

	<b>Cabinet</b> 10 March 2025
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director of Children and Young People</b>
	<b>Lead Member – Cabinet Member for Children, Young People &amp; Schools (Councillor Gwen Grahl)</b>
<b>Brent Youth Strategy 2025-2028</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: Brent Youth Strategy 2025-2028
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Palvinder Kudhail; Director Early Help and Social Care <a href="mailto:Palvinder.kudhail@brent.gov.uk">Palvinder.kudhail@brent.gov.uk</a>  Serita Kwofie; Head of Early Help 07827 652 876 <a href="mailto:Serita.kwofie@brent.gov.uk">Serita.kwofie@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. The refreshed youth strategy includes an update on the themes and outcomes of the previous strategy (2021-2023) and outlines the priorities and aims for the new strategy.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the contents of this report relating to the achievements of the previous youth strategy and the details and plans for the refreshed youth strategy.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the refreshed Brent Youth Strategy 2025-2028.

### 3.0 Detail

#### 3.1 Cabinet Member Foreword

- 3.1.1 The refresh of the Brent Youth Strategy 2025 – 2028 to guide the way for Brent Council and partners to ensure our young people thrive in the borough.
- 3.1.2 This Youth Strategy is *young peoples passport to the future* and speaks directly, the young people of Brent. It has been designed *with* young people and *for* young people with heartfelt thanks extended to each and every young person who has given their time, creativity and vision to co-design this strategy.
- 3.1.3 There have been many achievements under the Brent Youth Strategy 2021 – 2023, arising from the Independent Brent Poverty Commission in 2020 which highlighted significant challenges faced by young people in the local area. This refreshed strategy seeks to build on our successes and go further in partnership with Brent young people. We are determined that Brent be a safe, inclusive, collaborative and nurturing place in which to flourish into adulthood.
- 3.1.4 Together with our partners, including the voluntary and community sector across Brent, we will continue building close and lasting relationships that will enable us to effectively succeed in the delivery of our strategy plan.
- 3.1.5 We celebrate Brent for the, diverse and vibrant borough that we are and we are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for you, our young people. This refreshed youth strategy and action plan represent our promise and commitment to you to deliver and achieve together.
- 3.1.6 Young people were integral to the design and content of the new Youth Strategy, as they had been in the previous one, commended by the recent LGA Peer Review for its commitment to prioritising the voice of the community. Young people told us the things that were most important to them, and this is reflected in the 'Priorities' of the strategy:

- Being Heard and Taking Part
- Reaching Goals and Enjoying Yourself
- Feeling Good
- Staying Safe

Each priority is designed to provide a clear understanding of the objectives using child-friendly language, vibrant colours and positive imagery.

- 3.1.7 The Borough Plan Strategic Priority 3 (Thriving Communities) is met through working with faith leaders, Brent hubs, and other voluntary and community sector partners to engage with underrepresented groups, as well as focusing on safety as the most important priority highlighted by residents. Strategic Priority 4 (Best Start in Life) ensures children and young people receive the support they need to do this. This includes raising attainment and aspirations, providing opportunities and spaces for young people to develop their skills and empower them to have their say, as well as being seen and heard within

services. Strategic Priority 5 (A Healthier Brent) aligns with the Strategy focus on engaging young people into positive activities for a healthier lifestyle. Building a better future while ensuring a positive journey for all is at the heart of both the Brent Borough Plan and the new Brent Youth Strategy.

- 3.1.8 These priorities interlink to create a strategy for a thriving Brent, where children and young people can experience a high quality of life. Prosperity and stability provide the foundation, ensuring economic security and a stable environment for our children and young people. This enables thriving communities where our children and young people feel safe and can enjoy themselves and reach their full potential whilst looking after their emotional wellbeing. A cleaner, greener future contributes to a healthier Brent by improving air quality and creating more green spaces. The best start in life equips our children and young people with the tools and opportunities to succeed, leading to future prosperity for our children and young people. Being heard and taking part empowers our children and young people to shape their community, ensuring their voices are valued and contributing to reaching their goals.

