in collaboration with working group from Headteachers and 'Our Voice'. In the medium to long term this will help manage the deficit.

- Where does the deficit come from? The deficit rolls on each year and does not impact on the Council and is separate to the Council's core funding. It is clear in law that the Council cannot support the DSG. DfE have recognised the issue around the SEND Reforms and the funding arrangements to support these and have instituted review arrangements for SEN in terms of the reforms and the funding to address this national issue. The £7m deficit will be reported this year and next year when the DSG is received, this deficit will be the first call on this money. The Council has a responsibility to manage the DSG; there is a management plan looking at early interventions and preventions strategies so that children's needs are met earlier. Currently the interventions are not in place, as they are put in place this should reduce financial pressure. It is expected that this will take 5 years.
- Regarding the EY review is there a tangible draft plan and what is the first priority? There is a capital building plan for SEN: there are detailed plans for autism and speech and language therapy although a little more work is needed on these, a new social, emotional and mental health school is being developed, a new satellite provision at Suffolk's School. There are plans for various aspects of this.
- Councillor Demiral, the Chair of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Panel advised that the DSG is scheduled for the 11 March 2021 and advised that she could request that Fay Hammond includes a full explanation of the deficit and how this is funded within in the report for this meeting. The Chair requested that all members of the Children Young People & Education Scrutiny Panel are sent an invitation to this meeting so they can listen to this meeting.
- The Council budgets that it will have a gross spend of £390m, a gross income of £385m, therefore there is a gap of £5.2m, is this a deficit? It was confirmed this is not a deficit it is the charge to the council's general fund from the budget allocated for education services. This forms part of the budget setting process at the start of the year. DSG provides services and support for direct education, this does not encompass statutory function that the council has a responsibility to deliver.
- An observation was made that the Admissions Service and Schools Capital Delivery Team that the gross spend is lower than the gross income. This is because some services can generate income and will have an income target. Following a query of how income is generated from the Capital Delivery Team it was advised that it is likely that this is from staffing vacancies.
- How much money does the education department generate from schools buy back? It was advised that this was around £3m

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5. EXCLUSIONS

Cllr Lappage led on this item.

NOTED:

1. Cllr Lappage had led the workstream on exclusions in the previous municipal year. At the Council meeting 1 July 2020, it was agreed all work on workstreams would end, but that items could be added to panel work programmes, as in the case of the exclusions workstream being added to this Scrutiny Panel. The thrust of this work was to make a difference and reference was made to the reflections in a prison report. Exclusions should be a catalyst for change for the positive, however exclusions are often as negative downward spiral.
2. Cllrs Pite, Yusuf and Lappage observed a Fair Access Panel (FAP) and noted that there appeared to be a lack of consistency between schools in how they approached exclusions; different schools across the borough excluded for different things. Officers advised that schools are independent, the split of those attending FAP is 50/50 between academies and community schools of various kinds. Each school will have their own behaviour policy and operate in different ways. Headteachers and governing bodies have different views on exclusions. What is considered a very serious offence at one school may be handled in a different way at another school. The local authority works with schools to try to improve consistency and try to get into the school before a final decision is made on exclusion. The Behaviour Support Service (BSS) has alternatives to exclusions which can be used effectively before this stage is reached. It is very difficult to get consistency across schools, as schools are very different. In terms in FAP this does work well in Enfield, these meetings deal with a lot of pupils and the schools are well prepared for these meetings, there may have been discussions prior to the meeting. It is important when the children go to another school, they do not repeat the same behaviour.
3. Concerns were expressed that it seemed that some students are moved back and forth between several schools, Clarification was requested who has responsibility for a child when they move from school to school. Members were advised that if the child is still enrolled at both schools there is joint responsibility. The local authority has tried to put a limit on the number of managed moves to no more than two. There must be exceptional reasons to move a child to a further school. In terms of who is looking after the child there should be a relationship between both schools. At FAP there is accountability from both schools, so everyone knows exactly where a pupil is. If the move is starting to go wrong the expectation and requirement is that the home school is involved with the new school to get together with the family and the young person to try to resolve the difficulties. If home schooling is taking place at present as choosing not to be on site, the responsibility will be with the home school until they physically attend the new school. If started, then the new school will have responsibility for that young person.

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4. Following a query on moves when they will be sitting exams, it was confirmed that it is very rare to have a managed move in year 11. There will be an agreement on the responsibilities prior to the managed move starting. In year 10 it will be the new school who take responsibility.
5. Councillor Vince expressed concern that some of the observations made during a previous workstream approximately three to four years ago and issues raised at the Vulnerable Young Peoples Group and that things do not appear to have moved forward. Specific mention was made on Governor Training where it was felt that governors did not fully understand exclusions and so extra training was requested which did not appear to have been done. Cllr Lappage advised that she did attend governor training and fed in issues and the Director of Education has feedback some changes.
6. Cllrs Karakus, Pite Yusuf and Lappage attended Orchardside Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and were very impressed. The Headteacher raised an issue on having no bikes, the workstream were able to facilitate speaking to the Council to access a grant for bikes which are now on site.
7. Members were surprised to note that Ofsted have reflected some concerns about the service and officers were asked to provide an update on this. Officers advised that the last Ofsted report (13 June 2018) was prior to arrival of Celeste Fay (Headteacher) and was graded as requires improvement. It is the Headteacher's job to turn this position around. Due to Covid there have been no inspections since April last year. If Orchardside were to be inspected, it is expected that they would now get a good rating. Once inspections return an inspection will be requested. Orchardside runs a number of programmes that are not normally run by PRU's but cannot be expanded any further until it comes out of requires improvement grading. Members were advised that the numbers of permanent exclusions have gone down in Enfield. This creates an opportunity to do more such as potentially developing other provision, but before this can happen the Ofsted rating must improve.
8. Following a comment on what had been learnt from the Timson Review particularly regarding Alternative Provision (AP) and PRU's, officers advised that information on Alternative Provision has been included within the Secondary School Behaviour Service report in the agenda pack. In Enfield the local authority works closely with AP's. The Council has bought in a company called Pivotal that works with behaviour and changing school and AP culture. Pivotal have trained all AP's and these provisions are also quality ensured every year. In Enfield members of staff visit AP's and ensure attending students are mentored.
9. Post Covid - How well are we in Enfield prepared for children coming back to school and what plans are there in place to manage behaviour to avoid exclusions? Each school has carefully considered and will have their own plan, however there is sharing of practice. Schools will stagger the return period with reintroduction to schooling. Last September children and young people were pleased to return to school and the structure this provides. However, after 5 weeks some children were beginning to struggle. There will be catch up programmes in school, and in Enfield the National tutoring programme will be used. The Behaviour Support Service are aware of who is likely to have the most difficulty and will intervene with

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schools.as before. There will be support from the Educational Psychology Service for staff and others who will find the return difficult. There is also currently a weekly meeting with Headteachers.

10. How supported are the staff in schools? There are regular meetings, staff have been redeployed and doing trauma informed practice. BSS staff have been going into schools and doing drop ins for mental health for staff, normally this would be for students on the verge of exclusion. These were drop ins without referrals and after lockdown this will once again be in place. NEXUS is also starting their own YouTube channel to engage with young people to provide support online including speakers on mental health.
11. Whilst there is an acknowledgement that Enfield is below the national average level for exclusions for 2018-19, attention was drawn to paragraph v on page 7 of the agenda report. What work is being undertaken with these overrepresented groups (Black Caribbean heritage and Gypsy/Roma pupils)? Officers advised that one of the problems with data is that groups are put together, within the groups Black Caribbean pupils are overrepresented and in the achievement data there are particular groups not doing as well as others. The Enfield Learning Experience Partnership has been set up, this has a subgroup to look at disadvantaged pupils in general and part of that is to look at Black Caribbean pupils. Mark Rowlands will be working with at least 20 schools focussing improving achievement and looking at best practice in terms of disadvantaged pupils. Also, the Director of Education has met with Orlene Badu who runs the Black Achievement project in Hackney and also works in Brent to discuss what is working well in both boroughs. Brent have set up a champions programme where each secondary school has a member of their senior leadership team who champions underachieving groups. The champions have their own support group with other schools. Orlene is going to talk to a small group of headteachers about setting something similar up in Enfield. Once champions are set up this will include looking at engagements with parents. Members asked for an assessment and a follow up report on the overrepresentation of certain communities, including Gypsy/ Roma community and young people from the Black Caribbean community.
12. What is the liaison between the police service and the education service to prevent young people being lost in the system? When the workstream looked at this there were Safer Schools vacancies the number of these have now reduced. Officers advised that from a Community Safety perspective there is a lot of joint working with BSS. The Reach project mentioned in the agenda reports is supported by the Community Safety Unit through funding from the Violence Reduction Unit at the Greater London Authority. There is also a project Sparks to Life in schools providing extra mentoring funding through MOPAC and the London Crime Prevention Fund. An update was provided on the current cohort for the Gangs Partnership Group. There are 15 young people: 1 is in Alternative Provision, 1 has been excluded from college; 2 new referrals one of these has been permanently excluded. Whilst it is not a causation it can be a factor within this group.

