

# Update on Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission

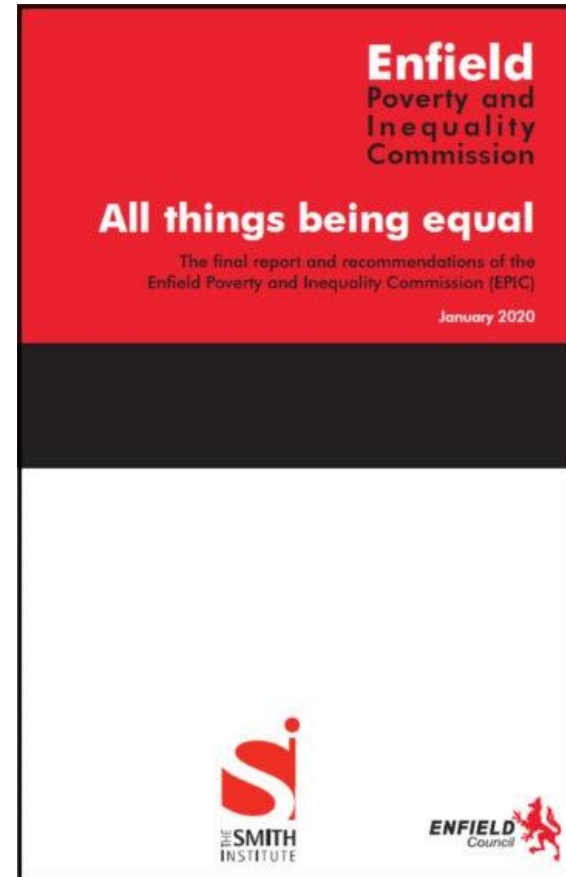
Update to Health and Wellbeing Board  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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# Poverty and Inequality Commission

- Enfield Council set up time limited commission in May 2019
- Report published in January 2020 with 27 recommendations
- Huge impact of the pandemic since then
- Good progress in first year and a plan action for 2021/22



# Context

- 10 of Enfield's Neighbourhoods are in the top 10% of the most Deprived in England (19/20)
- Enfield's Deprivation Ranking is 74 in list of 317 local authorities in England (2019/20)
- The Total Claimant Count has risen from 7,715 in 2019/20 to 19,265 in Q2 2020/21
- 17.1% of all households in Enfield are Workless Households (19/20)
- Since the report published
  - levels of serious youth violence have decreased
  - Fixed period and permanent exclusions have decreased
  - Numbers of young people who are 'NEET' has reduced

# Recommendation 1

- **Government departments should review funding formulas to account for emerging geographic patterns of increased poverty and deprivation in outer London boroughs such as Enfield**
  - The Government's Fair Funding Review into how councils are funded has been delayed once again. In response, a new Fair Funding Campaign for Enfield was launched by the Council with local support in January 2021 accompanied by a letter to the Chancellor urging Government to reconsider the decision to increase council tax and escalate the fair funding review.

**Living**

# Recommendation 2

- **When regenerating housing estates that are not fit for habitation/ purpose, planning should be granted on the provision that the finished site provides additional genuinely affordable homes.**
  - We are on track to deliver at least 3,500 new additional decent and affordable homes owned by the Council by 2030 and are working with registered providers so that many more will be created for Enfield residents.
  - During 2019/20, 81 net additional affordable homes were permitted through the planning process. A net additional 118 affordable homes were built, of which 97 were council or housing association homes for social rent.

# Recommendation 3

- **The Council should work with partners to reform the private rented sector so that it works for all residents.**
  - Our additional licensing scheme went live in 2020, with the Selective licensing scheme to follow once it is approved by Government.
  - Our new Housing Advisory Service launched in 2020 and includes a dedicated team to improve relationships between tenants and landlords.
  - During 2020 our council-owned company Housing Gateway purchased an additional 18 homes, helping to drive up standards in the private rental market.

# Recommendation 4

- **The Council should work with their partners, especially the voluntary sector, to take an early intervention approach to preventing housing problems.**
  - New Welfare Advice and Debt Support Team has supported over 2,600 residents to get access to all the income and benefits they are entitled to
  - Citizens Advice Enfield has supported 2,961 residents with housing advice.
  - New Housing Advisory Service launched in September 2020
  - Successfully supported over 400 households at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation since January 2020.
  - Housed 319 people in emergency accommodation as part of the Everyone In scheme
  - Supported 147 of those to move on into settled accommodation.



# Recommendation 5

- **The NHS should fund a new integrated health and wellbeing centre led by the CCG and the North Middlesex University Hospital Trust to meet the needs of people out of hours and those not registered with a GP and provide out of hours access for mental health services.**
  - The Masterplan for the redevelopment of North Middlesex University Hospital includes potential for a new primary care centre on the site. Enfield Council is supporting this through our discussion with health partners and the GLA.

