

Briefing for Cllr Erbil, Associate Cabinet Member

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Subject **Serious Youth Violence and Youth Safety: Update on Enfield Council Strategies and Initiatives**

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Executive Summary

This briefing provides an update on Enfield Council corporate strategies and initiatives for addressing serious youth violence and keeping children and young people in Enfield safe. These strategies and initiatives are also benchmarked against the new Islington Youth Safety Strategy.

Background

Enfield Council has produced a number of key strategies in recent years which provide a vision and approach for how we keep our young residents safe. These strategies outline how we deliver services for young people which keep them safe and healthy, from safeguarding, to education, to youth offending. Enfield despite a 23% reduction in the last 12 months still has the highest number of SYV victims. It is important to recognise that we have the 4th highest number of young people resident on the borough also.

Enfield Council Strategies

The Safer and Stronger Communities (SSCB) Plan

The strategy refresh was approved in November 2020 and has retained the priority of “keeping young people safe and reducing their risks from crime” for a further 2 years. (see attached)

A number of recommendations are included, which reflect the breadth of the work being delivered.

Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation Strategy 2019 – 2022

The Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation Strategy was approved by the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board in 2019. The strategy sets out how the Council will prevent and tackle all forms of exploitation including child sexual exploitation, children and young people exposed to exploitation through gang involvement, county lines, trafficking and serious youth violence, radicalisation and the prevent agenda and finally children missing from home or education.

Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission Report and Action Plans

The report makes a series of recommendations which provide local solutions for the causes of poverty and inequality in Enfield. There is a clear link between poverty and serious youth violence and therefore addressing the causes of poverty and inequality is integral to tackling serious youth violence. The report makes a variety of recommendations which seek to address the causes of serious youth violence. Progress on these recommendations are being monitored through the Action Plans.

Draft Empowering Young Enfield Plan 2021 – 2025

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. It 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 will go to Full Council in January 2021.

Draft Enfield Early Help For All Strategy 2020 – 2024

Early help is one of the cross-cutting themes of the refreshed Council Plan 2020-22. The Early Help For All Strategy sets out how we will join up services across the Council and work with our partners to enhance resident's access to a range of co-ordinated prevention-based services. This will provide people with the support they need to build on their strengths and become more resilient, by ensuring that they have access to the help and support they need as early as possible. The strategy will go to Full Council in February 2021.

Draft Enfield Serious Youth Violence Plan

The Public Health team drafting new Serious Youth Violence Plan for the borough. A public health approach to youth violence means looking at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a police enforcement problem. Instead, this approach looks at violence as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences. The plan will be considered by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board in 2021.

Benchmarking with Islington Council Initiatives

Islington Council have produced a Youth Safety Strategy which takes a 'whole system' approach, requiring joined working between agencies to promote youth safety. The objectives of the strategy are:

- Protect children and young people from violence, abuse and exploitation
- Foster stronger and safer communities, public spaces and schools
- Safeguard children and young people and support families, parents and carers
- Build the resilience of Islington's children and young people
- Secure school inclusion and maximise academic and vocational achievement
- Addressing inequality and disproportionality within the youth and criminal justice system
- Reduce re-offending for those children and young people who have become more persistent in their offending behaviours
- Empower communities to create a safer environment for all, but especially for children

Islington has adopted a number of initiatives (in blue) to achieve these objectives. These are bench marked against Enfield initiatives:

1. Using information to identify families who may need more support, and targeting robust support at individuals who are likely to re-offend, before they start doing so.

Enfield Council's Early Help Family Hub is made up of the Change and Challenge Service, Parenting Support Service and Children's Centres. We ensure that the needs of the families are responded to collaboratively with professionals working as part of a Team Around the Family (TAF). Between 01 April 2019 and 31 March 2020, a total of 1,652 referral assessments were accepted by the Early Help Family Hub. This represents a 33% increase on the previous year. The percentage of families making an improvement because of Early Help interventions remains high, with 100% seeing some improvement and an average improvement in more than half of the areas supported.