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13. There has been commentary around the DfE bringing forward a stronger regime on behaviour, one of the unintended consequences is that children with SEN are 6 times more likely to be excluded. How is balance met between achieving good behaviour and avoiding more exclusions of children who are vulnerable? When the workstream visited the PRU the Headteacher reflected that speech and language issues was a key part of children's behaviour deteriorating. Officers advise that in terms of speech and language this is correct. Members asked why statutory deadlines were not met. One of the issues at present is that schools cannot access provision unless an EHCP is in place. The local authority will be setting up an intervention provision costing roughly £500k from the High Needs Budget. There will also be another intervention team looking at autism. This will be long term over at least the next 5 years setting up a team to intervene with young people. This will also include training staff in schools so that they are much better prepared for working with young people. Regarding the DfE behaviour model there is concern on this that there is a suggestion to change the terminology to suspension and expulsion. This model will be consulted on at present. It was noted that a change in terminology was something that the workstream had looked at around more positive language for this.
14. Members acknowledged the successful NEXUS programme and the many other examples of good practice that the former workstream saw with excellent progress made.
15. Responding to a query on CAMHS waiting times; Nicholas Clarke the clinical lead for CAMHS advised that CAMHS is multi-faceted service consisting of different specialist teams catering for different needs, and therefore different response times. The overall performance indicator for CAMHS as a whole is a 13-week target from referral to first contact. Broadly speaking this target is consistently met, and in a typical month over 90% of referrals have a first contact within 0-6 weeks. If a young person has very urgent crisis needs, they will be seen within a working day. The area that sees the most pressures is the Generic team, which is the biggest team in the service catering for the broader range of common mental health problems. The Generic team receive the highest volume of referrals. During the course of the last year the referral patterns have been affected by Covid with dips and surges in referrals, with the Autumn term being particularly challenging with high referral numbers following school return. The challenge within the services is about having capacity to meet demand, this is a historical issue pre Covid in terms of the level of resourcing in the service and the national picture of increasing need year on year.
16. What about the whole financial support regarding the long-term consequences of Covid? In terms of broader national agenda. Over the last 8 years the demand for CAMHS has doubled. In an NHS population survey conducted in 2017 and followed up in 2020, the estimated number of children who had a probable mental health disorder rose from 1 in 8 in 2017 to 1 in 6 in 2020. The proportion of the mental health budget going to CAMHS is around 8%. Therefore, we are a long way off parity of esteem for children and young people mental health despite rising demand. In a local context, the productivity of the service, waiting times, rates of

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accepted referrals etc the performance is very good according to national benchmarking. In terms of staffing in Enfield our workforce numbers are in the bottom 25% according to the benchmarking. There have been a lot of changes over the last year, health commissioning has moved to a sector wide commission group covering North Central London. This group will be looking at equity of resources relative to populations and this is a stated aim across the sector.

Cllr Lappage then thanked all the officers, members and colleagues for the NHS for their work on this and recognised the good practice future work on this topic should include the following:

- Overrepresented Groups
 - The Director of Education indicated that further work was taking place to fully understand and to correct any exclusions with regards to overrepresentation in certain communities. Members asked for a report on the findings and progress of this.
- Fair Access Panel
 - Members recognise that schools have their own policies and a number of schools are academies, however work should continue on finding a better process to manage for pupils between schools with particular reference to establishing common practise across the borough. All schools should exclude for the same reasons across the borough.
- Governor training
 - Governor training on Exclusion needs to be looked at and needs to take place in smaller groups in order that governors are able to better understand the complex legislation and the local process with case studies available, and there also needs to be more support available for parents and pupils throughout the process.
- CAMHS
 - The 13-week timeline for referrals still seems excessive and members would like a report on any possibility of managing that down. Members would also like further information on what lies ahead and the planning for the inevitable future increase in referrals. A request was also made by members for more information on better funding for this service.
- Speech and Language Therapy
 - The Panel recognised that the waiting lists for this are too long and given that this is a key trigger for exclusions, wants an update on this. The update should address the service not meeting its statutory six-week advice submission and when that is likely to change.
- Post Covid 19
 - The Panel would like to see an action plan for the growth of mental health issues affecting young people that are arising as a result of the pandemic both for the present and post-Covid-19.

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Members recognised that the events of the last months will have an enormous impact on young people's lives and may result in difficult to manage behaviour at school. The Panel should like to see all the other updated plans for managing behaviour in schools post-Covid-19.

6. CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The work programme was noted. Following a query as to when children's hunger in Enfield will be on the work programme it was confirmed that this will be covered under Poverty and Inequality Commission item in March.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 2021

MEMBERS: Councillors Birsen Demirel, Achilleas Georgiou, Derek Levy, Ahmet Oykener and Glynis Vince (Conservative Group Whip)

Officers: Tony Theodoulou, Executive Director People, Peter Nathan, Director of Education, Suzy Francis, Principal Educational Psychologist/ Strategic Lead for Social Emotional Mental Health, Barbara Thurogood, Head of Special Educational Needs Education Services, Cheryl Headon, Cheryl Headon, Head of Schools Traded Services, Sarah Fryer, Head of Schools Personnel Service, Sangeeta Brown, Resources Development Manager and Lucy Nutt, Head of School & Early Years Improvement Service

Also Attending: Cllr Ergin Erbil, Claire Docherty, 2 Youth Parliament Members and 4 members of the public

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillors Hockney, Lappage and Jewell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ASSOCIATE CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Councillor Ergin Erbil highlighted the following from his report.

NOTED:

1. The priority is to protect and safeguard children and young people at all times.
2. A number of young people have become involved in offending due to adverse childhood experiences, trauma, discrimination, socio economic deprivation and exploitation. It is essential that whilst simultaneously protecting the public and victims that these young people are supported to reduce youth violence.
3. A holistic approach is needed tackling this as a public health crisis working alongside children, their parents or carers and the wider community. Research shows that some cohorts of young people are more vulnerable to exploitation or becoming involved in and affected by youth violence than others. The work detailed in the report aims to prevent this.

Comments, queries and questions:

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- Following a query on who Cllr Erbil has met with, he confirmed that the pandemic has meant that unfortunately it has not been possible to hold physical meetings. All meetings have been online including meeting with; Young Mayors; a number of BAME groups and a number of other people and organisations relevant to this issue.
- Clarification was requested on Associate Cabinet Member role. Cllr Erbil advised that his role is to support the Cabinet Members in their work, Cllr Erbil's role supports both the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
- A member of the Youth Parliament was asked to highlight his general thoughts. He felt that there was a lack of opportunities for young people in the east. He could not see the agenda report and was interested in the approaches that will be taken. It was recognised that Young people are facing issues never faced in the past such as mental health, lack of opportunity, Covid related issues such as self-isolation. It was agreed for the document to be shared with the Youth Parliament and Cllr Erbil was happy to meet virtually with the Youth Parliament after this meeting to discuss further.
- Following a query on why the report focused on youth violence and the work undertaken in Islington and what were the tangible plans coming from the report. Cllr Erbil is also the ward councillor for Edmonton Green which suffers from the highest rates of knife crime youth violence in London. Youth violence is a very important issue and the long-term aim of the document is to prevent youth violence. Islington is felt to be a very good model in terms of youth violence. The Associate Cabinet Member role is a supportive role therefore any questions on tangible plans are for the Cabinet Member to answer.
- The Youth Parliament member was asked what would be helpful to young people moving forward. He felt that more opportunities for youth engagement and involvement would be welcome. Shadow opportunities for the Youth Parliament had previously been discussed and this should be revisited. Post meeting note a meeting had been held with the Youth Parliament to discuss Shadow opportunities officers will follow up again.

4. MENTAL HEALTH

Suzy Francis, Principal Educational Psychologist/ Strategic Lead for Social Emotional Mental Health introduced the report

NOTED:

1. The Background of the document provides the national context of mental health. The paper from youth parliament echoes what is covered in the report.
2. From the first lockdown in March last year Enfield Thrives Together was set up. This started with six people across voluntary sector, parents, schools, NHS and the local authority. From this there has been regular fortnightly meetings to continue to listen to what was going on and to pivot services as they adapted in lockdown. Enfield Thrives Together now has a membership of over 70 partners.

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3. The document reflects the actions during the pandemic from looking at what parents are experiencing through to school staff wellbeing.
4. Schools are undertaking a lot of work to support each other.
5. The Professional Learning programme was set up in the summer promoting resilience and recovery.
6. In Autumn term the wellbeing for education return grant was received enabling the local authority to provide a network of presentations and training to the schools. This included Royal Free eating disorders clinic, CAMHS, EPS, the PSHE lead, voluntary sector, social prescribing and PE Team providing a wide scope of how childrens wellbeing could be supported. This included expert knowledge and information about local services. This programme will carry on until the 1 April. Providing parent care and telephone support lines opening up accessibility to Educational Psychology services. Schools and staff will continue to be provided with emotional wellbeing support. There will also be online workshops for young people led by Children and Wellbeing practitioners and Educational Psychologists
7. An example was provide of an online workshop for parents where in excess of 150 parents had logged in.
8. Officers are hoping to work with Youth Parliament members on a film to be developed with young people for young people. It is hoped that this will be ready to launch in May around World Mental Health Day.

Comments, queries and questions:

- The following was highlighted by the Youth Parliament member from their discussions on this issue:
 - Young people feel very uncertain about their future and this causes worry.
 - Concerns raised on not enough face to face support or enough information about the future going forward, particularly at years 11,12 and 13.
 - Lots of worries caused on exams marking last year.
 - Not every student speaks up and ask for support.
 - Awareness that schools try hard to tackle. More information needed to help cope with uncertainty.
 - Stress of the large amounts of online schoolwork than can cause burnout, difficulties in focusing and depression affecting students of all abilities
 - Uncertainty for this year's exams is adding to stress and anxiety.
- Claire Docherty on behalf of the unions highlighted the following issues:
 - Echoed that if the wellbeing of the school staff is looked after then this helps support the wellbeing of students
 - A survey was undertaken with NEU members on mental health amongst teachers and support staff with 276 responses received. The results are indicative of the results that all the unions are having with their members. Amongst the findings from the survey:
 - 40% rated their mental health as good or better, 23% rated their mental health as poor.