# Recommendation 6

- **The Council, health providers and the voluntary and community sector should work together to enable increased use of social prescribing to improve public health for residents in the east of the Borough.**
  - Enfield Voluntary Action (EVA) is delivering a social prescribing programme with community groups to raise awareness and understanding of social prescribing and has recruited 20 health champions and five ‘Link Workers’ to help connect people to activities.
  - Youth Alive is a new social prescribing project which was launched with Enfield Voluntary Action, Oasis Hadley, Focus CIC, and Chickenshed in 2020. This programme for 10 to 19 year olds, encourages young people to look after their wellbeing, develop resilience and build confidence, by taking part in physical activities.

# Recommendation 7

- **The VCS, supported by the Council, should create a Food Action Plan for Enfield, to ensure all families have access to healthy food.**
  - 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 which continues with our VCS partners.
  - Launched £1.1million programme to ensure those who get FSM and families on low incomes have access to food during Christmas holidays; and worked with partners to deliver 6 food collection hubs, providing 480 vulnerable families with food.
  - Supporting 8,000 residents now considered *Clinically Extremely Vulnerable* to access assistance from the Council including food, medicines and support for those struggling with loneliness.

# 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.**
  - 17 playstreets in Enfield, 3 of which are in the East of the Borough.
  - In 2021, we will work with local communities to encourage more play streets in the east of the borough through new funding initiatives, communications and partnership.
  - 12 school streets, 8 of which are in the East of the borough.

# Recommendation 9

- **A whole-community approach should be taken to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in hotspots, with the Council and the Police working together to make public spaces safe to use for people of all ages.**
  - A targeted community outreach programme that engaged with 389 young people from September 2019 to March 2020 has led to a reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents in and around local shops.
  - The successful installation of CCTV in Pymmes Park in July 2020 has also led to a 46% reduction in reported crime in this hotspot area in July/August 2020 compared to May/June 2019.

# Recommendation 10

- **The Police should revamp the ‘safer schools’ programme for the Borough’s schools.**
  - The council and schools have worked with the Met police to support the delivery of the ‘safer schools’ programme in the borough.
  - Productions of Chelsea’s Choice and County Lines have been delivered in 40 schools across 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. Prioritise investment in universal youth services and targeted outreach youth workers**
  - 5,788 young people participated in sessions through the “Inspiring Young Enfield” programme and 604 young people attended Summer University
  - 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.
  - Launched our [Youth Bubble](#) website, which provides information on free activities between November 2020 to April 2021
  - Supporting community bids to all available national, regional and local funding opportunities to further enhance youth provision.

# Learning



# Recommendations 12

- **The Council, education providers and the voluntary and community sector should work together to ensure that all Enfield's children are 'school-ready'.**
  - Invested £150k from the DSG to increase the provision of statutory Speech and Language Services to meet demands.
  - The Early Years pathway was re-designed following an independent review of the Speech and Language Service in 2019
  - Launched a new "Terrific Twos" campaign to encourage eligible families to take up their free early years places.

# Recommendation 13:

- **The Council and local schools should work together to make sure all of Enfield's schools are 'Poverty Proofed'.**
  - During Covid-19 restrictions, our Education Service has offered free support to schools to help them to address issues relating to digital and remote learning, including support links, guidance, seminars and resources.
  - Supported families with children eligible for FSM to access vouchers and food collection hubs in the holidays.
  - Working with schools to develop a new Inclusion Charter and with our partners to create a new SEND strategy and Autism Strategy.
  - In 2021, we will focus on working with partners to tackle low literacy and digital exclusion and promote the DfE Period Product Scheme

# Recommendations 14 and 15

- **The Council should maximise the use of libraries to mitigate overcrowding and enhance learning.**
  - During Covid-19 restrictions, we have adapted our library service to support people isolating at home, increase our digital offer and safely open our 4 hub libraries.
  - 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
- **The Council should work with schools to set a target to reduce the use of fixed-term and permanent exclusions.**
  - Behaviour Support Service provided support to schools to identify early signs of vulnerability and working closely with the pupil, parents and teachers to provide bespoke support – decrease in exclusions
  - Implemented the Mental Health Support Team in 40 schools during 2021 and exploring opportunities to identify and secure funding to develop Enfield Trauma Informed Practice in Schools.

# 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.**
  - Enfield Voluntary Action, in partnership with Workers Education Association implemented the Together We Learn ESOL Programme between September 2019 and March 2020, benefitting 130 adults.
  - Successful £260k bid to MHCLG for a new ESOL programme which began in autumn 2020 and has been extended until June 2021.

# 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.**
  - Offer a work experience package as part of our traded service with 50% of schools buying back this service.
  - Developing 2 new skills academies as part of Meridian Water:
    - Meridian Water Construction Skills Academy will provide visits, training, apprenticeships and work placements in construction.
    - Troubadour Meridian Water Studios Film and TV Skills Academy, which will provide training and work experience to people interested in technical skills for tv and film.
  - Through our supported internship programme, we are encouraging departments to take on supported interns and working with employers to provide high quality placements.

# Earning

# Recommendation 18

- **Poverty reduction should be at the heart of the Council's new economic development strategy, which should set a target to reduce low pay within the Borough.**
  - We have brought housing repairs, cleaning services and grounds maintenance for cemeteries back in-house, providing a Living Wage to 176 employees.
  - We are working with the Living Wage Foundation to assist in establishing Meridian Water as a Living Wage Zone. Vistry Partnerships, the developers of Meridian One, are already signed up and committed (also responding to recommendation 23).