## **3.2 Background**

- 3.2.1. The commission of the first Brent Youth Strategy (2021-2023) arose from a recommendation of the Independent Brent Poverty Commission in August 2020 - to bring together a statutory led "Youth and Community Strategy for Young People" in Brent.
- 3.2.2 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. This has meant an enhanced focus on work to support the local youth sector, supported primarily by the Young Brent Foundation (YBF), established at the time of funding cuts to the Council's youth services as a means to develop innovative partnerships with the VCS to bring in funding where it was needed.
- 3.2.3 Activities for young people in the borough are provided by groups, organisations and skilled individuals of all sizes. YBF support the voluntary sector in delivering youth provision by equipping their 200+ members with training, resources and financial support. The Local Authority works in partnership with YBF to ensure that there is sustainable youth provision for children and young people. Throughout the period of the previous Youth Strategy YBF allocated close to £3 million to support youth and community groups, directly impacting the delivery of the Youth Strategy and enhancing opportunities for young people in the borough.
- 3.2.4 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 to drive and coordinate local youth provision to achieve this recommendation.
- 3.2.5 From its earliest stages, the Brent Youth Strategy (2021-2023) was developed in partnership with local young people. This was achieved through a co-

designed engagement and strategy development approach with the VCS that began with targeted sessions with Brent Youth Parliament, Young Brent Foundation Young Ambassadors and Care in Action groups. These sessions gathered initial feedback and tested online engagement approaches to inform the design of the annual Children's Commissioners Takeover Day.

- 3.2.6 The final stages of co-development included focused sessions with YBF Young Ambassadors, Brent Youth Parliament and Brent River College - where the groups reviewed and discussed themed survey responses, providing detailed feedback and new insights for each area - and an aligned, thematic engagement session facilitated by Bang Edutainment. In total, over 500 young people helped to shape the youth strategy.
- 3.2.7 At a strategic level, development of the strategy was overseen by the Brent Early Help and Prevention Group - a council-led group, chaired by the Statutory Director of Children's Services, including lead officers for Children and Young People, Public Health, Community Safety and Employment and Skills services, alongside key representatives from partners including the Police, Health and the Voluntary and Community sector. It was further shaped through workshops and meetings with strategic partners and local youth sector leads, including drawing on earlier and ongoing work in this sphere.
- 3.2.8 A Brent Youth Survey was undertaken between February and May 2022 to gain the insights and opinions of young people to evaluate the existing strategy and lead the direction of the refreshed Brent Youth Strategy with a view to improve services and experiences for young people. A total of 726 entries were submitted, 344 of which were fully completed surveys. The key headlines of the survey were in line with the 8 Brent Youth Strategy themes and focused on how involved young people felt in decision-making, their awareness of emotional and wellbeing services, extra-curricular activities, accessible parks and sporting facilities and environmental activities, whether they attended activities in Brent, how prepared they felt in terms of life skills and how safe they felt in the borough.
- 3.2.9 In September 2023 there was an update to published statutory guidance for Local Authorities who have a responsibility under section 507b of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006). This was followed in Autumn 2023, by the National Youth Agency (NYA) publishing a toolkit to support local authorities to ensure that young people's rights and needs are met, quality youth programmes are happening and there is a focus on co- design and collaboration with children and young people in order to meet the updated guidance. This has been the framework upon which the new strategy has been shaped.
- 3.2.10 The new strategy was consulted upon throughout 2024, with officers across Inclusion, Public Health and Climate Team as well as wider partners, including health and those from Voluntary and Community sector. During this period a number of focus groups were held to seek input from children and young people, enabling them to remain at the centre of the work and to maintain the

strong element of co-design that was such a notable element of the original strategy. A summary of some of the consultation activity is below:

