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Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission

Enfield Council Update: One Year On



Introduction

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.

When their final report was published in January 2020, we could not have predicted the year we had ahead of us and the devastating impact a global pandemic would have on local people, as it has the world over. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are not being felt evenly. We know that there is a strong correlation between poverty and deprivation and Covid-19 mortality rates. The virus and the effects of lockdown have only served to widen the social, economic and health inequalities that already existed in our borough.

The recommendations made by our independent poverty and inequality commission are more relevant than ever – and by working in partnership to deliver them, we can build back a fairer Enfield for the future.

This update provides an overview of the work the Council has done, working with and supported by our partners, since the commission's report was published; and highlights areas of focus for 2021/22.

I am particularly pleased that the recommendations made a year ago have been positively influencing and helping to shape the Council's decision making, with new funding to support recommendations being launched in 2021/22. It is a testament to the resilience of the local authority, our partners and our community that we are able to work together to do so much in such challenging times.

This Enfield Council administration is ambitious and committed to doing all that we can to deliver services that reduce inequality and create a fairer borough. The journey to recovering from this pandemic will not be straightforward and the challenge is great; but I firmly believe we have the resolve and vision to create a lifetime of opportunities for everyone in Enfield.

Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Leader of Enfield Council



Pictured left: Baroness Tyler of Enfield and Cllr Nesil Caliskan at the launch of the Commission report at House of Lords, January 2021. Right: Local launch of the Commission report at Enfield County School, February 2021.

Progress in tackling poverty and inequality during 2020

In the face of huge challenges, we remain committed to driving forward this crucial agenda and we are pleased to report on our positive progress toward addressing many of the Commission's recommendations. Some of our successes are highlighted here.

Living



Recommendation 3

The Council should work with partners to reform the private rented sector so that it works for all residents.

To significantly improve the quality of properties across the private rented sector, our additional licensing scheme went live in 2020. We will be phasing in a selective licensing scheme alongside this, following Government approval which was received in May 2021.

We are increasing our support for people who are at risk of homelessness through the early intervention being taken by our new Housing Advisory Service which launched during 2020, and securing better options for people within the private rented sector. We are helping drive up standards through our Council-owned company Housing Gateway, which has secured an additional 18 homes since January 2020, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

We have successfully supported over 400 households at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation since January 2020. We also housed 319 people in emergency accommodation as part of the Everyone In scheme to protect rough sleepers or those at imminent risk of rough sleeping rough due to Covid-19. We helped 147 of those to move on into settled accommodation.

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.

Enfield Stands Together, launched in response to the pandemic and national lockdown in March 2020, delivered over 79k parcels of food and essential items to isolated people across the borough.

In the Christmas holidays we worked with our community partners to provide families with Paypoint Food Vouchers and created six food collection hubs across the borough,

providing 480 vulnerable families with food. This forms part of the Council's £1.1m programme to make sure those receiving Free School Meals and other families on low income have access to decent food during the holidays. In November 2020 we worked with partners to establish the Enfield Food Alliance, which currently has over 30 member organisations who are working collaboratively to tackle food poverty in Enfield. This has included establishing four food pantries to help residents living in poverty to access nutritious, affordable food and to help address the causes of food poverty.

To help the Food Alliance deliver its objectives, in March 2021, 27 local voluntary, community and faith groups were awarded with small grants for community food projects, totalling £51k. Groups are using this funding in a variety of ways, from purchasing fridges and freezers to delivering cooking skills programmes and creating community food growing gardens.

Recommendation 11

The Council should revitalise youth services in the Borough. Prioritise investment in universal youth services and targeted outreach youth workers.

Between January and December 2020, a total of 5,788 young people participated in 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.

In addition, 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.

Learning



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'.

An additional £150k investment will help us enhance Speech, Language and Communication Services across the borough, including for those in the early years. The focus of this work is on prevention and early intervention.

Recommendation 15

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

Our Behaviour Support Service has worked closely with pupils, parents and teachers to reduce the number of permanent exclusions by 23% compared to last year. This team tackles the causes of exclusion, and is complemented by Youth Services, such as Enfield's Nexus Project. We are supporting children and young people to overcome challenges and increase their mental health and wellbeing through workshops, training and mentoring programmes.

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. This has enabled us to provide the London Living Wage to 176 employees as well as improve rates of customer satisfaction.

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 1, are already signed up and committed.