A targeted community outreach programme has been implemented in youth violence hotspot areas, engaging with 389 young people from September 2019 to March 2020. One of the tangible outcomes of this engagement has been a reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents in and around local shops. We are also engaging with schools leads and outreach workers who are working in the community on after school patrols, helping to reduce incidents after school.

What other support is available to prevent re-offending and how are we targeting those likely to re-offend?

2. Establishing a Youth Safety Delivery Group, co-chaired by a young person, to keep track of progress and drive improvements, hand-in-hand with community partners and statutory organisations

Which group or board within the Council is responsible for tracking progress with addressing serious youth violence?

The Council continues to work together with the police as part of the North Area Violence Reduction Group to share plans on tackling youth violence and Public Health are supporting Children's Services to develop our public health approach to tackling youth violence.

3. Working with the London Violence Reduction Unit to help parents and carers keep their children safe and improve their peer support networks

The London Violence Reduction Unit is chaired by the Mayor and meets every six weeks. It is made up of representatives from community groups and specialists in health, education, police, probation and local government. Islington Council and Greenwich Council are the two London borough representatives in the Unit.

We are supporting community consortia bids to the new Violence Reduction Unit Fund to further enhance youth provision to reduce serious youth violence.

4. Extending social, emotional and mental health support services up to 25-year-olds, so appropriate support is available in the transition to adulthood;

The Early Help For All Strategy sets out a commitment to increase access to mental health support both online and face to face for those in schools.

In October 2019 we launched a new Mental Health Support Team in Schools, funded by NHS England and Health Education England. This pilot project is under the Trailblazer Programme, linked to the 2017 Green Paper to transform children and young people's mental health support in England. The team delivers three core functions:

- Evidence-based interventions for mild to moderate mental health and emotional wellbeing concerns
- Support to senior mental health leads in schools to develop a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Timely advice and signposting to schools.

This project will be implemented across 40 schools in the spring term and a business case is being developed to continue the service beyond September 2021.

Implementation of 'Inspiring Young Enfield' (£1.3m Young Londoners Fund project) is progressing, with a tailored programme of community-based and inter-connected support, coordinated by the local authority, that can help address four areas of priority to help young people make the best life choices. These centre on:

- Education, Training and Employment and Creativity
- Physical health and wellbeing
- Emotional and Mental Health Support
- Family Support Work.

Providers have adapted their provision during restrictions resulting from the pandemic, with support and activities taking place online where it cannot safely take place face to face. Over 500 young people have already engaged in activities provided through this fund, despite the challenge of the pandemic.

5. Working to keep children and young people in school and maximising academic and vocational achievement

Our Behaviour Support Services' (BSS) provides holistic support to prevent students from becoming subject to permanent exclusions. This includes ongoing support to schools to identify early signs of vulnerability and work closely with the pupil, parents and teachers to provide bespoke support. BSS helps the identified students to receive one to one mentoring and support both. They have managed to continually reduce the number of permanent exclusions which is 33 for academic year 2019/20 (pre-COVID-19) a 23% reduction from 58 exclusions the previous year.

Youth services are also responding to the impact of the pandemic on children and young people and working to address the mental health needs which could lead to increased risk of exclusion. 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.

The Council has launched its Youth Bubble, providing array of free activities over the months of November to April. Young people aged 11–19 (up to 25 with a learning difficulty or disability) who live, work or study in Enfield can choose from dozens of free courses that will be held all over the borough. Children and young people can sign up themselves or a professional can refer a young person.

6. Screening a powerful and educational knife crime prevention film in secondary schools, produced by the Love and Loss group of bereaved families

Enfield Council has previously funded the showing of films and performances in schools as a way of engaging with young people on issues affecting young people such as knife crime and child sexual exploitation.

7. Addressing inequality and disproportionality within the youth and criminal justice system and beyond.

How does the Council address identified inequalities within the youth and criminal justice system? Is the work which the Youth Offending Unit undertakes?

Further Enfield Council Initiatives to Address Serious Youth Violence

Are there any other live initiatives to include which aren't covered above?

Next Steps

What are our next steps to monitor the success of our initiatives in Enfield and how will we identify future actions that are required to address youth violence in Enfield?