### **Brent Goes Global:**

One of the themes in the Brent Youth Strategy was regarding opportunities and offering new experiences for children and young people to grow and experience new cultures. Young Brent Foundation (YBF) partnered with Raheem Sterling Foundation to provide Brent Goes Global. This culminated in supporting a group of 17–25-year-olds to attend a cultural exchange volunteering trip to Jamaica in March 2024. During this trip, a workshop was held with young people to discuss how the strategy should be refreshed. This focus group was integral in the decision to combine the previous 8 themes into 4 concise priorities that would resonate with young people using clear, child-friendly language. Young people spoke about wanting to have “ownership of the Strategy” and this was reflected in the design process, to create a Strategy where young people could easily identify and engage with the priorities and actions that resonate most with them.

### **Brent Youth Parliament:**

We consulted with our Brent Youth Parliament on a draft design theme and the refresh of priorities along with accessibility for all. A recurring theme in feedback was regarding making the Strategy digital and ensuring accessibility for all children and young people. Members liked the clear wording and the replacement of terms such as ‘mental health and wellbeing’ with ‘Feeling Good’, which they felt spoke directly to them, rather than about them. The group were keen to have a space where they could anonymously share their opinions on the new Strategy, and this is being explored with the community and engagement team to explore existing platforms in order to achieve this.

### **Teen Space:**

‘Teen Space’ is a programme run in partnership with Sport at The Heart (SatH), a VCS partner providing youth provision in the borough. This group were consulted about what they liked and would like to improve about the previous Strategy. Comments included that they felt it was “too complicated” and that “words were hard to understand”, with a lack of pictures and diagrams to make it attractive and hold their attention. Their recommendation was for the use of relatable language that would be more widely accessible to children and young people of all abilities, ensuring that young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) could access the information and understand their rights without barriers. These valuable insights have influenced the refresh significantly in terms of the language and terminology, as well as the addition of a glossary defining words and phrases in a child-friendly way to help young people understand some of the professional jargon they may come across in their involvement with children’s services.

3.2.11 In November 2024, the government launched plans to create a new National Youth Strategy by young people, for young people, as part of the government’s

mission to improve opportunity. The government has committed £85million with an additional £100 million from the next tranche of dormant assets funding to be used to deliver youth outcomes between 2024 and 2028, although it is not yet clear at this stage what the breakdown of that funding will be. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-national-youth-strategy-to-break-down-barriers-to-opportunity-for-young-people>

#### **4.0 Summary of previous Youth Strategy achievements (2021-2023)**

- 4.1 The previous Brent Youth Strategy (2021-2023) set out 8 focused themes connected to borough plan priorities – Engagement and Voice, Activities, Skills and Opportunities, Place and Facilities, Wellbeing and Mental Health, Safety, Access and Awareness, and The Environment. Since the development of this Strategy, significant progress has been made across the borough, with some examples as summarised below:

##### **Engagement and Voice**

- 4.2 Members of Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) participated in the London Youth Assembly and the UK Youth Parliament. BYP took part in the national Make Your Mark ballot, collecting over 3000 votes which informed BYP's next campaign priority, 'Tackling Crime and Safety.' Members of the Brent Youth Parliament attended the national UK youth parliament conference where they had an impact on the manifesto of UKYP nationally. Children in Care Council (including Junior Care in Action, Care in Action, and Care Leavers in Action) represent young people in care and care leavers in Brent. Brent Care Journeys 2.0 (BCJ 2.0) provides a platform for members to voice opinions and influence decisions about their services. Most notably, BCJ 2.0 was successful in the proposal for Brent Council to recognise care experience as a protected characteristic, passed at full council in November 2024. Adopting care experience as a protected characteristic will tackle inequality and disproportionality for care experienced young people and ensure they are not stigmatised or excluded from opportunities due to their care experience.
- 4.3 10 young people were trained in youth interview panel processes, playing an active role in senior appointments within the Council and tendering decisions, including influencing the award of contracts for Targeted Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing provision. This has helped amplify youth voices in shaping services for the borough.