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- 60% said experiencing low mood or depression
- The main cause of stress and anxiety was workload and a lack of work/life balance
- 70% considered leaving the profession due to the impact of work on their mental health
- 33% were constantly anxious and stressed due to work
- The efforts of leaders to support mental health was recognised and appreciated, but felt more could be done to look at route causes rather than the symptoms
 - Unions members would welcome the opportunity to work with all stakeholders to develop something like a mental health charter for Enfield. Mental health concerns have been around for a while. However, the pandemic has brought to the fore. It was agreed that this survey can be shared with members
- Following a query on whether timing had affected the survey results, it was confirmed that results were similar 12 months ago. Although members stated that since the pandemic their mental health has further deteriorated.
- An observation was made that mental health is a very important issue and felt that the report should be elevated and discussed and debated elsewhere, such as Cabinet or Council. It is important to look at the cause of issues and that actions included quick fix short term actions must come from the report.
- An observation on the young people going into schools at present. It was raised that if the foster carers own children were not going into schools, the children in care could feel that it was unfair that they should be attending school.
- Officers were asked to address raised so far that had been exemplified by both the unions and the youth parliament, these being: information, uncertainty and staff wellbeing.
- Officers would like the help of the Youth Parliament on information, to look at the types of mediums that can be used to the help to the young people at the right time.
- On the issue of uncertainty and the stress and anxiety that comes from this. One of the key messages throughout all the work on community wellbeing is how do we stay in the present and remain in control of what we can manage. It is important to ensure that there is good information available that provides some containment and some certainty. This is key in managing the uncertainty and being able to stick with what you can control.
- On the Staff survey and staff wellbeing, the local authority are using lots of different ways to link in with Enfield school staff; such as through the teams that work in schools and through council officers meeting with Headteacher or other members of leadership teams. It was acknowledged that workload and work life balance was still an issue a year ago. The issue of stigma in relation to mental health was raised. For example, a confidential service available to young people – Kooth which was believed to be quite well known, however the take up is not that high. Following conversation with Headteachers regarding support for them and their staff and the take up is not as high as would have

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expected. Enfield Thrives Together is a very active partnership, trauma informed practice training will roll out in the near future subject to funding. The Mental Health agenda is regularly discussed with schools and the local authority continues to look at ways to working and support schools.

- Does the Council have a mental health charter or policy? There is advice and guidance in terms of HR but not a charter, this could be worked on with schools and the youth parliament.

It was agreed that the Chair will put forward to OSC the following recommendation for them to agree and put forward to Cabinet:

'The Council should produce an action orientated mental health charter and policy and provide the resources to make changes that will support young people and staff on matters such as information, uncertainty and staff wellbeing. In producing this the Council is asked to work with the various stakeholders including the unions and the Youth Parliament and with the involvement of the Children Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel'.

Officers were thanked for their report

5. SUPPORTING SCHOOLS AND THE HEADS OF SCHOOLS

Peter Nathan, Director of Education introduced the report.

NOTED:

1. These are very challenging times for school leaders.
2. The report highlights the main ways the local authority is supporting schools. There are fortnightly briefings with headteachers updating them with relevant information.
3. Risk Assessments have helped schools look at every aspect of school life in relation to the pandemic to ensure that school staff are safe, the pupils are safe, and the right decisions are taken.
4. The attendance at the virtual meetings has been very good with virtually all schools represented. There are regular meetings with trade unions to feed in any concerns through to headteachers, and meeting with headteachers representatives weekly to talk through issues that have been raised.
5. Covid has meant that key colleagues are available 24/7 to support schools. Headteachers are often working weekends to deal with issues.

Comments, queries and questions:

- How far in the future can the local authority plan for or is it just planning for the here and now? It was confirmed that both must be planned for. The guidance must be followed from the government and from public health. An example was highlighted of the delay on decisions on exams causing difficulties for schools. Preliminary work has started with schools on planning for the return on the 8 March, such as discussing testing on secondary schools

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- What latitude do schools have to do things differently? Many schools work together, online learning will remain, there are now good systems in place. There will be a return to face to face learning, however it is expected that there will be more use of zoom technology and goggle classroom. It is expected that many things may change going forward.
- What is the situation with regards to young people having access to good online learning facilities? It was confirmed that maintained schools have received approximately 3,400 devices from the DfE including academies this is over 5,000. It is estimated that this is around 60-70% of the need. Whilst some schools have sufficient supplies others do not and this has been raised with the DfE. Other issues include access to broadband and houses with multiple children being able to create space and quiet to do schoolwork. It is expected that the disadvantaged gap will widen.
- Claire Docherty said that a mapping of the disadvantaged gap would be helpful and expressed concern on how this can be addressed. There are plans such as 2 years of the National Tutoring College and catch up funding. The levelling up will be a challenge. There is an Enfield Learning Excellence Partnership Board, with one of the key targets to improve achievement over the next 4 to 5 years.
- It was acknowledged that this is a very fluid situation.

Officers were thanked for their report

6. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Barbara Thurogood, Head of Special Educational Needs Education Services introduced the report.

NOTED:

1. Enfield has seen a year on year increase on referrals for Education, Health & Care Needs assessments, there is not dissimilar to any other London borough.
2. The Special Educational Needs 2 survey undertaken by DfE shows that there has been a 10% increase nationally in children with SEND. The DfE have been looking at reviewing SEND reforms to see how the increasing demand can be managed.
3. The threshold for assessment is low which means there is an increase in referrals. It is expected that post Covid there will be a higher demand.
4. Following analysis, the needs that have been identified are: speech, language and communication, autism and complex autism.
3. Some examples of work were provided: currently looking at an Inclusion Charter, so that all schools will start to be more inclusive for children with SEN identifying needs as early as possible; a Speech and Language Communication hub is being developed, this is at the project initiation stage. This will be to support schools to identify children who may not need EHCP but may require additional support. More support for autism and changes to nurture groups, so they will be part time and increase numbers from 10 to 28.

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4. Increases in travel costs is because there has not been enough growth of provisions in borough. This is being reviewed and developing different options with school place planning so provision can be increased locally.

Comments, queries and questions:

- What has been the impact of Personal Travel budgets and how have they been received? How has Covid effected personal travel budgets? Officers advised that some colleges were supporting young people with independent travel training and they are not able to do this due to Covid restrictions. However, those young people who are still able to attend schools and colleges are still accessing personal travel budgets. The local authority is reviewed how the SEN service works with the travel assistance team, to ensure that there is fairness and equity within the offer and to manage the provision more effectively. The legislation states you identify the nearest school in the first instance, and this is the school that is offered if there is places available. If parental choice not to go there, then under the Education Act it is not an effective use of public funding to pay for travel assistance as well.
- What other boroughs have introduced this and how has it worked? In Waltham Forest this has not been effective. However, in Barking & Dagenham this is working well with pick up points making it easier to manage the length of time a young person is on a bus.
- Rising demand is showing projections of 8-10% for EHCP's what has this been in previous years? In Enfield this has been around 6-8% but this has increased nationally.
- Is there a concern that there will potentially be an increase due to the Pandemic and if so, what provisions are being made for this? There is expected to be an increase due to Covid where children have not been in school. Some programmes that have been put forward through Schools Forum; Speech and Language Hub, changes in nurture groups and the work on autism and these will have an impact. The local authority is currently looking to develop a data dashboard to provide a better understanding. There is an operational SEN group and SEN board and all issues and concerns are highlighted as they arise to allow a rigorous response to the demands.
- Why is there a sharp increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20 of home to school transport costs? A large part of this is out of borough provision. There were children with more complex autism and insufficient places within the borough for children with such complexity of need. More analysis is needed as to why Enfield has a higher proportion of children with complex needs.
- Pupils needs are decreasing in Enfield but the number of children with SEND are increasing. Given there are extra places in some primary and secondary schools as pupils numbers are down is there opportunity for more SEND pupils to attend mainstream schools? Officers advised that it is expected that in future pupil numbers will increase. Where there are decreasing pupils' numbers in some schools looking to see if there can be more resource provision within those schools.

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- Following a request for timelines on increasing provision in borough the following was confirmed: 14 additional places at Suffolk's School for this year; another local school a further 23 places for this year, 70 further places at Salmons Brook School for 2022, Fern House an additional 22 places for this year and looking at moving staff from a building to a school to utilise these premises for more complex autism creates around 22 places hopefully this year. By 2022 there will be 110 new places will be created but hopefully this figure will be higher.

Officers were thanked for their report

7. CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The work programme was noted.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was noted.

London Borough of Enfield**Children Young People and Education Scrutiny****Tuesday 9th March 2021****Subject:** Update on Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Nesil Caliskan and Cllr Rick Jewell**Executive Director:** Ian Davis and Tony Theodoulou**Key Decision:** Not applicable**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel with an update on the recommendations of the Poverty and Inequality Commission, specifically whether there has been any change in the data relating to children and young people, which was reported in the Commission's report; what finances the Council has budgeted for to achieve the recommendations, and an update on the following recommendations:
 - **Recommendation 7:** The voluntary and community sector, supported by the Council, should create a Food Action Plan for Enfield, to ensure all families have access to healthy food.
 - **Recommendation 8:** The Council should prioritise the East of the Borough for future play streets and school streets so children can play out safely and air quality is improved around schools in hot spots of poor air quality.
 - **Recommendation 10:** The Police should revamp the 'safer schools' programme for the Borough's schools.
 - **Recommendation 11:** The Council should revitalise youth services in the Borough.
 - **Recommendation 12:** The Council, education providers and the voluntary and community sector should work together to ensure that all Enfield's children are 'school-ready'.
 - **Recommendation 13:** The Council and local schools should work together to make sure all of Enfield's schools are 'Poverty Proofed'.
 - **Recommendation 14:** The Council should maximise the use of libraries to mitigate overcrowding and enhance learning.
 - **Recommendation 15:** The Council should work with schools to set a target to reduce the use of fixed-term and permanent exclusions.

- **Recommendation 16:** The Council and schools should work together with the local voluntary and community sector to increase access to ESOL lessons for both the children and parents of families for whom English is an additional language.
- **Recommendation 17:** The Council, schools and businesses should work together to ensure a line of sight to a decent job for all pupils by offering a work experience programme, volunteering opportunities and CV writing, matching local young people to the jobs of the future.

