



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure

Meeting or Decision Maker:

Cllr Roca, Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure

Date:

20 December 2022

Classification:

General Release

Title:

Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2026)

Wards Affected:

All

Policy Context:

Sitting directly under 'Our Strategy for a Fairer Westminster', the Plan is the overarching strategy for Children's Services and sets out what Westminster Council wants to achieve with, and for, Children and Young People over the next three years.

Key Decision:

The report involves a Key Decision

Financial Summary:

The outcomes focus it presents enables Children's Services to target its resources effectively and presents an opportunity to do things differently and improve services to young people.

The CYPP acts as a lens to support the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as it is clearly aligned with WCC Priorities.

Report of:

Sarah Newman, Executive Director of Children's Services

1. Executive Summary

Our Bi-Borough Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the overarching strategy for Children's Services and sets out what Westminster Council and Kensington and Chelsea want to achieve with, and for, Children and Young People.

The new Plan covers the three-year period from 2023 to 2026 and includes several high-level priority outcomes. These are based on intensive engagement with young people, residents and key decision makers, alongside a needs analysis to give a sense of the challenges for young people as well as where they are thriving.

Delivery of these priority outcomes will be through our more focused service and thematic delivery plans and strategies. The Plan sits directly under 'Our Fairer Westminster' and serves as the framework that we use to track how we are improving outcomes for children and young people, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure is asked to approve publication of the Bi-Borough Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2026).

3. Reasons for Decision

The plan sets out the overarching children's services priorities for the period 2023 to 2026 for services to children and young people across both Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea. It relates to our future work with Children and Young People who live in all wards in the borough.

4. Background, including Policy Context

The plan is a high-level strategic document, not a commissioning document and so it contains no financial commitments. We would expect these to be included in thematic and service-specific plans, consulted on in the normal way, and resulting in key decisions approved through the Council's governance processes.

5. Financial Implications

The outcomes focus it presents enables Children's Services to target its resources effectively and presents an opportunity to do things differently and improve services to young people.

The CYPP acts as a lens to support the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as it is clearly aligned with Westminster Priorities.

6. Legal Implications

There is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan. Bi-Borough Children's Services have opted to produce a plan voluntarily, therefore the document is not governed by any specific legislative framework.

7. Carbon Impact

There are no direct Carbon implications arising from this report.

8. Equalities Implications

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.

9. Consultation

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, Young Westminster Foundation 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.

There were common themes arising across all of our engagements, as well as some distinct concerns and priorities that were particularly for certain groups. Common themes among the groups we interviewed were concerns around the cost-of-living crisis and growing inequality, preparation for adulthood, safety, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, provision of youth services and the youth voice.

The young people in youth clubs in the North of the boroughs spoke passionately about racism and 'postcode wars', and what could be done to address this in our communities. Youth Councils and Youth Ambassadors were concerned about the Climate emergency and the ability of young people to influence this agenda. A group of girls emphasised the need for girls to feel safer in public and raised mental and physical health as key priorities. The quality of housing and access to support to find employment and training were

key concerns for Care Leavers. Children and young people with SEND emphasised the need for place-based cultural and learning opportunities.

We have also discussed the new plan and its potential scope with partners at sessions with the Local Children’s Safeguarding Partnership, chairs of school governors, the Education Partnership Board, and with senior leaders in Children’s Services. The Cabinet Member has also been involved in discussions to help shape the plan. The final plan was considered by the Children and Adults, Public Health and Voluntary Sector Scrutiny Committee on 5 December and members fully supported the priorities and the objectives outlined in the Plan.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:

Elitsa Zhugleva, Senior Strategy, Partnerships and Policy Officer, Bi-Borough Children’s Services

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Children’s Services Engagement Review

Appendix 2 - Children and Young People’s Plan Direct Engagement Summary

Appendix 3 – Children and Young People’s Plan 2023-2026

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

NB: For individual Cabinet Member reports only

For completion by the **Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure**

Declaration of Interest

I have <no interest to declare / to declare an interest> in respect of this report

Signed:

Date:

NAME: **Cllr Tim Roca**

State nature of interest if any:

(N.B: If you have an interest, you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled

Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2026) and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed: _____

Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure

Date: _____

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:

If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Director of Law, City Treasurer and, if there are resources implications, the Director of People Services (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.