##### **Activities:**

- 4.4 108 children and young people were involved in co-designing the MOPAC Disproportionality project 2022-2023, with 173 children and young people across Brent taking part in the MOPAC funded activities over summer 2023 in Brent Family Wellbeing Centres. These included sports, art, mentoring, emotional health and wellbeing, beauty, music production and photography sessions, all facilitated by Brent Voluntary and Community sector organisations. Impact was seen through feedback that young people developed new friendships, built their self-esteem and improved their wellbeing from

attending the activities. They and their families were connected into the wider family hub offer, receiving support with cost of living and emotional wellbeing related issues, and they felt safe, supported and were able to talk about issues that were impacting them such as youth violence, drugs and relationships.

- 4.5 Working collaboratively with the Council, Young Brent Foundation (YBF) secured funding of £2.9m into youth programmes in 2023-2024, supporting between 15,000-17,500 young people through initiatives in education, employment and the environment. YBF offers outreach, volunteering and community programs including Career Catalyst Networking and Youth Work Week. They also host Summer Camps, Holiday programmes, and community events to engage youth. YBF partners with organisations like the Royal Albert Hall, National Trust and Tottenham Hotspur, and work as a close partner of the Council, to create new opportunities for young people.

### **Skills and Opportunities:**

- 4.6 Working with the Council as a sponsor, YBF's 'One Flow One Brent' received £744k funding through the MyEnds London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) programme which supported 3,000 young people living on the three largest estates in Brent – Chalkhill, Church End and Stonebridge, over a three-year period. Activities were held for local children in their youth clubs and events and workshops were organised over the holidays to bring the young people in the communities together, safely, with opportunities to build skills towards a brighter future. This has now translated into the MyEnds 2.0 programme, launched in summer 2024.
- 4.7 As described above, YBF created 'Brent Goes Global'. The project enabled young people from Brent to learn from different cultures throughout the world, attend high-energy sessions learning new skills such as fundraising and project management, develop an understanding of social action, meet guest speakers, meet new people, and enjoy themselves.

### **Places and Facilities:**

- 4.8 An SCIL-funded Youth Provision project will provide £2million capital investment for youth organisations across Brent, to enable successful organisations to improve the infrastructure of their buildings to facilitate better access for all young people and higher levels of quality youth provision. The project will contribute to achieving the priorities of the Youth Strategy refresh by investing in the improvement of infrastructure for selected buildings where youth organisations seek to improve facilities and increase take-up. Increased access and high-quality provision will help to create supportive and welcoming environments that promote young people's health, emotional wellbeing and development. Higher quality youth provision in the borough will provide children and young people with opportunities to engage in enriching, diverse activities to work towards achieving their personal goals and to foster growth and development whilst enjoying themselves and building healthy relationships. A Youth Panel was formed to help evaluate bids, consisting of ten young people, aged between 14 and 20, from BYP, Youth Justice Service, Leaving Care and

the Voluntary and Community sector. Representatives from prospective youth organisations presented to the youth panel and were scored, selected and progressed accordingly. Projects will be presented to the relevant internal boards between January and April 2025 to assess which will progress to Cabinet for final approval, with works on successful projects expected to begin in Spring/Summer 2025. This selection event provided the opportunity for young people to have a say in the future of youth provision in their borough – to take part and be heard.