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 2020/21 we supported over 3,100 residents. This helped us pay out just under £36m in Council Tax Support Scheme; £5,330 in crisis payments; £190k in Council Tax Support Hardship Fund payments; and £3.1m in Discretionary Housing Payments to those most in need.

New funding to support recommendations in 2021/22

The Enfield Neighbourhood Fund and Edmonton Community Chest

These two new grant programmes launch in 2021 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.

Enfield Poverty and Inequality Grants Programme

This £150,000 grants programme, secured by Enfield Voluntary Action from the National Lottery, has awarded 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. Twenty four voluntary and community sector groups were successful in gaining funding through this programme in early 2021.

Summary of progress and plans for the 27 recommendations

Recommendation	Progress	Plans for 2021/22
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Continue to deliver our new Fair Funding Campaign to secure a better deal for Enfield.</p>
<h2>Living</h2>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Begin construction at Meridian Water, with 50% of the 910 new homes planned to be affordable in 'Meridian One'. This will include 230 Council affordable rented homes and 226 shared ownership.</p> <p>Develop a viable offer to residents to regenerate the Joyce and Snell's estate with over 2,000 new, high quality homes in a safe, green and welcoming environment.</p>
<p>3. The Council should work with partners to reform the private rented sector so that it works for all residents.</p>	<p>Our additional licensing scheme went live in 2020, with the Selective licensing scheme to now be phased in alongside this, following Government approval received in May 2021.</p> <p>Our new Housing Advisory Service launched in 2020 and includes a dedicated team to improve relationships between tenants and landlords.</p> <p>During 2020 our council-owned company Housing Gateway purchased an additional 18 homes, helping to drive up standards in the private rental market.</p>	<p>Launch the selective licensing scheme.</p> <p>Increase the number of homes owned and managed by our housing company, Housing Gateway with a target of 100 new homes to be achieved by April 2022.</p>
<p>4. The Council should work with their partners, especially the voluntary sector, to take an early intervention approach to preventing housing problems.</p>	<p>Since March 2020, our new Welfare Advice and Debt Support Team has supported over 3,100 residents to get access to all the income and benefits they are entitled to, while Citizens Advice Enfield has supported over 2,960 residents with housing advice.</p> <p>The new Housing Advisory Service launched in September 2020 to help tackle the causes of homelessness at an earlier stage, working proactively with voluntary and community sector partners through our partnership with Enfield Voluntary Action.</p> <p>We have successfully supported over 400 households at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation since January 2020. We also housed 319 people in emergency accommodation as part of the Everyone In scheme to protect rough sleepers or those at imminent risk of rough sleeping due to Covid-19. We supported 147 of those to move on into settled accommodation.</p>	<p>Increase the early support for residents in tackling issues which could lead to homelessness and decrease the number of households living in temporary accommodation. This will include proactive work with our partners such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Job Centre Plus and other local organisations to identify people early and provide holistic support.</p> <p>Increase the availability of supported accommodation for rough sleepers through partnerships with registered providers.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Work with the North Middlesex University Hospital Trust to secure a new integrated health and wellbeing centre as part of the redevelopment of the site.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Work with our voluntary and community sector partners to increase opportunities for social prescribing activities; and promote further opportunities as they become available.</p>



Recommendation

Progress

Plans for 2021/22

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In the winter, we launched a £1.1m programme to make sure those who get Free School Meals and other families on low income have access to PayPoint vouchers during school holidays; and provided six food collection hubs across the borough in partnership with community groups during the Christmas holidays, providing 480 vulnerable families with food.</p>	<p>Increase our support for families who have not been eligible for previous schemes, but who are on low incomes and struggling.</p> <p>Extend access to food and utilities via foodbanks and charities and support income maximisation through proactive work in the community with the Enfield Food Alliance.</p> <p>Work with the Voluntary and Community Sector to develop a new food and activity programme during school holidays.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>We have successfully launched 12 new school streets since January 2020, eight of which are in the east of the borough.</p>	<p>Increase the number of school streets across the borough, with a target of at least two more new schemes during the year and in subsequent years.</p> <p>Encourage more play streets in the east of the borough through new funding initiatives, communication and partnerships.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Deliver further interventions to address serious youth violence in the borough.</p> <p>Support and facilitate new community-led bids to the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit that could bring a further £750,000 of new funding into the borough.</p>
<p>10. The Police should revamp the 'safer schools' programme for the Borough's schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly brief teaching staff on the local gang risks. Help pupils to protect themselves from being groomed and exploited by criminal gangs. Share 'overnight' information incidents affecting individual pupils with schools in a timely manner, so that schools can respond with appropriate support. Develop 'trauma informed practise' training for teachers, police officers and other professionals working directly with vulnerable children. 	<p>The council and schools have worked with the Met police to support the delivery of the 'safer schools' programme in the borough.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Nexus Project has also been instrumental in keeping children and young people safe from exploitation.</p>	<p>Support the police and our schools in the successful delivery of the safer school partnership.</p> <p>Explore 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.</p>
<p>11. The Council should revitalise youth services in the Borough. Prioritise investment in universal youth services and targeted outreach youth workers.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In addition, 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.</p>	<p>Support community bids to all available national, regional and local funding opportunities to further enhance youth provision.</p> <p>Deliver projects and programmes as part of 'Inspiring Young Enfield' that will see a further £500k+ spent on interventions to support young people.</p> <p>Expand our food and activities holiday programme.</p>