Proposal(s)

2. This report sets out an update for consideration by the Children, Young People and Scrutiny Panel.

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. See Purpose.

Relevance to the Council Plan

4. The overarching vision of our Council Plan 2020-22 is to deliver a lifetime of opportunity for everyone in Enfield. The Council Plan has three cross cutting themes that are essential to our work, including becoming a fairer Enfield, where all residents, service users and Council staff are supported to fulfil their potential, are treated with respect and are actively involved in shaping the decisions that will affect their workplace and wider community. The 27 recommendations of the Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission are a crucial part of this ambition to create a fairer Enfield.

Background

5. In the summer of 2019, in collaboration with the Smith Institute, Enfield Council set up an independent and time-limited Commission to better understand the forces driving poverty and inequality in the borough, and to point the way to potential local solutions. The Commission was chaired by Baroness Tyler of Enfield and consisted of a panel of twelve Commissioners from local and national organisations. They listened to the experiences of local people and examined local data to identify 27 recommendations for the Council and our partners. The Commission published its final report in January 2020, and the Council has committed to working with partners to deliver on all their recommendations.
6. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on local people, as it has the world over. These impacts are not being felt evenly, and we know at both a national and local level that the pandemic has increased inequality and pushed more people into poverty. There is a strong correlation between poverty and deprivation and Covid-19 mortality rates. This virus and the effects of lockdown have only served to widen the social, economic and

health inequalities that already existed in our borough. Therefore, the recommendations made by our independent Poverty and Inequality Commission are more relevant than ever.

7. In the face of huge challenges, we have already made progress toward addressing many of the recommendations made by the Commission and we will shortly be publishing an update on progress against all 27 recommendations. In this report, we have highlighted our progress against the recommendations noted by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee which are of particular relevance to children, young people and education.

Main Considerations for the Council

Data

8. The latest official figures correlating to the data highlighted in the EPIC report are detailed below. Data, which is based on official annual returns, is subject to some delay under usual circumstances, however as a result of the pandemic some data reporting has been cancelled or further delayed. The original figures published in the EPIC report in January 2020 are shown in bold below, and information on updated figures set out for each item:
9. **In 2017, Enfield had the 11th highest rate of child poverty in the country, with one in three children in poverty.** Using the LAIT tool, which is a national data tracker, we see that from 2018 to 2019, the % of children from low income families has increased from 17.10% to 17.80%. This is compared to a slight decrease in the same figure in Enfield's statistical neighbours¹ from 24.02% to 23.92%. This is the most recent data available, with the 2020 data due to be released in June 2021.
10. **In 2019, 49% of pupils in reception class have English as an additional language (EAL).** In 2019/20, when looking at primary school children as a whole, the percentage of pupils whose first language is other than English is 51.1%, and this figure has stayed relatively consistent over the past four years. This is the most recent available data and would be under usual circumstances. The January 2021 census is being conducted now, with data available in the coming months.
11. **Between 2018 and 2019 incidents of serious youth violence had increased by 30%.** Prior to the lockdown in March 2020, incidents of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) had increased by 29.8% between 2019 and 2020, when compared to the previous year. When Q2 to the end of September 2020 (1st July - 30th Sept) is compared to the same quarter in 2019/20, there was a 35% decrease in SYV. The number of Serious Youth Violence victims in Enfield has decreased in the year to September 2020, by 10.9%, recording 384 victims, compared with 431 victims the same time last year - a decrease of 47 victims. In the capital, there was a decrease of 13.6% in the same period. More recent data for the year to January 2021 shows a significantly larger decrease in Enfield on the previous year, compared to the average

¹ Reading, Croydon, Haringey, Greenwich, Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham, Nottingham, Luton, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham

decrease in London – in this period, there was a decrease of 198 victims in Enfield compared to an average decrease across London boroughs of 69 victims. These downward trends can be attributed to COVID-19 restrictions, but the recent data also suggests that local initiatives are also having a positive impact.

12. **In 2017/18, 24.93% of reception pupils were estimated to be overweight or obese compared to 40.77% of year 6 children.** The data from 2018/19, shows a slight decrease to 24.03% of reception pupils and a slight increase to 42.32% of year 6 children. These are the latest figures available for Enfield with data from both primary and secondary school.
13. Enfield has seen a reduction from **57 secondary permanent exclusions in 2017/18** to 21 in 2018/19. At the time of the Commission's report, we had the **third highest rate of fixed period exclusions at 3,349 in 2017/18**. This has decreased to 2,387 fixed period exclusions in 2018/19. Enfield had the 4th lowest rate in London for permanent secondary exclusions for the year 2018/19, and for the first time in years, we were below the national average. In 2018/19, we had the 20th lowest rate of permanent exclusions from secondary school nationally, and the lowest rate in the country of permanent exclusions from primary schools, based on population size.
14. **The Commission report noted that there were 449 young people aged 16+ who are not in education or training (NEET), or 'not known'.** As of June 2020, this figure has reduced to 252. This includes 103 16/17-year-olds who were NEET, and 149 were 'not known.'

Recommendation 7: The voluntary and community sector, supported by the Council, should create a Food Action Plan for Enfield, to ensure all families have access to healthy food.

15. During the year we worked with partners to deliver food and essential items to isolated people during the spring lockdown, through our 'Enfield Stands Together' programme and subsequent Food Alliance work.
16. In the winter, we launched a £1.1 million programme to make sure those who get Free School Meals and other families on low income have access to food during school holidays; and worked with partners to deliver six food collection hubs across the borough during the Christmas holidays, providing 480 vulnerable families with food.
17. Priorities for 2021 include:
 - Increasing our support for families who have not been eligible for previous schemes, but who are on low incomes and struggling.
 - Extending access to food and utilities via foodbanks and charities and support income maximisation through proactive work in the community.
 - Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to develop a new food and activity programme due to commence in early 2021.

- Supporting the further 8,000 residents recently written to by the Government to tell them they're now considered *Clinically Extremely Vulnerable*. These residents can now access a range of assistance from the Council including food, medicines, and support for those struggling with loneliness. This support will be organised by the Council's Contact Centre team.

Recommendation 8: The Council should prioritise the East of the Borough for future play streets and school streets so children can play out safely and air quality is improved around schools in hot spots of poor air quality.

18. We have successfully launched twelve new school streets since January 2020. We have a target to increase the number of school streets across the borough, with a target of at least 2 more school streets during 2021 and in subsequent years.
19. Due to the restrictions in place during the Covid-19 pandemic, play streets have tended not to take place during 2020. During 2021, we intend to work with local communities to encourage more play streets in the east of the borough through new funding initiatives, communications and partnership during 2021. As at February 2021, we have 17 playstreets in Enfield, 3 of which are in the East of the borough. This includes one Play Street for Houndsfield primary school, which takes place on a Friday afternoon during term time only.

Recommendation 10: The Police should revamp the ‘safer schools’ programme for the Borough’s schools.

20. An update on this recommendation has been provided in a separate report by PS 517 EWEN (North Area), Safer School Partnership Sergeant. The report also helpfully highlights the 6 Priorities of the Council’s Children and Young People’s Plan, Empowering Young Enfield 2021-25 and how the ongoing work of the Safer Schools partnership feeds into the Council’s six new overarching priorities.
21. In relation to this recommendation, productions of Chelsea’s Choice and County Lines, performed by the AlterEgo theatre company, have been delivered across 40 schools in the borough, helping to raise awareness of sexual and criminal exploitation. The Nexus Project has also been instrumental in keeping children and young people safe from exploitation.

Recommendation 11: The Council should revitalise youth services in the Borough.

22. During 2020, a total of 5,788 young people participated in one or more sessions through the “Inspiring Young Enfield” programme. This programme, run by 20 community organisations alongside the Council, is funded by £1.3m from the Mayor of London’s Young Londoners Fund. These positive activities are supporting our most challenged young people to make positive life choices, reconnect with their neighbourhoods and realise their true potential.

23. In addition to this, our Summer University programme was delivered for a second year in summer 2020, with 604 young people accessing free online or socially distanced face-to-face courses and 82 young people gaining a nationally recognised qualification.
24. We are continuing to deliver projects and programmes as part of ‘Inspiring Young Enfield’ that will see a further £500k+ spent on interventions to support young people. We are also supporting community bids to all available national, regional and local funding opportunities to further enhance youth provision.
25. In 2020, the Council launched its [Youth Bubble](#) website, which provides information on an array of free activities over the months of November 2020 to April 2021. Children and young people can sign up themselves or a professional can refer a young person. The Youth Bubble was developed with the involvement of Enfield’s Young Leaders.
26. DfE has made £200 million available to expand its existing food and holiday programme of activities to local authorities. DfE has accepted Enfield’s expression of interest to deliver the programme in 2021. The maximum indicative funding that Enfield may be awarded is **up to £1,493,520**. The funding is expected to cover the provision of the free holiday places and the coordination of the programme locally.

Recommendation 12: The Council, education providers and the voluntary and community sector should work together to ensure that all Enfield’s children are ‘school-ready’.

27. The Council has invested an additional £150k from the Dedicated Schools Grant to increase the provision of statutory Speech and Language Services to meet demands. This additional funding has been put in place to ensure that special schools were able to provide assessments for children accessing new school placements in September 2020. The Council has created approximately 150 additional special school places for the academic year 2020/21.
28. Furthermore, the Early Years pathway has been re-designed in line with the recommendations of an independent review of the Speech and Language Service in 2019; and a new training process with specialised stay and play sessions at Children’s Centre sites was put in place for February 2020. In addition, training for staff on Social Communication and Positive Beginnings was put forward, and although this work paused at the outbreak of the pandemic, a plan for its restart has been developed, bearing in mind the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.
29. Looking ahead, a group consisting of Local Authority commissioners, SEN team and health providers have developed a proposal for investment in a Speech, Language and Communication Hub (SLaCH). This is currently under review and an update is expected in late spring 2021.