- 4.9 8 Brent Family Wellbeing Centres were created in 2020, enabling children and young people in Brent to access youth provision in safe, dedicated spaces within their local area, including a centre focused on SEND support. Children and young people can receive support for education, training and employment via the triage and keyworkers in the centres. All centres offer children and young people access to digital equipment and extra-curricular activities such as mixed martial arts, art classes and sports activities are held weekly after school and throughout the day outside of term time. During the school holidays the centres offer the DfE Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme where vulnerable children receive a free place on holiday playschemes and a hot meal. Data reflects a 16% uptake in registrations from the previous reporting year. Children and young people have highlighted that they wanted activities to help them develop skills to improve their education and employment chances.
- 4.10 Roundwood School and Community Centre is an inclusive and safe space for young people, offering a wide range of positive activities, facilitated by members of the voluntary and community sector for 11- to 19-year-olds and up to 25 with SEND. The school and community centre provides young people with a wrap-around service. Community Centre providers lead sessions in the day and encourage school students to take part in their extra-curricular activities, open to young people across the borough. Take up remains high and feedback from young people is positive.

#### **Wellbeing and Mental Health:**

- 4.11 To respond to the impact of poor emotional health and wellbeing, education disruption and social isolation exacerbated by the pandemic the Covid Pathfinder Project 2020-2023 was established for young people. The Youth Justice Service worked with EACH, who provided counselling support for young people and YBF mentors, supporting over 400 young people through creative activities such as sports, art and music, along with weekly mentoring and wellbeing support. Work was undertaken to create a Youth Panel and podcast sessions were held to provide a platform and safe space for children and young people to voice their challenges over the pandemic and beyond in the borough, these were filmed and shown in various forums to influence stakeholders and professionals to improve their services. Services were evaluated as having a positive and lasting impact on young people's emotional health and wellbeing.
- 4.12 The Wellbeing and Emotional Support Team (WEST) is a targeted mental health service for vulnerable children and young people aged up to 18 years old and up to 25 for people with SEND, funded by the Local Authority. From



February 2023, WEST provided an extended offer, working with children and young people who are struggling to attend school, not currently accessing education, or those who are experiencing mental health difficulties not met by other services. The aim has been to increase connection for young people with local services, their community and with education. Contract monitoring evidenced improvements in outcomes for those young people receiving services.

**Safety:**

- 4.13 St Giles Trust and Air Network mentors are embedded in the Youth Justice Service (YJS), providing vital partnership working support to young people involved in, or at risk of, serious youth violence. A monthly 'No Knives Better Lives' event is held at the Old Bailey Court and is a mandatory session for all young people arrested for knife-related offences and open to all young people in Brent. In these sessions, young people observe powerful presentations from a trauma surgeon, an ex-gang member and the parent of a teenage victim of knife crime. The YJS have created a weapons and awareness programme, working with young people over an 8-week period to educate about the reality and serious nature of knife crime and to explore alternative strategies for prevention of harm and resolving conflict without violence. YJS outcome measures continue to demonstrate improvements in reoffending rates and first-time entrants to the youth justice system.
- 4.14 Between 2021-2024 Brent reinforced its commitment to preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and domestic abuse among children and young people. Collaborative programmes, including school-based workshops delivered by Beyond Equality and Young Brent Foundation, focused on gender stereotypes, consent and healthy relationships. These initiatives equipped young people with tools to recognise and challenge harmful behaviours, ensuring early intervention and fostering long-term resilience. The Phoenix Project provides culturally sensitive one-on-one support to girls of African and Caribbean heritage, addressing systemic barriers in addition to experiencing VAWG.

**Access and Awareness:**

- 4.15 There has been a focus on young people in the youth justice cohort to improve their attendance at Family Wellbeing Centres (FWCs) and their engagement and participation in activities. In addition to this, two of the FWCs now support small groups of young people, under supervision with the Youth Justice Service, to undertake their reparation hours at the centres by assisting with foodbank deliveries.
- 4.16 Through a successful device donation and crowdfunding campaign, over 250 laptops and internet connections were distributed, ensuring that young people in Brent have access to the technology necessary for education and development.

- 4.17 Local authorities have a statutory duty to publicise information about the local youth offer. In Brent this is achieved through various channels including Brent Youth Zone - an online platform, co-designed by local young people, where youth sector partners can submit their activities, opportunities, groups, clubs and events for young people to view in a single location. This has been a central tool for children, young people, parents, and carers to easily access information about positive activities and services available in the borough. It continues to be the key resource for sharing opportunities for children and young people.