Learning

<p>12. The Council, education providers and the voluntary and community sector should work together to ensure that all Enfield's children are 'school-ready'.</p>	<p>The Council has invested an additional £150k from the Dedicated Schools Grant to increase the provision of speech and language services, focusing on early intervention.</p> <p>We have launched a new "Terrific Twos" campaign to encourage eligible families to take up their free early years places for two- and three-year olds.</p>	<p>Further improve and enhance Speech, Language and Communication Services across the borough.</p> <p>Track the impact of our new Terrific Twos Campaign to ensure an increased take up of free early years places for two- and three- year olds.</p>
<p>13. The Council and local schools should work together to make sure all of Enfield's schools are 'Poverty Proofed' with a focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore a uniform grant and encourage schools to set up uniform exchanges. The Council should work with schools to eliminate period poverty. Adopt a co-production approach and work in partnership with more VCS groups. 	<p>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 throughout the pandemic, and safely re-open schools for everyone during the autumn term.</p> <p>In the Christmas holidays, we provided families with Paypoint Food Vouchers and worked with our partners to provide six food collection hubs across the borough, providing 480 vulnerable families with food.</p> <p>During February half-term and Easter holidays 2021, schools were able to order food vouchers for families to use during the holidays.</p>	<p>Address and meet local education needs through the Learning Excellence Partnership Board to raise achievement; promote excellence and enable dialogue between partners.</p> <p>Develop an Inclusion Charter for schools, which will set out how schools, early years providers, colleges, local authority services and health providers will enable all children and young people affected by SEND to realise their aspirations and experience inclusion, equality, dignity and respect within education settings in Enfield.</p> <p>Complete cost benefit analysis of setting up a school uniform grant.</p> <p>Work with partners to tackle issues such as digital exclusion and improve levels of reading and writing.</p> <p>Promote school take-up of the DfE Period Product Scheme.</p>

Recommendation

Progress

Plans for 2021/22

<p>14. The Council should maximise the use of libraries to mitigate overcrowding and enhance learning.</p>	<p>Our library service adapted during the pandemic to support people isolating at home, increase our digital offer and safely open our hub libraries when restrictions have been lifted. 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.</p>	<p>Further promote and develop our libraries as a key resource for children and young people across the borough, in the context of the ongoing pandemic and beyond.</p>
<p>15. The Council should work with schools to set a target to reduce the use of fixed-term and permanent exclusions.</p>	<p>Our Behaviour Support Service has worked closely with pupils, parents and teachers and provided outreach support to over 100 families whose child was at risk of exclusion during 2019/20. This has helped reduce the number of permanent exclusions by 23% compared to the previous year. This team tackles the causes of exclusion, and is complemented by Youth Services, such as Enfield's Nexus Project. We are supporting children and young people to overcome challenges and increase their mental health and wellbeing through workshops, training and mentoring programmes.</p>	<p>Following the success of our pilot new Mental Health Support Team in Schools, extend this new service across at least 40 schools during 2021.</p> <p>Expand the reach of the Nexus and "Inspiring Young Enfield" projects to address the range of factors which can result in exclusions.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The local authority gained Government Funding for a new £260k ESOL programme, 'All Things Being ESOL' which began during the autumn 2020.</p>	<p>Implement the 'All Things Being ESOL' programme by June 2021 with a target to support 658 new learners to complete the course.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>We currently offer schools a work experience package as part of our traded service with 50% of schools buying back this service.</p> <p>As part of the Meridian Water development, we are developing two new skills academies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Meridian Water Construction Skills Academy will provide training, apprenticeships and work placements in construction. • The Troubadour Meridian Water Studios Film and TV Skills Academy will provide training and work experience to people interested in a career in technical skills within film and TV. 	<p>Extend our work experience programme to more schools, looking at new ways to fund the programme in a way which will encourage take-up.</p> <p>Open the Construction Skills Academy in Meridian Water by a target date of November 2021.</p> <p>Through our Supported Internship Programme, increase the number of supported internships and develop good pathways to paid employment after the completion of the programme.</p>

