

## Summary of recent consultation activities with children and young people across the Bi-Borough (2018-2022)

This information has been used to inform the development of the Children and Young People's Plan (2023-2025).

### Pre-birth to Five and Early Help

#### Pre-Birth to Five Consultation with 300 families across the (Bi-Borough, 2019)

This consultation found that parents want:

- Support from services to be unified and widely accessible.
- A strong support network of other expecting parents and families with new babies.
- Earlier support for children with disabilities.

#### Early Help Service User Feedback (Bi-Borough, 2020-22)

This consultation detailed feedback from young people on their experiences with practitioners, which were generally positive. Examples include:

- *"I really liked that my practitioner would play lots of games with me, that would involve asking me about my day. He would help me to stay positive and listen to my teacher. Although, I think we could have spoken about behaviour more."*
- *"My practitioner was good, she would try and help me and taught me that when I get angry, I should breathe, close my eyes and count to ten. I have noticed that I do not get as angry. My practitioner also supported me to visit a youth project, which I attended."*

### Education and Employment

#### COVID-19 Student Voice Survey collected 126 responses from primary schools, 374 from secondary schools and colleges and 42 responses from pupils with SEND (Bi-borough, 2020)

- Most pupils said they felt excited and pleased at the prospect of going back to school. Whilst some felt apprehensive.
- Young people reported that music, spending time with friends and family, and exercising, helped with their emotional wellbeing.
- Pupils who felt apprehensive about returning to school were worried about getting sick or dying, missing education and noise (55 per cent SEND) amongst other things.
- Young people indicated that they would find being in the same classes with the same teachers, non-uniform, and information on examinations helpful when returning to college.
- *"I would find it helpful if I am informed about how the GCSEs will be carried out in 2021".*

#### Kickstart Questionnaire with 28 Young People (WCC, 2021)

This consultation focused on employment prospects and the Kickstart scheme, it found that:

- 25% of respondents did not feel at all prepared for the world of work when they left education.
- Having good careers advice, previous work experience, and support from a mentor would have made the young people feel more prepared.

- The young people detailed difficulties in getting jobs of interest before taking part in the Kickstart Scheme.

### **NEET Consultation carried out with 17 Care Leavers and Looked After Children who are NEET (RBKC, January 2021)**

The NEET young people were asked 21 questions to gain an understanding of their goals and aspirations and whether they were accessing the support available to them.

- Young people have high aspirations that RBKC need to support by exposing them to different opportunities.
- When asked what is preventing them from achieving their career aims, the young people mentioned COVID-19, mental health and wellbeing, a lack of support from social workers and their immigration status.
- When asked about the support from the virtual school, some young people found it helpful, but others detailed a lack of continuity after they turned 18 years old, and a lack of financial support needed to complete courses.
- NEET young people want support at an earlier stage, more clarity on the support available, help with completing applications and writing CVs, and for the Council to build good rapport with young people.
- *"I was doing English, and childcare at college but due to COVID lessons went to online. I'm not good with online"*.
- *"It becomes very difficult to study when you turn 18, you have more responsibilities and have to work. More help for over 18s"*.

## **Youth Violence**

### **Community Safety Survey with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders (RBKC, 2021)**

- Youth violence, gangs' activity and child exploitation was the fourth most prominent issue.
- The Arabic and Somalian community fear for the safety of their children, which they feel is affecting their quality of life and independence of their children.
- There is a lack of trust in authorities (the Council and Police in particular), with some residents feeling that authorities do not listen to or protect them.

### **Northwest Westminster Serious Youth Violence Consultation with 203 parents and adults, and some young people (WCC, 2021)**

- Postcode wars restrict where certain young people can go, depending on who they are and their associations, and carrying weapons is somewhat normalised.
- Getting involved with crime was linked back to money. Opportunities to work and be productive is seen as key to preventing youth violence by parents and young people.
- More support is needed for whole families and parents.
- Parents and young people want more coordinated and joined up elements of support in the community.
- Young people would like more investment in youth clubs.

### **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Survey with 257 online submissions (88 per cent female) (Bi-Borough, 2021)**

- Some respondents indicated a need to educate men and boys about their role in VAWG, as well as greater education around VAWG in school.
- When asked what needs to happen to end VAWG, 81 per cent of respondents selected 'sex and health relationships education in school'.
- 47 per cent of respondents felt that 'support for children and young people' should be the most important priority for the local VAWG partnership.

### **Here to Listen Event (WCC, 2021)**

The Council and the Police held an event with school children to find out more about feeling of safety following the murder of Sarah Everard.

- A lot of young girls said they felt unsafe, with self-defence classes in PE suggested as a helpful action.
- Many young people are not feeling motivated and wish people would speak about mental health more.
- When asked what would help in dealing with their concerns, suggestions included: education around the treatment of women and girls, a discussion forum to talk about violence against women, and creating a directory of websites for mental health support.
- To improve communication with young people, they suggested more virtual or physical assemblies with the police, a newsletter specifically for young people from the Council, and posters put up in school referencing services they can access.

