

**COVER NOTE – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN
(2023-2026)**

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Portfolio: Children and Adults, Public Health and Voluntary Sector Scrutiny Committee

Report Author and Contact Details: Elitsa Zhugleva, Senior Strategy, Partnerships and Policy Officer, Bi-Borough Children’s Services

1. PURPOSE

The draft Children and Young People’s Plan priorities were shared with Children and Adults, Public Health and Voluntary Sector Scrutiny Committee on 18 August 2022 and a commitment was made to share the draft Plan. The Plan will be discussed at Informal Cabinet on 21 November.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note and comment on the Bi-Borough Children and Young People’s Plan for the years 2023 to 2026. This is so the Council can be held to account in delivering the required actions to achieve its priority outcomes and objectives. This will be formalised via a Key Decision taken by Cllr Tim Roca in December 2022.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN

Officers in Children’s Services have been developing a new Bi-Borough Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) for Westminster City Council (WCC) and the Royal Borough of Kensington Chelsea (RBKC). Sitting directly under ‘Our Strategy for a Fairer Westminster’, the CYPP is the overarching strategy for Children’s Services and sets out what WCC want to achieve with, and for, Children and Young People over the next three years.

The Plan serves as a framework which will be used to track and improve outcomes for children and young people, with a focus on the most vulnerable. The priority outcomes that form the plan have been developed in partnership with children and young people, who through direct engagement, have told us what is important to them. The priority outcomes will be delivered through focused service and thematic delivery plans and strategies.

This summer, officers designed and delivered 13 workshops across the Bi-Borough, engaging with over 130 children and young people aged 11- 25 including young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Looked After Children and Care Leavers, Youth Council members, Youth Ambassadors and young people engaged in youth clubs. We heard from young people about their communities, concerns, their ambitions for their futures as well as what they think the Council needs to do to achieve these. We also engaged with residents through the new Resident's Research panel and held workshops with key decision makers and partners. This engagement alongside analysis of all service specific engagement we have undertaken with children and families over the past two years has informed our priority outcomes.

The draft priority outcomes for the Children and Young People's Plan are as follows:

- All young people, and particularly those who are vulnerable can realise their ambitions and take advantage of opportunities and life skills which prepare them for adulthood.
- All Children and Young People are happy and healthy, with access to a diverse range of activities and opportunities to support their physical, mental health and emotional wellbeing within the post pandemic context, environmental challenges, and rising cost of living pressures.
- Children and young people feel safe, and are protected from serious youth violence, harm, harmful practices, abuse and neglect at home, online and in the community.
- Children and young people have access to high quality education and training opportunities, have good attendance at school and achieve their full potential.
- All Children have the best start in life, needs are identified and supported early, and they are school ready at five.
- All our young people feel listened to, empowered to take action and have opportunities to co-produce/co-design services that affect them.
- (RBKC Only) Children and young people affected by the Grenfell tragedy continue to be supported. The council, NHS and commissioned voluntary sector providers work together with communities to learn from their experience of the past five years and to ensure support is effective for children and their families.

Issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion were reflected strongly during our engagement and co-production activities. These issues, concerns and aspirations are reflected in each of the seven priority outcomes set out in the Plan.

How will we be accountable for delivering the Plan

Young people have given their time, thoughts and voices to help develop this Plan. We are accountable to them as well as council leaders for how successful we will be in achieving its aims. In addition to producing an annual update of progress, we will report directly back to those groups of young people we engaged with when developing the plan. We will also consider other ways of involving young people more directly in assessing whether or not it has achieved its aims and whether these continue to be relevant.