30. The Council have also launched a new "[Terrific Twos](#)"² campaign to encourage eligible families to take up their free early years places for two- and three-year olds. There is significant evidence that early help can make a positive difference in improving outcomes, and that a child's experiences in the early years (0-4) has a major impact on their health and life chances, as children and later in their lives as adults. This campaign is being assessed for impact on increasing the numbers of two-year olds in funded childcare provision and three- and four-year olds in preschools and nurseries.

Recommendation 13: The Council and local schools should work together to make sure all of Enfield's schools are 'Poverty Proofed'.

31. The Council is working with schools and regional and national government to mitigate as far as possible the impact of Covid-19 on the education of children and young people in Enfield. In response to the pandemic, the Council and schools have worked together to support families to manage home learning; keep schools open for vulnerable children and children of key workers/critical workers, and safely re-open schools for everyone during the autumn term. We are continuing to work with and support schools in response to the current period of school closures, and to scenario plan for the return of pupils and staff.
32. Remote and virtual learning as a result of the pandemic has created challenges for pupils and schools. To support the delivery of effective virtual learning, as part of the Covid-19 response, our Education Service has offered free support to schools to help them to address issues relating to digital and remote learning, including support links and resources. As part of this work, there is a long-term 'Digital Transformation' programme running, which includes a series of interactive seminars to support schools to further develop their digital offer.
33. In addition to the digital transformation programme schools can access a free, two-session programme on Remote Learning from TT Education, which is hosted on demand on a platform called Panopto. Schools can also sign up for a one-to-one surgery with an Ed-Tech Consultant at no cost.
34. The Council also continues to update our [Schools Hub](#) with the latest information and guidance, including relating to ordering laptops and tablets through the Department for Education (DfE) and managing existing digital resources. The Education Service also runs regular Headteacher Briefings to share guidance and updates, enable group discussion and identify good practice. These briefings are open to all Headteachers from our Primary and Secondary Schools.
35. Over the Christmas holidays, we provided families with £30 Paypoint cash payments per child eligible for Free School Meals. Over the Christmas break we also worked with our partners to deliver six food collection hubs across the borough, offering food parcels to 480 vulnerable families. Enfield Council are funding February 2021 half-term food vouchers from the COVID Winter Grant

² The Terrific Two funding is for up to 570 hours of Funded Early Education and Childcare per year for eligible children. This is up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, term time only

Scheme for pupils who are eligible for FSM, and from Monday 8th February, Schools were able to order food vouchers to the value of £15 per eligible pupil for the week commencing 15th February from the new LBE Edenred account.

36. We are beginning to work with schools to develop a new Inclusion Charter, that will set out how schools and services will ensure all children and young people experience inclusion, equality, dignity and respect within education settings in Enfield, to realise their aspirations. This should be the case regardless of their protected characteristic or socio-economic status.
37. The Council are also working collaboratively with our colleagues in the Education, Children and Families, Health and voluntary Sector to create a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy, which builds on previous successes and details priorities for further developments over the next 4 years. Furthermore, we are also working with our partners to develop a new Autism Strategy that spans all ages, ensuring consistency in support for individuals and their families/carers. It will incorporate existing service delivery changes and collaboratively steer targeted work over the next 4 years.
38. Over the course of 2021, the Council's focus will also include:
 - Working with partners to tackle issues such as low literacy and digital exclusion.
 - Promoting school's take-up of the DfE Period Product Scheme.

Recommendation 14: The Council should maximise the use of libraries to mitigate overcrowding and enhance learning.

39. Our library services have adapted during the pandemic to support people isolating at home, increase our digital offer and safely open our 4 hub libraries when restrictions have allowed. We have provided many educational and learning opportunities online for young people and families over lockdown. Enfield's digital library includes a range of online resources to encourage reading, digital access and literacy. The digital library serves as an important resource for residents who cannot physically access their local library but want to access library resources online. In November 2020 over 31,000 books and 21,000 audiobooks had been accessed, and over 27,000 e-magazine and e-comics, and 410,000 e-newspaper articles had been read. Enfield libraries also provide access to music streaming services and a range of free e-learning modules such as business courses, higher education resources, and driving and citizenship test support.
40. In response to the pandemic, Enfield's four library hubs are operating a reduced service with limited capacity in line with government restrictions and guidance. Our flagship libraries currently welcome families to visit for essential PC use. The library service has liaised with schools around subject matter and have supported children by trying to plug gaps where possible, and where restrictions have allowed. Our library service is planning for when restrictions are eased in the coming months, to be able to offer more spaces for young people.

41. In July 2020, we launched two Community Hubs in our Enfield Town and Edmonton Green libraries to better support people with complex needs within the community and continue to promote the library service as a vital resource for children and young people who don't have space to study at home.

Recommendation 15: The Council should work with schools to set a target to reduce the use of fixed-term and permanent exclusions.

42. The Education Service is currently working with the Enfield Learning Excellence Partnership Board and our Secondary Headteachers to develop targets for reducing fixed-term and permanent exclusions.

43. Through partnership working and projects such as the Nexus and Inspiring Young Enfield, we are working with our partners and our community to address the range of factors, which result in exclusions.

44. Our Secondary Behaviour Support Services' (BSS) provides holistic support to prevent students from becoming subject to permanent exclusions. Within the Service, we have three teams, the Outreach and Alternative Provision team, REACH and NEXUS. The work of the BSS includes ongoing support to schools to identify early signs of vulnerability and working closely with the pupil, parents and teachers to provide bespoke support. Some key highlights of their work from September 2019 to July 2020 are detailed below:

- **Outreach:** The BSS successfully provided outreach support to approx. 120 families whose children were at risk of exclusion during 2019/20.
- **Wellbeing drop-ins:** In response to the pandemic, starting in September 2020 BSS Staff also started to offer 30-minute informal wellbeing drop-in sessions for any secondary pupil as their school.
- **Alternative Provision:** The overall retention rate for students placed in Alternative Provision by BSS during 2019/20 was 100%. 86% of Year 11 learners studying in Alternative Provision achieved an English qualification and 83% of Year 11 learners achieved a Maths qualification.
- **Nexus:** 783 students participated in mentoring programmes or workshops in Enfield Secondary Schools run by NEXUS partners.

45. The BSS works to tackle the causes of exclusion and is complemented by Youth Services projects including "Inspiring Young Enfield". As detailed earlier in this report, during 2020, a total of 5,788 young people participated in one or more sessions through the "Inspiring Young Enfield" programme. Furthermore, we are working hard to support the mental health and emotional welling of children and young people and KOOTH was launched across Enfield on 1st April 2020 to provide online mental health and wellbeing support to young people via any internet accessible device.

46. Launched in October 2019, we have also piloted our new Mental Health Support Team in Schools, a project funded by NHS England and Health Education England under the Trailblazer Programme. Following the success of this pilot, we will be moving to implement this new service across at least 40 schools during 2021. In 2021, we will also be exploring opportunities to identify and secure funding to develop Enfield Trauma Informed Practice in

Schools (E-TIPS). E-TIPS is a whole system approach that aims to promote the emotional wellbeing of every child and young person in Enfield.

Recommendation 16: The Council and schools should work together with the local voluntary and community sector to increase access to ESOL lessons for both the children and parents of families for whom English is an additional language.

47. Enfield Voluntary Action, in partnership with Workers Education Association, implemented the Together We Learn ESOL programme between September 2019 and March 2020, benefiting 130 adults who successfully completed the programme.

48. The local authority gained Government Funding of £260k for a new ESOL programme, 'All Things Being ESOL' which began during the autumn 2020. The programme was due to run until March, but the Government have agreed to extend it to June 2021. Despite the barriers of remote learning, the programme is progressing well. Other challenges have included engaging with isolated communities, and digital exclusion. There are plans to conduct an evaluation at the end of the programme and plans to repeat the programme in 2021/22 are still to be confirmed.

Recommendation 17: The Council, schools and businesses should work together to ensure a line of sight to a decent job for all pupils by offering a work experience programme, volunteering opportunities and CV writing, matching local young people to the jobs of the future.

49. We currently offer schools a work experience package as part of our traded service with 50% of schools buying back this service.

50. As part of the Meridian Water development, we are developing two new skills academies:

- The Meridian Water Construction Skills Academy will provide visits, training, apprenticeships and work placements in construction.
- The Troubadour Meridian Water Studios Film and TV Skills Academy, which will provide training and work experience to people interested in a career in technical skills within film and TV.

51. We are working towards an anticipated opening of the Construction Skills Academy in Meridian Water by the end of 2021. The Troubador Skills Academy will be part of future phases of Meridian Water.

52. We intend to explore options for extending our work experience programme to more schools, looking at new ways to fund the programme in a way which will encourage take-up.

53. Through the Supported Internship Programme, the Council are encouraging departments to take on supported interns and work with employers to provide high quality placements. An important focus for the Council is ensuring that the interns have good pathways to paid employment after the programme.

Budget

54. Since the report was published, we have worked with partners to identify new funding sources to help us deliver on the recommendations. This has included gaining Government Funding of £260k for the new ESOL programme; investing an additional £150k from the Dedicated Schools Grant to increase the provision of statutory Speech and Language Services; as well as working with partners to identify the following funding streams to help us deliver on the recommendations going forward:
55. **The Enfield Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Fund and the Edmonton Community Chest.** These two new grant programmes will be launched in 2021/22 using resources gained from the Community Infrastructure Levy and from our development partnerships in Meridian Water. Grants will be made available to voluntary and community sector groups to support community-led projects across the borough. The Community Chest will focus on investment in the communities of Upper Edmonton, Edmonton Green and Lower Edmonton Wards so that local people are the primary beneficiaries of the development at Meridian Water.
56. **Enfield Poverty and Inequality Grants Programme.** This £150,000 grants programme, secured by Enfield Voluntary Action from the National Lottery, will award grants between £500 to £10,000 to voluntary and community groups for projects that address severe challenges experienced by Enfield residents in navigating everyday life, including physical and mental health and wellbeing; access to education, training and digital support; and personal and financial insecurity. The first bids are currently under consideration and it is anticipated projects will start from March 2021.

