

# Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel Briefing

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<u>1 December 2020</u>
<b>To</b>	<u>Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel</u>
<b>Title</b>	<u>Empowering Young Enfield 2021-2025 (Draft Children and Young People's Plan)</u>
<b>Project Sponsor</b>	<u>Tony Theodoulou, Director of People</u>
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<b>Purpose of briefing</b>	<p>This briefing provides an overview of Enfield's new draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) – Empowering Young Enfield.</p> <p>The Corporate Strategy Service are seeking feedback and comments on the draft CYPP from the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel.</p>

## **Background**

Empowering Young Enfield - Enfield's new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), once completed, will replace the existing Children's Plan.

Empowering Young Enfield is a four-year plan and is anticipated to start in early 2021, subject to approval by Full Council in January 2021. The CYPP provides an overarching strategic direction for how the Council will work with and support children and young people, families, local services and our wider partnerships to achieve the very best outcomes for children and young people, as they transition to adulthood.

Empowering Young Enfield is an ambitious plan, and we will need to work in a smart, coordinated and collaborative way to maximise the financial resources needed to deliver a lifetime of opportunities to children and young people in Enfield.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services has been briefed throughout the process of drafting the new Plan.

### ***Relevance to the Council Plan***

How we support and empower children and young people is an essential part of our work to create a lifetime of opportunity for everyone in Enfield. Our vision is that every child and young person is safe, healthy and happy. They will be empowered with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to raise their ambitions and achieve their goals as they grow up.

## **Developing the new plan**

### ***Putting the voices of children and young people at the heart of our CYPP***

To inform the development of Empowering Young Enfield, we carried out a significant engagement programme during the Spring term through schools, to hear the views and ideas of children and young people in the borough.

We invited primary schools, secondary schools (including sixth forms) and special schools, to engage with their pupils about a range of topics, to better understand what they like about living in Enfield, what they don't like and how they would improve things. Children and young people also told us about their goals for the future and what help they will need to achieve them.

This project represents Enfield Council's largest youth engagement exercise for the purpose of developing a strategy, policy or plan and acts as an important pilot for future work of this kind.

### ***Engagement Approach***

Lesson plans and toolkits were developed with the advice of education professionals from Enfield County School for Girls, George Spicer Primary and Brimsdown Primary. The engagement sessions were then delivered by teaching staff, who utilised the materials to generate discussions with children and young people, concerning the following seven themes:

1. Safety
2. Education and Learning
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Equalities and Empowerment
5. Leisure (and Play)
6. Culture and Community
7. Climate Emergency.

Initially, fourteen schools, consisting of 11 primary schools, 2 secondary schools (including the PRU) and one special school registered their interest in taking part. However, work commenced during Spring 2020 and whilst impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, **over 900 children and young people** took part in the engagement sessions through the following 5 schools:

- Delta Primary School
- Enfield County School for Girls including their sixth form
- Hazelwood School
- Prince of Wales Primary School
- St Andrew's CofE Primary School

To make sense of the large volume of qualitative data collected during the engagement, we utilised a thematic framework coding approach. This enabled us to break down/code complex issues into a series of themes and subthemes. A comprehensive engagement report was then produced by the Corporate Strategy Service and presented to People DMT. The findings of the engagement and quotes from children and young people are included throughout the Empowering Young Enfield draft.

### ***Drafting the new CYPP***

In addition to the evidence gathered during our engagement sessions with children and young people, we have also developed the draft based on evidence shared by children and young people with our independent Poverty and Inequality Commission, local evidence of need, research, best practice and statutory guidance for achieving the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

Furthermore, the Corporate Strategy Service have worked with colleagues from across the council during the drafting process. This approach has ensured that Empowering Young Enfield is a comprehensive and ambitious plan, which considers the many services that support children and young people to have the best possible start in life, through to their successful transition to adulthood.

## **The draft Children and Young People's Plan – An overview**

Empowering Young Enfield has 6 main priorities, each with a series of sub-headings and targeted actions that will be important to ensure we deliver on our ambitious plan:

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

- Work together to uphold the rights of every child and young person in Enfield and empower more children, young people and families to share their views to shape their borough
- Improve communication so that children and young people can always access the information they need, when they need it and in a variety of accessible formats
- Work together to tackle inequality and make Enfield a fairer place
- Celebrate the diversity, culture and heritage of our community and ensure that children and young people are supported to participate and make a positive contribution

### **Priority 2: Children and young people can thrive through effective early help, good housing and accessible and inclusive services and public places**

- Make sure families can access universal preventative support and effective early help
- Children and young people live in good homes in well-connected areas
- Provide welcoming and relevant youth services to help young people thrive
- Provide inclusive and accessible public spaces and activities for all children and young people

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

- Support every child to have the best start in life
- Work with young people, families and our partners to promote better choices about their physical health, emotional well-being and mental health as early as possible
- Deliver healthier neighbourhoods and places where children, young people and families can easily make healthy food choices stay physically active and maintain a healthy weight.