### **Scrutiny Review – Serious Youth Violence School Engagement with 14 primary schools, 5 secondary schools and 1 alternative provision setting (RBKC, 2022)**

- Some primary schools are worried about Years 5 and 6 children being free to roam the streets after school and at the weekend which leaves them vulnerable to gang culture.
- 9 schools have implemented a programme to prevent knife crime, 11 have not. The most common intervention being targeted workshops and sessions with classes/year groups.
- Schools are concerned that young black boys are at higher risk of serious youth violence.
- Headteachers, safeguarding leads and a Special Educational Needs Coordinator feel more support is needed with educating pupils on local issues, offering more youth services, and providing support to families being some of their suggestions.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

### **SEND Strategy Re-fresh Engagement with 28 young people with SEND (Bi-Borough, 2021)**

- When asked about their visions for the future and where they want to be in three years' time, 86 per cent said they want to get a job, 8 per cent spoke about wanting to undertake hobbies and volunteering, and 43 per cent said that they want their own home.
- Young people said they would need help from their families, friends, teachers, and support workers to achieve their aspirations.

### **Travel Care Report with 112 surveys returned from parents and carers of children and young people (Bi-Borough, 2021)**

The Travel Care and Support Team sought the feedback of parents and carers of children and young people who use the transport service to get to school.

- A total of 50 per cent of respondents outlined that their child/young person travelled to school via minibus, whilst 43 per cent said their child/young person travelled to school via taxi.
- A total of 19 per cent of respondents outlined that they would like a personal budget to enable the family/child to choose the best way to get to and from school college.
- When asked for final comments, a few respondents indicated concern about travel care arrangements arriving late and causing stress for children and young people.

## Health and Wellbeing

### **Grenfell – Children and Young People’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services with parents and carers, children and young people, schools, and residents or members of the wider North Kensington community (RBKC, 2021)**

- 55 per cent of parents/carers felt that their child’s emotional health and wellbeing had ‘improved’ since 2018. Of these parents, 72 per cent said that support services had contributed to this change.
- Over a quarter (28 per cent) felt their child’s emotional health and wellbeing had ‘worsened’ on average.
- Children and young people found that the Emotional Health and Wellbeing services they had accessed helped them with their confidence, self-esteem, engagement in creativity, building social skills and trust.
- Children and young people said the services could be improved by having more flexible sessions including at the weekend and in the holidays, access to free tutoring and sports clubs, and access to talking therapies.

## Looked After Children and Care Leavers

### **Consultation on Housing and Accommodation Service Offer with 50 young people (RBKC, 2021)**

This formal consultation was in response to Care Leavers feedback about the final stage accommodation in Social Housing.

- Of the 40 young people who responded, 23 said they had discussed their final stage accommodation with a social worker/personal advisor, whilst 17 young people had not.
- To better prepare young people for final stage accommodation, young people suggested a checklist with all the things you need to know when applying and viewing final stage accommodation, and more time for transitioning to Care Leavers as some felt rushed into independence.
- Referring to the checklist one young person said, “This would have been so helpful especially with helping with gas providers”.
- Some young people were excited about the process of moving into their own accommodation, whilst others found the process difficult and wanted more practical support with moving.
- *“Once a week it would be nice to have someone check in and see how we are within the first few weeks and have boxes that the young people can tick off”.*

### **‘Voice of the Child’ with 31 young people (RBKC, 2021)**

The theme of the consultation was to assess whether Looked After Children feel they have a voice in decisions which affect their lives.

- Children and young people found review meetings helpful because it gave them a chance to express themselves and open up to people.
- Some young people communicate their views via a translator, highlighting the diversity needs which must be considered.
- Some noted that social workers help them feel comfortable and listen to their views.
- *“I discuss my issues with the people around me and they listen and then my social worker will listen to me when he visits me at the placement”.*
- Young people said they would like more regular contact, information on opportunities and support in dealing with other professionals they have difficult relationships with.

### **Annual survey for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2021-22 with 133 young people (WCC, 2021)**

- Most young people indicated that they felt safe and happy where they live.
- Feedback from young people aged 15 and under highlighted they would like more frequent contact with their families.
- Most young people felt they could speak to social workers and personal advisors if they had a problem.
- Young people aged 16 + want more information on exercise and emotional wellbeing. They also want more support with English classes, enrolling in college and university, help in getting books, help in finding apprenticeships.
- Young people want support with completing application forms, budgeting, cooking, housing, how to pay bills and learning English.
- *“Create more programmes that are appealing and beneficial to us young people”.*
- *“More communication with my keyworkers would be helpful. We don’t get time to talk with them a lot. Not much facilities to cook with so more financial support”.*

## **Other**

### **Youth Review with 771 young people, 172 parents, carers, community groups and providers (RBKC, 2021)**

- The youth offer needs to be more visible so that young people know what services they can access, how and when. Young people want more support around emotional health and wellbeing, personal development, and pathways into employment.
- Young people would like more support regarding education and employment. This includes mentors, support with CV and interview preparation, and support in creating and running businesses
- The Voluntary and Community Sector would like more co-ordinated working to make best use of resources and meet the needs of young people.
- Young people do not always feel safe travelling around the borough. Gangs and knife crime are of concern, and they want more safe spaces and support.
- Community and environment are highly valued, and there is a feeling that local assets could be better utilized.

- Young people want a more direct link to the council to ensure their voice is heard.

**Your Voice Survey with 120 young people (RBKC, 2021)**

- Respondents top three priorities include education, mental and physical health and getting their voices heard.
- Many young people think they do not have a say in how youth services are set up.
- Respondents indicated that work experience can be difficult to access, with not knowing where to look being a common barrier.
- Knife crime is of concern, and respondents said that *“providing young people with more things to do”* and *“more security camera (CCTV)”* would make them feel safer.