

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 Troubadour 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.

Report Author: Harriet Potemkin
Head of Policy and Strategy
harriet.potemkin@enfield.gov.uk

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](#)