Earning

<p>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.</p>	<p>We have brought housing repairs, cleaning services and grounds maintenance for cemeteries back in-house, providing a Living Wage to 176 employees.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Effectively signpost people who are unemployed into skills and employment support.</p> <p>Engage proactively with Local London partners to maximise opportunities from the Cross-Government Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Create a new Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy to use our power as a commissioner to increase local employment opportunities and the quality of employment for local people.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>We set up ShopAppy during summer 2020 which provides a single platform for shoppers to browse and buy local products from businesses across Enfield.</p>	<p>Open a new business/retail space for small African and African Caribbean businesses to start up, piloting in Upper Edmonton, which can also serve as a cultural hub.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>We also provide volunteer opportunities at the Council in our Library Service and our Youth Offending Team.</p> <p>We worked 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.</p>	<p>Work with Enfield Voluntary Action to build on the capacity of local organisations to recruit, train, manage and support more volunteers.</p>



Recommendation

Progress

Plans for 2021/22

<p>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.</p>	<p>Job Entry: Targeted Support (JETS) has been set up in Edmonton and Enfield Town, to offer rapid skills and employment help local people, delivered by partner Maximus.</p> <p>In partnership with The Job Centre, we set up the Kickstart Scheme, a six-month paid job with a local employer, for 16 to 24 year olds claiming Universal Credit at risk of long term unemployment.</p> <p>We supported 30 learners on Enfield's supported internship programme for 2020/21.</p> <p>We have partnered with Vistry and Troubadour to secure two new skills academies at Meridian Water, to help local people access new employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Implement Fairer Enfield, our new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy so that we work with partners to tackle discrimination and promote equality.</p> <p>Better promote available employment and skills support through targeted communication; and identify where we may need to address gaps in support for people with particular needs.</p> <p>Expand our supported employment services, including our 'Equals Employment' service, schools careers service, apprenticeship programmes and supported internships to increase the number of people with special educational needs and disabilities in employment.</p>
<p>22. 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.</p>	<p>Our Economic Development Team have used the opportunity of distributing Covid-19 recovery grants to establish new relationships with local businesses.</p>	<p>Work with local businesses and higher educational establishments to explore different options for a skills and employment fair, including hosting a virtual event.</p>
<p>23. 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Create a new Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set minimum standards for suppliers to support decent work and fair pay in Enfield • encourage suppliers to pay the London Living Wage and support training and development opportunities for Enfield residents.
<p>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.</p>	<p>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 2020/21 we supported over 3,100 residents. This helped us pay out just under £36m in Council Tax Support Scheme; £5,330 in crisis payments; £190k in Council Tax Support Hardship Fund payments; and £3.1m in Discretionary Housing Payments to those most in need.</p>	<p>Increase the wrap-around support for residents in financial difficulties, including within our new community hubs in Edmonton and Enfield Town libraries. This will include digital assistance which is offered across Enfield's libraries.</p> <p>Expand the Welfare Advice and Debt Team so that more casework can be done with people impacted by the pandemic, establishing potential increases in income, reduction and management of debts and early help to prevent financial crisis.</p> <p>Extend the provision of universally accessible and independent advice on debt and good credit in partnership with Citizens Advice Enfield.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Run a benefits maximisation campaign and provide one to one support for claimants, working closely with our partners to provide a more joined-up approach with other services providing early help to individuals and families.</p>
<p>26. 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.</p>	<p>We have provided concessions to voluntary and community groups affected by the pandemic to alleviate financial pressures when key buildings have been closed.</p>	<p>Review how we manage community facilities and improve the system for voluntary and community sector groups to book council facilities.</p>
<p>27. 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Explore options for increasing local fundraising. Bring more funding into the borough through proactive engagement in the wider funding marketplace.</p>

Measuring impact

During 2021/22 we will be analysing the Council's key performance data to help us better understand the impact our initiatives are having on tackling poverty. We will include this analysis and future targets related to the recommendations in our year two update, scheduled for March 2022.



If you would like to find out more about our plans and services, how we're doing and how to get involved, please visit our website:

new.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/our-vision-aims-and-values

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