

	Cabinet 13 th September 2021
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Brent Youth Strategy and Delivery Plan	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Two Appendix A - Draft Brent Youth Strategy Appendix B - Draft Youth Strategy Delivery Plan
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Nigel Chapman Operational Director, Integration and Improved Outcomes Tel: 020 8937 4456 nigel.chapman@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to review the Brent Youth Strategy and Delivery Plan, which fulfils the recommendation of the Independent Brent Poverty Commission for the council to bring together a statutory-led “Youth and Community Strategy for Young People” in Brent.

2.0 Recommendations for Cabinet

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to note and endorse the Brent Youth Strategy and Delivery Plan, as set out in the accompanying documents.

3.0. Detail

3.1 Local Authorities have a responsibility under section 507b of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006) to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient educational and recreational activities which are for the improvement of young people's well-being, personal and social development, and sufficient facilities for such activities for young people aged 13 – 19, (or up to 25 for young people with additional needs). There is no requirement to directly fund or deliver services to a particular level (or at all).

3.2 In the context of reduced budgets for non-statutory services and increasing demand within statutory children's services, the council has been reshaping its approach to youth services since 2015. Most recently this has included an enhanced focus on work to support the local youth sector and develop innovative new partnerships, for example, at the Roundwood Alternative Provision School, in parallel to the ending of council run and directly funded youth services.

3.3 In August 2020 the Independent Brent Poverty Commission published its findings following a six-month review. The report included over 40 recommendations designed to help tackle the causes and consequences of poverty in Brent, including a recommendation for the council to bring together a statutory-led "Youth and Community Strategy for Young People" in Brent.

3.4 In September 2020, the Strategic Director of Children's Services commissioned the corporate Transformation Team to work with CYP leads and partners in developing the Brent Youth Strategy as the vehicle that will drive and coordinate local youth provision to achieve this recommendation.

3.5 This work began with a strategic partners' kick-off workshop in October 2020, attended by approximately 20 senior Brent and partner leads, to develop the approach and galvanise support. This was followed by wide ranging and comprehensive engagement with young people throughout late 2020 and early 2021, ensuring opportunities for them to co-develop the strategy at every step. An overview of the approach is included within the strategy document.

3.6 The multi-agency Early Help and Prevention Group (EHPG) - a council-led group, chaired by the Statutory Director (CYP), including lead officers from CYP, Public Health, Community Safety and Employment and Skills services, alongside key representatives from partners including the Police, Health and the Voluntary and Community sector - has overseen development of the strategy. In March 2021 the EHPG endorsed the draft strategy - subject to the development of the accompanying delivery plan.

3.7 In early May 2021 a delivery plan development workshop, attended by approximately 20 senior Brent and partner representatives, was undertaken. The

outputs were developed into the draft delivery plan, which was subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the EHPG.

- 3.8 Following further Member and senior officer feedback the draft strategy and delivery plan were refined to ensure greater alignment with relevant planned and in-progress activity including BCAP, other council recovery projects, connectivity to new health Integrated Care Systems and further education settings as well as clarification of the funding position.
- 3.9 Pending Cabinet approval, implementation of the delivery plan will commence by establishing a small group of Brent and partner leads to drive and coordinate activity. This will include an official launch of the strategy and the recruitment to a designated post within CYP Early Help, within existing resources, which will have lead responsibility for coordinating the work of the delivery plan. Regular feedback will also be provided to young people in those groups who contributed to the development of the strategy.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The realisation of the delivery plan will be funded from existing resources and grants within the CYP department Early Help service budgets.

5.0 Legal Implications

As described in paragraph 3.1 above.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The primary tool for the Youth Strategy engagement process was a short survey, which was co-designed by 30 local young people who attended the November 2020 Children's Commissioner Takeover Day. This survey was promoted via the young people who developed it, young leaders and key stakeholders including: schools and colleges, PRUs, statutory partners, voluntary and community sector networks and Brent services (including YOS and LAC officers / mentors) – all were tasked with encouraging and supporting responses from the young people they engage or work with to ensure extensive opportunities for all young people to contribute to co-designing the strategy. Over 650 surveys were completed, after which the responses were themed and played-back to different groups of young people at focussed sessions designed for more in depth discussion. This included a virtual session with Brent River College, YBF ambassadors, Brent Youth Parliament and Bang Edutainment.
- 6.2 Development of the Youth Strategy has been in parallel to the forthcoming updated Brent SEND strategy, which has used an aligned engagement approach with tailored questions to ensure maximum responses. The views of young people who contributed to the SEND strategy have also been included in development of the Youth Strategy.

6.3 The Youth Strategy goals and delivery plan actions seek to improve outcomes for all local young people in direct response to their expressed views. This includes developing increasingly inclusive and engaging recreational opportunities and supporting the development of modern and accessible youth-dedicated spaces.

7.0 Any Other Implications (HR, Property, Environmental Sustainability - where necessary)

7.1 There are none.

8.0 Proposed Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1 The council has a statutory duty to take steps to ascertain the views of relevant young people about positive leisure time activities and ensure that their views are taken into account. In developing this strategy with local young people, this has been achieved through co-designed approaches that have captured the views of a wide range of young people. The collective voice of these key stakeholders is articulated throughout the strategy and responded to through its goals and delivery plan. A shorter version of the Youth Strategy, designed for young people, will be produced by the end of 2021 to enable the continuation of effective engagement.

8.2 The Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care has supported the development of the strategy, including participation at the November 2020 Children's Commissioner Takeover Day. Regular updates will be provided to the Lead Member about the progress towards fully implementing the strategy, which is being overseen by the EHPG as outlined above.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director, Children and Young People