### **The Environment:**

- 4.18 As part of a climate programme initiative school streets schemes have been delivered to 36 schools to support active travel, reducing emissions and improving safety and health and well-being. 48% schools in Brent have sustainable School Travel Plans in place, and officers have implemented several Green and Healthy Street schemes outside of schools complete with new tree planting and sustainable urban drainage systems. This is all designed to support making the journey to school via active travel the most attractive option for young people. Work is also taking place with schools and students directly on wider environmental initiatives to tackle climate change via the launch of the Schools Climate Action Guide and the Our School, Our World programme.
- 4.19 Brent was selected as one of four councils across the country to roll out a pioneering approach to sustainability in schools, led by Brighton and Hove council. 20 Brent schools are involved in the programme, which spans across the borough, including schools from Kingsbury & Kenton and Harlesden clusters. Headteachers, teachers, site staff and governors from each school have attended training on how to integrate sustainability as a whole school approach. All schools will run professional development sessions with all their staff on bringing sustainability and climate change into their curriculum. This will filter down to ensure pupils across the borough are receiving a comprehensive and holistic climate education.
- 4.20 Brent Council are working closely with Let's Go Zero to support all schools to write their Climate Action Plans, a requirement from the Department for Education by 2025. This will include proposed actions around decarbonisation, adaptation, bringing sustainability into the curriculum and green careers and skills. Schools across our green neighbourhoods are particularly active in engaging with sustainability initiatives. Teachers across 16 schools in the borough recently completed their carbon literacy certification, supporting their confidence to lead climate education in their schools.
- 4.21 Individually, schools continue to run exciting sustainability projects with their eco teams. Recent examples include toy swaps, drive free days, installing solar panels and growing their own food. The Eco Club at Kingsbury High School was recently awarded a second place in the Super Schools category at the London Eco Champion Awards Ceremony.

- 4.22 A film called Roots of Brent which was created by a group of young people in the borough and details both their views on the importance of tackling climate change and their journey in interviewing other key climate action stakeholders in the borough will be shown at the upcoming climate showcase event in February 2025.

## **5.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 5.1 In the process of refreshing the Brent Youth Strategy, a key priority was to ensure the new Strategy spoke directly to its main stakeholders – the children and young people of Brent. With clear, concise, child-friendly language, focused priorities and an accessible document in both written and online form, the refreshed Brent Youth Strategy document is made for the children and young people of Brent and outlines clearly how the Council and partners will work for them and support them towards a positive future. This will be monitored through the work of the Youth Strategy Delivery Group, that works collaboratively with multi-agency partners. Young people in Brent have been consulted throughout the process so that their voices and views on what is most important to them are heard and clearly reflected. The Brent Youth Strategy 2025 – 2028 is grounded in principles of equity, inclusion and innovation with a focus on ensuring that every young person, regardless of background, has the resources, confidence and opportunity to lead a healthy, fulfilling and purpose-driven life. Through collaborative partnerships, the aim is to create a sustainable framework that nurtures the young people of Brent to be equipped to thrive.
- 5.2 Throughout the development of the refreshed Youth Strategy and the preceding strategy there has been cross-council input, including Community Safety, Public Health, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration and Partnerships, Housing and Residents' services. Through individual and group discussions, report findings, linked strategies and conferences, the strategies have captured the challenges, opportunities and learning highlighted for children and young people in relation to each directorate and incorporated these within the 4 priorities put forward by children and young people. This cross-council input and the input of wider partners will continue and will ensure effective delivery of the action plan.
- 5.3 The overall theme of the Strategy is that of travel. We want children and young people to prepare themselves for life's continuous transitions and to know where to seek advice and support along the way. The strategy aims to convey that the journey towards adulthood is just as important as the destination. The design captures visual imagery of maps, an aeroplane radar, binoculars to view the vision of the future, stamps, an airport destination board, and an action plan that is set out to resemble a boarding pass. Additional artwork for the Brent Youth Strategy was illustrated by children and young people in Brent. A competition was held for a young person to design the front page to reflect how they see Brent, with the runners up having their entries included throughout the Strategy. By focusing on the key priorities of the Strategy ((1) Being Heard and Taking Part (2) Reaching Goals and Enjoying Yourself (3) Feeling Good and (4) Staying Safe), the vision for Brent's Youth Strategy is to build a generation