# Recommendation 19

- **The Council should work with partners to make it far easier for residents to set up their own businesses and thereby increase their income.**
  - Work has begun to extend the workspace for Building BloQs on the Council-led Meridian Water development which will support up to 1,000 makers and creators across a range of disciplines – engineering, wood, metal, digital and additive technology, paint finishing, and a fashion studio for many years to come.
  - We set up ShopAppy during summer 2020 which provides a single platform for shoppers to browse and buy local products from businesses across Enfield.



# Recommendation 20

- **The Council should work with the voluntary and community sector and statutory partners to increase volunteering opportunities for unemployed adults to boost skills and develop CVs.**
  - Enfield's Volunteer Centre supports local organisations to recruit, train and support volunteers with over 1,687 volunteers registered and 389 residents supported into new volunteering roles during 2020.
  - We also provide volunteer opportunities at the Council in our Library Service and our Youth Offending Team.
  - Working with Enfield's Volunteer Centre and other partners to recruit over 1,000 new volunteers to provide essential supplies and support to local people isolating at home during the pandemic.

# Recommendation 21

- **The Council should work with partners to ensure that residents from diverse backgrounds are supported into high quality jobs and do not face discrimination.**
  - The Job Entry: Targeted Support (JETS) service has been set up in Edmonton and Enfield Town, to offer rapid skills and employment help to people across nine Local London boroughs, delivered by partner Maximus.
  - In partnership with The Job Centre, we have set up the Kickstart Scheme, which is a six-month paid job with a local employer, for 16 to 24 year olds claiming Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.
  - Supported 30 learners on Enfield's supported internship programme for 2020/21, with five learners already having gained employment.
  - Partnered with Vistry and Troubadour to secure two new skills academies at Meridian Water

# Recommendations 22 and 23

- **The Council should hold an annual two-day skills and employment fair at the Lee Valley Regional Park, giving local people the chance to meet a range of potential employers and educational institutions.**
  - Our Economic Development Team have used the opportunity of distributing Covid-19 recovery grants to establish new relationships with local businesses.
- **The Council should work with the Living Wage Foundation and others to make the Meridian Water development a ‘Living Wage Zone’ and use its wider procurement strategy to actively support decent work and fair pay in Enfield, drawing on existing good practice.**
  - We are working with the Living Wage Foundation to assist in establishing Meridian Water as a Living Wage Zone. Vistry Partnerships, the developers of Meridian One, are already signed up and committed to the London Living Wage.

# Recommendation 24

- **The Council should help free the poorest residents from the burden of problem debts by extending access to benefits advice, support around debt and good credit.**
  - We set up a new Welfare Advice and Debt Support Team in March 2020 to support vulnerable residents to get access to all the income and benefits they are entitled to.
  - During the year we supported over 2,600 residents. This helped us pay out over:
    - £35m in Council Tax Support Scheme;
    - £5,330 in crisis payments;
    - £174k in Council Tax Support Hardship Fund payments;
    - and £2.2m in Discretionary Housing Payments to those most in need.

# Recommendation 25

- **The Council should promote the take up of local people's full benefits entitlements so that households receive appropriate benefits and don't get into debt either through under claiming or by receiving overpayments.**
  - The Welfare Advice and Debt team has been supporting residents to claim all that they are entitled to, including access to Healthy Start vouchers. The team have launched a new pilot approach to support increased take-up of Pension Credits.

# Recommendations 26 and 27

- **Working with the Council to deliver shared objectives, the voluntary and community sector should have access to Council buildings at a low cost in a system that is accessible, transparent and easy to navigate.**
  - We have provided concessions to voluntary and community groups affected by the pandemic to alleviate financial pressures when key buildings have been closed.
- **The Council, the voluntary and community sector and local businesses should set up a new initiative to promote local fundraising for the benefit of local people.**
  - We successfully set up a JustGiving page to support the Enfield Stands Together Hub, which raised £23,142; and the Business Response Team have created a crowdfunding page to support small businesses, which has raised £16,450.

# Budget

- **The Enfield Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Fund and the Edmonton Community Chest.**
  - Launch in 2021/22 using resources from Community Infrastructure Levy and from our development partnerships with Meridian Water.
  - Grants will be made available to VCS groups to support community-led projects.
  - Community Chest will focus on Upper Edmonton, Edmonton Green and Lower Edmonton Wards.
- **Enfield Poverty and Inequality Grants Programme**
  - £150,000 grants programme, secured by EVA from the National Lottery, will award grants between £500 to £10,000 to VCS groups to address severe challenges experienced by Enfield residents navigating everyday life.
  - First bidding round closed in February 2021 with 24 successful bids from 47 submitted to EVA

# What next?

- Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission One Year On Update - summary of progress and plans for 2021
- Launch of new funding streams 2021
- Review of KPIs and outcome measures to track progress 2021 onwards



# Questions and Discussion