### **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**

- Ensure that children benefit from their entitlement to an early education and are ready for school by age 5
- Children and young people have access to an excellent education

- Support and inspire young people to plan for the future and to develop and access the skills they need for life and the world of work

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

- Deliver excellent social care services to children who need them to improve their life chances
- Work together to protect children and young people from crime and exploitation
- Support looked after children and care leavers to prepare for adulthood
- Support children, young people and their families to live together safely and harmoniously.
- Support children and young people to feel safe walking, cycling and using public transport

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

- Support youth-led climate action in Enfield
- Reduce waste and littering in Enfield
- Improve and enhance the borough's parks, green spaces and waterways for children and young people to enjoy

Finally, the draft plan provides an overview of how we will track and measure the success of Empowering Young Enfield. This is essential to ensure that we are making a positive difference, as we work towards achieving each of the 6 priorities.

## **Contribution to future work**

The engagement carried out as part of this project and the adaptability of the materials developed can provide an important foundation for future projects of this kind across the council. The broad scope of the feedback received from children and young people as part of this project, will be used to inform the development of other relevant council strategies, to support the aims of the refreshed Council Plan 2020 and to help inform how we support communities to recover from the Covid-19 crisis.

## **Governance arrangements**

The Safeguarding Children's Partnership have been identified as the appropriate board for overseeing the successful delivery of the new CYPP.

The Empowering Young Enfield Draft also crucially identifies the importance of the voices of young people as part of the governance and review process for the CYPP, and we want to ensure that young people will have an active role in shaping the plan throughout its lifecycle. As the elected representatives of young people, the Youth Parliament, the Young Mayor and the Deputy Young Mayor will also have the opportunity to review the progress of Empowering Young Enfield with the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Member for Children's Services. They will also be encouraged and supported to make recommendations on behalf of children and

young people to the Safeguarding Children's Partnership during the annual review, to enhance the plan and its delivery.

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## **Monitoring and evaluating progress**

Our ambition is to deliver a lifetime of opportunity for every child and young person in Enfield. To ensure that we are making a positive difference, we will be keeping track of our progress, as we work towards achieving each of the six priorities. This is important, so that we can identify any areas that might need to be improved and to recognise where we're making a positive impact.

The CYPP covers a wide range of services delivered by the council, and we will draw together analysis, data and performance management from a variety of relevant policies, strategies and their action plans. This includes our new Council Plan 2020-2022 and the different strategies signposted throughout Empowering Young Enfield.

We will assess and keep track of our progress by using the Council's Corporate Scorecard. The Corporate Scorecard is the tool we use to measure delivery against the council's key priorities. To do this, we use a range Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) including those, which specifically focus on improving the lives of children and young people in Enfield. We record the information on a quarterly basis (every three months) and then once a year we publish a report on the Council website.

As part of the annual review process of Empowering Young Enfield we will publish an annual report to outline our progress on delivering against the priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **Finalising Empowering Young Enfield**

We have recently concluded a small number of targeted engagement sessions, with young people, parents and carers, which took place in October 2020, to seek their feedback on the draft. This included focus groups and feedback from the following groups:

- Parents and carers who are members of the Parent Engagement Network
- Members of Enfield Youth Parliament
- Young people who take part in the Young Leaders Programme
- Young people who attend the Very Important People Services (VIPS). The VIPS is a skills and activity hub working with children and young adults with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
- Young People who attend SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service)

To ensure we opened this opportunity up to those outside the identified groups, we also shared the draft with Headteachers at the 14 schools, consisting of 11 primary schools, 2 secondary schools (including the PRU) and one special school, that had

initially registered their interest in taking part in the first phase of engagement. This included the 5 schools that shared the views of their pupils with us in the spring term of 2020. This was an important step to feedback to the schools and their pupils that helped contribute to the development of the draft, and to offer them the opportunity to share their comments.

To ensure we captured the feedback of our partners in the borough, the draft has also been presented to the following groups for comment:

1. Safeguarding Children's Partnership
2. Vulnerable Young People Meeting
3. Voluntary Sector Strategy Group (VSSG)
4. Corporate Parenting Board (scheduled 22 December 2020)

**Next steps:**

1. We are now in the process of refining and finalising the draft, following the conclusion of targeted focus groups and based on feedback gathered from our partners. Feedback received from the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Panel is an important part of this process.

3. In line with the Constitution, Empowering Young Enfield will be subject to approval by Full Council in January 2021.

**Attached Papers:** Empowering Young Enfield (Draft Children and Young People's Plan)

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