that feels confident, capable and inspired to shape their own futures as well as contribute positively to society. The strategy is about supporting young people at every stage, acknowledging their potential and providing them with pathways to achieve.

- 5.4 A plan of action has been created and incorporated into the Brent Youth Strategy to guide the Council's Youth Strategy Delivery Group through the actions young people want to be addressed and demonstrate how the partnership can make this happen. The Youth Strategy Delivery Group, overseen by the Brent Early Help and Prevention Group, will develop and deliver the plan with wider partners. These include young people, Brent Council departments, Voluntary and Community Sector partners, schools and settings, the Police and health partners via the Children's Trust.
- 5.5 By 2028, the vision for Brent as outlined in the strategy will help create a borough where young people are empowered and fully integrated into their communities, with the support and resources they need to thrive. Governance in Brent will be centred on accountability, youth involvement, and continual adaptation to the evolving needs of young people. By 2028, we will know the strategy is working when young people in Brent feel more engaged, safer, and empowered to pursue their ambitions. The integration of feedback mechanisms, the creation of supportive youth spaces, and the consistent engagement of youth in local governance will ensure that the vision is not only a promise but a reality.

## **7.0 Financial Considerations**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however the achievements and progress to date have been delivered using existing General Fund budgets within the Early Help service and grant funding received from e.g., MOPAC and the YJB. There is also a £2.15m SCIL capital investment secured to improve the infrastructure of Youth Provision buildings in Brent.

## **8.0 Legal Considerations**

- 8.1 The Council is responsible for carrying out its function pursuant to section 38 and 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which requires each local authority to have youth justice services available in their area to the extent that is appropriate, and, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan. The guidance on Youth justice plans confirms that whilst the Act refers to an annual plan, it is recognised that planning over a longer period may be more effective. Therefore, Local partnerships may, if they choose, produce a plan over multiple years.
- 8.2 Pursuant to section 507b of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006) the council is 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). In addition, the, Education and

Skills Act 2008 requires the Council to make available to young persons and relevant young adults for whom it is responsible such services as it considers appropriate to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of those persons in education or training.

## **9.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 9.1 The Brent Youth Strategy fulfils Equity, Diversity and Inclusion considerations under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure fair access and inclusivity for all children and young people in Brent.

## **10.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

- 10.1 Detail on how the Youth Strategy interplays with the council's environmental sustainability initiatives is provided under paragraph 4.10 of this report.
- 10.2 The council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy builds on the council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 and pledges for Brent to do all reasonable in the Council's gift to aim for carbon neutrality for 2030 and work with government to achieve the national 2050 target. The Brent Youth Strategy is therefore aligned with local and national climate action plans. Young people are an integral part of delivering the borough's climate ambitions and to date we have predominately engaged young people via schools, but young people are also welcome and encouraged to join and be active within the work of the Brent Environmental network.

## **11.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

- 11.1 N/A

## **12.0 Communication Considerations**

- 12.1 A communication plan will be developed to support the borough-wide launch and roll-out of the Brent Youth Strategy. Following Cabinet approval, the intention is to hold a launch event in April 2025 at a Family Wellbeing Centre, during the Easter holidays, to maximise the attendance and participation of as many young people and youth organisation partners as possible.

### **Related document(s) for reference:**

Brent Youth Strategy 2021-23

#### **Report sign off:**

**Nigel Chapman**

Corporate Director of Children and Young People