Conclusions

57. The purpose of this report has been to provide Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel with an update on our positive progress towards delivering the recommendations of the Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission. Since the report's publication, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on local people and the effects of lockdown have served to widen the social, economic and health inequalities that already existed in our borough - making this work more vital than ever.
58. Over the last year the Council have worked to embed the 27 recommendations into ongoing and future Council work, and we have made significant steps towards implementing the recommendations with our partners. Despite the logistical and financial challenges faced by the Council over the last year, we have ensured that vital funding has been identified, and we have developed plans for 2021 and into 2022, to ensure that we continue our work to make Enfield a fairer place.

020 8379 8399

25th February 2021

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

[Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission](#)

REPORT TO: CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE: 9 March 2019

REPORT AUTHOR/S:

Safer School Partnership, Police Officer Handbook V.1.6, Youth Strategy, Engagement & Schools – Version 1.6.

PS 517 EWEN (North Area), Safer School Partnership Sergeant

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide the committee with a response in regards to the question “The Police should revamp the ‘safer schools’ programme for the Borough’s schools”

There are two Police Sergeants for Enfield North supervising eighteen Police Officers (this number is not a true reflection on staffing levels as some of these officers are awaiting dates to move to different departments and some are restricted duties).

The Police Officers cover Secondary and Primary schools and there is a dedicated officer for Special Need Provisions and a dedicated officer for Primary Schools and for Pupil Referral Units.

There are over 20 secondary schools & over 60 primary schools on the North side of the BCU, not including Special Need Provisions, Other School Provisions and Behavioural Provisions.

Each Secondary School has a dedicated Officer or a point of contact. Primaries, Special Need Provisions and Pupil Referral Units have an individual allocated officer.

Police and all the schools sign up to a Safer School partnership formal agreement to work together in order to keep young people safe.

“What is the Safer schools Partnership? There are currently around 300 officers across London dedicated to working in schools and with young people. The program of the safer schools role is driven centrally. We do have support from other units such as the Youth Strategy, Engagement and Schools team provides which give advice, guidance and support to supervisors and officers working in a youth based roles including Safer Schools Partnerships (SSP) and Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC). Their aim is to ensure a consistent and corporate approach across London.

Safer Schools Officers are the first point of contact for all schools in London, and the gatekeepers to educational establishments for the rest of the MPS. Our role is wide and varied and we aim to:

- Minimise the risk of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) and crime to young Londoners by delivering preventive education, intervening with those already involved in criminal activity, and reducing the availability of weapons within our communities.
- Ensure a targeted approach is taken against those who engage in criminal behaviour to reduce levels of knife crime, gang-related crime, sexual abuse and SYV.
- Significantly reduce the number of young victims of crime through preventative education on subjects like personal / property safety, etc.
- Increase actionable intelligence on weapon carriage and storage, gangs and crime.
- Increase positive engagement with C&YP, parents and teachers to increase confidence.
- Provide reassurance to young people, parents and the wider community through greater visibility and accessibility by developing partnership activities like safer routes to and from schools.

(MPS Children and Young People Engagement Strategy 2017-2021)

Safer Schools Officers work in conjunction with head teachers and school leadership teams to cultivate strong working relationships that address issues in the school community and the community around the school. Communication and understanding forms a very important part of this. It also supports the flow of information and intelligence between partners, the safeguarding of vulnerable children and early intervention schemes to help prevent children from being subjected to crime or committing crime. We also report crimes that occur in school, conduct investigations, and ensure that both the victims and the suspects are safeguarded.

Some of the work we do I have highlighted below but as you can understand the work that we do is so much more, In schools we will deal with a multitude of different incidents around safe guarding, partnership working support no two days are ever the same.

Priority 1: Children and young people are empowered, included and respected

Presenting classes around a host of different subject with regard to their personal safety, crime and consequences and advising with regard to their personal development, learning for life, Well- being.

Listening to their questions and having open discussions within the classroom environment.

Holding surgeries within the school so can discuss other matters or concerns.

Attending events at the school supporting the students

Speaking with school council and listening to students concerns

Officers deliver lessons to Voluntary Police cadets supporting them in community project work. Supporting with DofE objective / goals.

Priority 2: Children and young people can thrive through effective early help

Working closing with partnership agencies, Social services attending Strat. Meetings, Child Protection Meetings, TAFs, CAFs

Meeting with school Child Protection and Safeguarding Officers addressing any concerns or disclosures. CAIT

Being aware of the vulnerable children within school at risk and those on the fridge of criminality and engaging. CSE /CCE

Working closely with YOS.

Working closely with Educational Welfare Officers around students attendance / school refusers. County Line concerns / gangs.

Educating young people in classroom work and assemblies.

Priority 3: Children, young people and their families are supported to achieve the best possible health and well-being

Promoting Well-being and effects of Mental Health in assemblies and classroom work.

Working with COMPASS with regard to substance misuse and making necessary referrals.

Meeting with staff and talking to students, being a reassuring presence for students within school and as they leave and travel home.

Priority 4: Children and young people have access to an excellent education, are ready to learn when they start school and leave with the skills they need for life and the world of work

Safer School officers support the school with any challenging students and advise them regarding poor behaviour. If there are conflicts between peers these are resolved by trained officers in Restorative Justice. Officers link in with their Attendance Officers and the Educational Welfare Officer, should any students not attending school and carry out home visits to those school refusers.

Give presentations on careers within the Police and the differing roles there are as a prospective difference they could make to develop themselves and help others.

Priority 5: Children and young people are safe and protected from harm in all places and spaces

Safer School Officers are a visible presence in the school and carry out High visibility patrols after school, walking with students waiting with them at the bus stops ensuring travel safely. Giving personal safety advice if using mobiles or anything of value on show.

Challenging suspicious characters, stop and searching.

Carrying out visible and plain clothed patrols in areas that have a higher number of robberies

Developing (in partnership with students and school), safe routes with travel plans

Liaising with Community Help Point Scheme (CHiPS). (Safe places around Borough)

Carrying out weapons sweeps in areas around school and along travel route and any nearby parks / green spaces.

Specialist officers within school partnership taking Video Recorded statements (A.B.E. / V.R.I.) from vulnerable students to secure a detailed account in a holistic approach.

Priority 6: Children and young people have an environmentally sustainable future

Promoting the community within the school to take ownership and have pride. Supporting students on projects within school and local community. Litter picking to removing graffiti.

The principle aim of the criminal justice system is to prevent offending by the child. I believe specialist staff and teacher at the school working in conjunction with the safer schools officer is better placed to educate and divert the child away from criminal activity. It is important to avoid 'criminalising' children and young people unnecessarily; the primary purpose in some cases around youth is to encourage children and young people to take responsibility for their own actions and promote re-integration into school and society rather than to punish, especially when dealing with children so young.

The current pandemic has provided new challenges for everyone, with the introduction of restrictions and the current Lockdown. Schools Officers have continued to support their schools and young people.

Many Primary, Secondary schools and Special Need provisions have remained open for key worker's students and our vulnerable students.

The majority of learning for the students is online learning and School Officers are providing online sessions to schools for all year groups and smaller interactive online classroom presentations. The subjects presented are varied and focus on Staying Safe online, CSE, and Well-being, Education around COVID, Updates on

the current Government Guidelines, Mental Health and support available. Many parents are also engaging in these sessions.

School Officers are also providing advice around apprenticeships and future employment opportunities for the older students.

If students are not engaging in online learning or the school is unable to get in contact with a student or family, School Officers are carrying out welfare checks at their home addresses.

Daily patrols are also carried out to ensure young people are adhering to the lockdown and restrictions, this also enables us to act fast time around safe guarding concerns and county lines.

In addition to the above School Officers are also supporting their colleagues within different departments if staff have to isolate or are unwell.

PS 517NA Ewen

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London Borough of Enfield**Children Young People & Education Scrutiny Panel****Meeting Date 9th March 2021**

Subject: Vulnerable Children and Young People youth provision and environment**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Rick Jewell**Executive Director:** Tony Theodoulou**Key Decision:** To note the content of the report

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Scrutiny Panel with an overview of youth provision for children and young people in Enfield, including those who are vulnerable. This report highlights the remit of youth services, the Council's priorities for youth services, funding for youth services, the work and activities to keep young people safe and the impact of the pandemic on the Council's youth services provision.

Proposal(s)

2. N/A

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. N/A

Relevance to the Council Plan

4. The Enfield Council Plan 2020-2022 sets out bold and positive ambitions of creating a lifetime of opportunities with one of the key priorities being 'Safe, Healthy and Confident Communities', with specific focus keeping communities free from crime.

The Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission 2020 recommended the need to revitalise youth services, with a focus on an early intervention approach to keep young people safe and help them make positive life choices. It recommends prioritising investment in youth services and outreach work.

Background

5. Legislative requirements for youth services, youth work remit and its contribution to Council's strategic priorities

Local authorities (LAs) have a statutory duty (under section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure, as is reasonably practicable, sufficient services and activities for young people aged 13-19 (those with learning difficulties to age 25) and to improve their well-being through provision of educational leisure time and recreational activities. The duty states that it is up to each LA to decide what is sufficient, taking into the account local needs of the area. There are key challenges in relation to the duty, including the interpretation of the meaning what is sufficient as there is no one size fits all. There is a lack of central government policy on what is adequate provision, especially given the reduction of the LAs and central government funding for Youth Services in the last decade across England.

Enfield Youth Development Service is located within the Children and Families division within the Youth People and Community Safety Department and well placed to support young people with additional needs, including 'children in need', those on child a plan of protection, children looked after and young people engaging in risky behavior.

The Council youth service works with young people age 11-19, (and up to 25 with young people with disabilities and learning difficulties). The key aim of youth work is to provide personal and social development opportunities to children and young people to help them to transition to adulthood and achieve the best outcomes, whilst promoting good citizenship.

The Youth Offer in Enfield is delivered through a mixed economy model including the Council's dedicated youth service provision, grant funded targeted youth support provision in partnership with third sector providers and community groups, (with external grants applied for and distributed by the Council) and wider youth offer delivered independently by third sector and community groups.

The Council Youth Development Service delivery model consists of:

- Universal youth offer from five youth centers
- Detached and outreach youth work; and
- Targeted youth support

Youth Service provision is well placed to contribute towards the following key strategies and plans:

- Community Safety Plan 2020-22 identifying, 'keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime', as one of its key strategic priorities.
- Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020/21 – the prevention and reduction of first-time entrants into youth justice
- North Area Violence Reduction action plan and the emerging public health approach to reduction of Serious Youth Violence
- The Children Plan "Empowering Young Enfield", 2021-2025

Main Considerations for the Council

6. Overview of resourcing of youth services, youth work programmes and the impact of the pandemic on the youth services

6.1 Overview of resourcing of youth services

Table 1 highlights an overview of the core Council's funding for Youth Services, which has seen the budget reduced in almost half in the last five years. Note the core funding has been boosted through the NEXUS funding and summer university programme from 2019 onwards.

Table 1

	MTFP Budget Growth				Other grants in addition to core funds	
	PAYP-summer		subject to Council approval	Total core budget		
	YS core fund	university				
2016/17	£664,720	£48,530		£713,250		
2017/18	£156,390	£0		£156,390		
2018/19	£174,420	£39,720		£214,140		
2019/20	£315,640	£110,000		£425,640	£212,254	
2020/21	£324,470	£80,000		£404,470	£424,508	
2021/22	£324,470	£80,000	£40,000	£444,470	£424,508	

The last decade has seen significant reductions of funding for youth services across the country so this challenge has not been specific to Enfield.

However, the local authority has successfully continued to seek additional funding to leverage the loss of ring-fenced funding to support youth services, see overview in table 2.

The additional funding of £4,385,122 within the last two years enabled by Young Londoners Fund, MOPAC, Police and Public Health would not have been possible without excellent partnership working with a range of statutory and voluntary sector partners. The funding has enabled delivery of a range of targeted youth support to keep young people safe.

Furthermore, the Council has funded the rebuild of Ponders End Youth Centre through the community infrastructure levy of £2.3 million, as part of the wider regeneration programme, due to be completed in spring 2021.

The key priority for the Council and its partners has been to continue delivering youth offer in the context of short-term external funding. This continues to create an environment of uncertainty and militates against long term planning.

Table 2

Funding source	Amount £	Youth Offer funded	Funding timeframe	At risk
Revenue				
Young Londoners Fund	1,300,000	consortium of 23 youth projects	2020-2022	Yes, ends
MOPAC via Community Safety	£304,000	range of targeted youth support prevention projects	2020-21	continues 21/22
Council Social care budget	£87,000	2 fte youth workers in exploitation/edge of care	n/a	Core funding
Council YOS budget	£43,000	funding new Youth Guardian post	from April 2021	Core funding
Council fund for Nexus	£1,000,000	Nexus schools exclusions/youth work	2 years since 2018	Yes, ends Mar 2021
Council Public Health budget	£42,600	social prescribing youth work post	pro rata for 2020/21	extended to Mar 22
Met Police	£115,000	Operation Alliance in youth custody	pro rata for 2020/21	Yes, ends Mar 2021
DfE	£1,493,522	Holiday and food activities programme	2021/22	Yes, Mar 2022
Total	4,385,122			
Capital				
Section 106	£2,300,000	Re-build of Ponders Youth Centre	n/a	One off

6.2 Overview of the youth offer and support to keep young people safe, delivered by Council

There is a diverse range of support and activities provided within the local youth offer to positively engage young people as well as providing early help and intervention to keep young people safe and prevent them from engagement in risky behaviour.

6.2.1 Universal Youth Offer

Youth Centres

Enfield retained its 5 purpose-built Youth Centres that offer open access and targeted youth provision. The Youth Centres are well placed in the areas with high levels of deprivation and serious youth violence, see map below.

Youth Centres provide a mix of open access and targeted youth provision for young people, offering a safe place to go, things to do and support from trusted professionals. Youth work programmes offered from youth centres reflect the following curriculum focus on: developing life skills, confidence and interpersonal skills, healthy relationships, healthy lifestyles, employability skills, provision of information and advice on how to stay safe, weapons awareness sessions, dance and music, access to IT, sport/fitness and motor and bike maintenance.

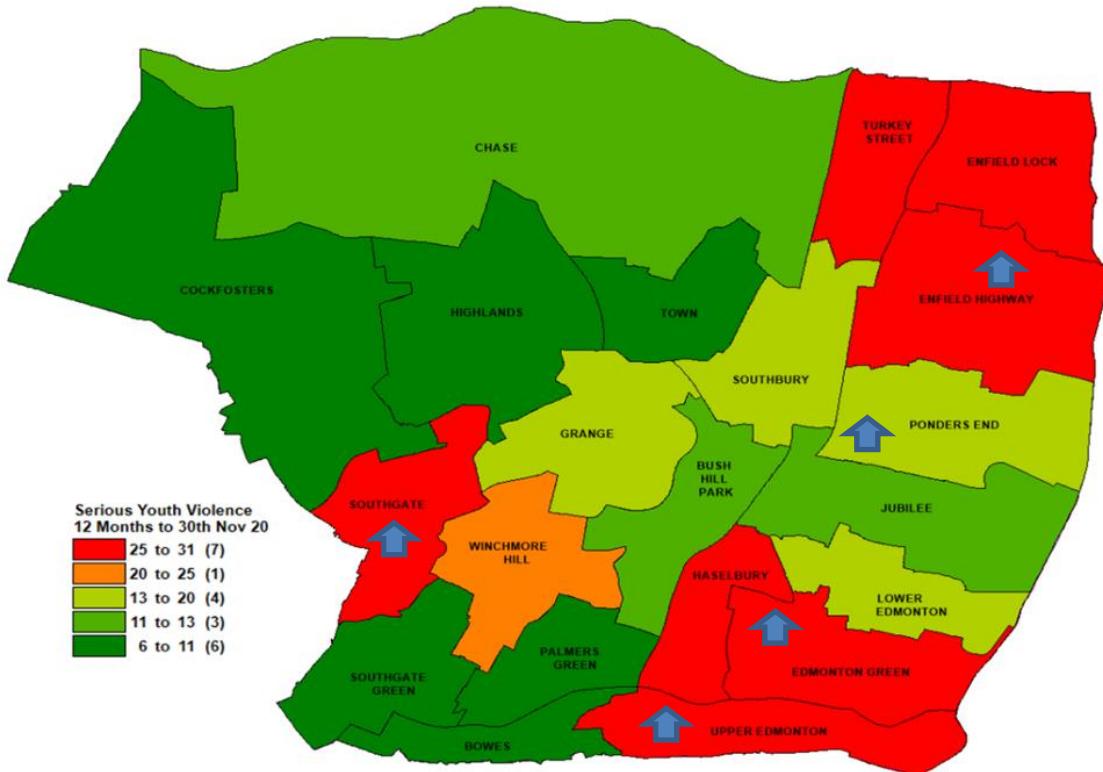


Table 3 offers a summary of the open access youth provision and average attendance, highlighting the use of the five youth centres. Youth Centres are also used by the local community groups managed through the Council's lettings team, maximising the use of these valuable community assets.

Table 3

Youth Centre	Enfield ward	No of average youth work sessions pre Covid per week	Average attendance per week pre Covid
Unity Hub @Craig Park	Upper Edmonton	8	340
Ponders End	Ponders End	12	250
Allen Pullinger	Southgate	4	100
Croyland	Lower Edmonton	3	up to 40
Bell Lane	Enfield Highway	5	75

Summer University

Young people in Enfield have continued to enjoy the Summery University since its inception in 2008 and the subsequent re-launch in 2019, following a pause in its delivery in 2015, due to reductions in funding. The programme offers a diverse range of learning courses and fun activities during the summer holidays such as dance, drama, digital media, drumming, project design, fashion design, cake baking, music video, skin care and photography. The 2020 Summer University provided 93 learning courses, offering 1,986 places and enabling 604 young people to participate. This is an increase of 23.5% from the previous year despite the Covid challenges impacting on the planning and delivery of the programme. This is a unique offer that positively engages young people

and diverts them from boredom and risky behaviour in the most deprived and crime impacted wards of the Borough.

Youth participation

Council continues to support a range of youth engagement mechanisms such as KRATOS (youth forum representing the views and needs of children and young people in care) and Enfield Youth Parliament (representing the needs and views of all young people age 11-19 within the Borough).

6.2.2 Detached and outreach youth work to keep young people safe on streets

The Youth Service delivers regular detached and outreach youth work, targeting identified local hot spots. The targeting of hot spots is informed by intelligence from Police, schools and detached youth work reconnaissance. Detached youth workers positively engage young people on 'their territory' -streets, estates, open spaces and around transport hubs. They provide young people with advice and guidance and signposting to the youth offer and local services, with an overarching focus on keeping young people safe from risk. On average, pre Covid, there would up to 45 detached youth work hours per week delivered seven days a week. During the pandemic, the detached youth work team has supported Police, promoting compliance amongst young people with restrictions and social distancing.

6.2.3 Targeted youth support to vulnerable young people

The Youth Service has trained 12 mentors who provide a structured six-week mentoring support programme to young people. There is a clear referral pathway, targeting young people known to Early Help, Youth Offending and social care services. This service was launched in March 2020 and has received 87 referrals.

The Youth Leadership Academy programme offers a youth leadership skills programme for young people age 13-19, providing young people with AQA accredited training to become young leaders, whilst fostering good citizenship. Once the young people complete the training, they graduate to volunteering placements within youth clubs and projects. Young leaders participate in youth proofing new policies, strategies, commissioning activities such as Summer University and recruitment. Over 73 young leaders have been recruited and trained between 2019/20.

New post of social prescribing youth worker has been jointly developed between Youth Development Service and Public Health and recruited to in January 2021 to improve health and wellbeing of young people through a social prescribing approach, signposting young people to activities and services that support well-being.

6.2.4 Targeted youth support offer commissioned out by Youth Development Service and externally funded

Following the successful funding application to the Young Londoners Fund for Inspiring Young Enfield, Enfield Youth Development Service has received £1,326,588 in January 2020 to deliver a programme of 23 interconnected projects aimed at engaging young people age 10-12 who may be at risk of exclusion or involvement in criminal activity. The programme offers a range of projects including mentoring support, learning opportunities and access to sports, arts, dance, drama and culture activities and activities that promote employability. It is delivered via a consortium approach of 20 community partners led by the Enfield Youth Development Service who lead on the delivery of the programme.

6.3. Youth support delivered through partnership approach, including commissioned work to keep young people safe

In October 2020, a new pilot, Operation Alliance, has been launched and funded by the Metropolitan Police. The project is delivered in partnership with Haringey and Enfield Councils, Oasis Hadley and the Children Society. Enfield Youth Development Service has been active in developing this new initiative that places outreach youth workers in Wood Green custody suite to provide support, mentoring and signposting to support services within the community to every young person that comes into custody.

The Community Safety Partnership has continued to attract funding from the MOPAC and this has contributed to the strengthening of the targeted youth support offer to keep young people safe. There has been a diverse range of youth projects funded as part of the crime prevention and reduction of serious youth violence delivered by third sector partners including:

- An A&E project which includes outreach youth workers with mental health focus who offer support to young people who are presented in the A&E Department as victims of serious youth violence. This is a shared project with Haringey. The latest monitoring data highlight that over 115 Enfield young people have accessed support during quarter 3 in 2020/21, with the average age being 15.
- 96 different courses and workshop placements were delivered by Oasis Hadley to young people to enhance their employability skills including the motor project, bike project, music project, money management course, CV writing, cooking and hairdressing.
- Diversionary activities such as boxing, gym sessions and life skills courses were offered from Ponders End Youth Centre and delivered by the Youth Service in conjunction with Joe Morris Legacy Boxing Club Foundation, engaging over 75 young people in quarter 3 in 2020/21.
- The Youth Offending service have employed a Youth Violence practitioner, delivering group work programmes to young people at risk of re-offending and those involved in serious youth violence and gangs. The intervention helps young people at high risk to recognise the impact of offending on their lives, whilst developing their capacity to stay safe from harm. The programme helps young

people set clear goals to help them to rehabilitate and gives them problem solving skills, as well as challenging their self-limiting beliefs. 75 young people have participated in the group programmes during quarter 3 in 2020/21.

- Commissioning St Giles worker, offering intensive mentoring to young people involved in gangs and county lines, providing support and assistance with gangs/exploitation exit routes whilst helping young people to stay safe from harm. 20 young people have been supported during quarter 3 2020/21.
- Spark2life have been enabled to deliver 6-7-week blocks of accredited learning programme to schools, supporting young people at risk of gangs, exploitation and offending. The programme focuses on improving young people's aspirations, interpersonal communication skills and their ability to resolve conflict. It gives young people an understanding of the red flags which can lead to exploitation, as well as an understanding of prejudice and bullying.

Furthermore, the Council commissions delivery other targeted services such as young people's substance misuse service through Compass, providing assessment, screening, treatment and support for young people misusing drugs and alcohol.

6.4 Other youth programme and activities to keep young people safe delivered by other services within People directorate

The NEXUS programme, funded by the Council and led by Secondary Behaviour Support Service, has been in operation since April 2019. The key aim of the programme is to reduce school exclusions, as they present a significant risk factor for young people becoming victims or perpetrators of serious youth violence and exploitation. The programme has been delivered through a diverse range of outreach and targeted youth support projects including third sector commissioned providers, to a range of Schools. During the three years preceding the launch of NEXUS, there was an average of 56 permanent exclusions per academic year and this has fallen to 21 and 19 respectively during the two years the project has been operational, showing the significant impact the project has made on preventing exclusions.

Children's social care have funded youth work posts, with youth workers working alongside social workers, providing support and mentoring to children and young people at risk of coming to care and those who are exploited.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) has developed a new post of Youth Guardian to work alongside the YOS case workers to support young people at high risk of re-offending and harm. The post is currently subject to recruitment.

6.5 Capacity building and support for Enfield voluntary sector and wider Youth Offer

Enfield has a thriving voluntary sector of local community groups that contribute towards wider youth offer available for young people. Council invests:

£30,000 per annum to fund capacity building and support for local voluntary sector groups with focus on youth. The Contract is delivered by the ECYPS (Enfield Children and Young People Service) and is currently being re-commissioned. There is a wider Youth Offer available for young people that is led and funded by other partners, for example:

- Provision of holiday clubs and activities for young people delivered by private sector of providers
- Uniformed groups such as Scouts, Girl Guiding, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, RAF Cadets and Police Cadets; and
- Sports and leisure activities delivered through Active Enfield

6.3 Impact of the Covid pandemic

Young people have faced some of the most difficult challenges in recent history due to the COVID-19 pandemic – not being able to see their friends, go into school or university, attend their youth clubs or have the usual opportunities to experience new things.

Throughout the pandemic the Youth Service has continued to deliver and adapt the youth offer to meet the needs of young people whilst complying with government's restrictions.

The first national lockdown in March 2020 required the Youth Development Service to cease all its universal youth offer. In order to deal with the unprecedented times, a new initiative, 'call a youth worker', was introduced, providing a dedicated phone service for young people to talk to their youth workers during the normal opening times of the youth centre.

Throughout all lockdowns, the Youth Development Service has continued to deliver detached and outreach youth work, supporting the Police and Community Safety team to promote social distancing and compliance. This has enabled a softer approach to enforce the government's guidance. The detached youth work re-commenced in May 2020 and targeted 8 different areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour and crime hotspot, seven days a week - Upper Edmonton, Edmonton Green, Pymms Park, Fore Street, Enfield Highway and Southgate. From March 2020 to January 2021, detached youth workers have contacted over 1,200 young people.

Youth Centres were closed in the initial phase of the pandemic and prioritised for re-opening in a Covid secure way during the summer to enable delivery of targeted youth support to vulnerable young people, including those involved in offending. Every activity delivered within youth centres during the pandemic has been robustly risk-assessed to ensure young people and staff are kept safe.

Mentoring and one to one support continued to be provided virtually throughout the lockdowns during the pandemic.

It has been inevitable that the pandemic has impacted on some of the planned youth work programmes presenting delays and practical challenges such as Inspiring Young Enfield programme.

The Council has recently received DfE funding of up to £1,493,520 for the delivery of Holiday and Food activities programme for children on free school meals to overcome

the hardship during school holidays. The Youth Service will be co delivering some of the programme in 2021 alongside schools and holiday activities providers. This additional funding will enable the scaling up of the successful Summer University, reaching more disadvantaged young people.

Investment has been made into procuring an online platform to enable the delivery of the Summer University through the provision of online learning courses and the ability to book courses remotely rather than through face to face in Youth Centres, as was the case in previous years. Following the success of using the on line portal for the Summer University, the online portal has been further adapted to host some of the Inspiring Young Enfield programme. Building on the success of the digitalisation of youth work, the service aspires to expand the use of the portal to host a one stop shop overview of all activities available in Enfield, including the new Holiday and Food Activities programme. <https://youthenfield.taptub.co.uk/>

Safeguarding Implications

7. The Youth Services and local youth offer make a significant contribution to the safeguarding of vulnerable adolescents through the provision of early help and intervention, preventing safeguarding concerns emerging in the first instance and preventing their escalation into statutory services.

Public Health Implications

8. A strong youth offer is critical to the public health approach of tackling serious youth violence. The lack of well-located community assets, youth provision, opportunities to talk to trusted professionals and the risk of school's exclusion are identified as potential risk factors linked to increasing level of serious youth violence.

Equalities Impact

9. The Enfield youth population is diverse. Children and young people from BAME backgrounds are disproportionately involved in the youth justice system and impacted by serious youth violence. Having an attractive youth offer and targeted youth support as part of early help that reflects the diverse range of needs of the local youth demographic is important, given the Council's commitment to inclusion and diversity reflected within Fairer Enfield.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

10. N/A

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

11. N/A

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

12. N/A

Financial Implications

13. Financial sustainability of the local youth offer is a significant challenge given the temporary nature on much of the current funding, as noted in section 6.1 of this report.

Legal Implications

14. Local authorities (LAs) have a statutory duty to secure sufficient youth services and activities for young people aged 13-19, as is reasonably practicable, as noted in the section 5 of this report.

Workforce Implications

15. N/A

Property Implications

16. N/A

Other Implications

17. N/A

Options Considered

18. N/A

Conclusions

19. This report highlights a strong and diverse youth offer in Enfield, provided by the Council's Youth Development Service and wider partners. Whilst the funding and resourcing of youth services has been national as well as local challenge, the Council and partners have made tremendous effort to maximise existing resources and attract additional funding.

The key priorities for Council and wider partnership going forward are:

- consolidating and cementing a strong local youth offer that meets local needs and builds on the evidence of what works, focussing on the emerging public health approach to reducing serious youth violence
- continuing to maximise the use of Youth Centres as community assets alongside detached and outreach youth work; and
- focusing on unlocking the funding potential within the wider partnership landscape whilst developing a sustainable approach to resourcing the youth offer.

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Date of report: 23rd February 2021

Appendices: N/A

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: