

Tower Hamlets Children and Families Plan 2016-19

Consultation Report

1. Summary

A wide range of consultation and engagement activity was carried out in order to develop the 2016-19 Children and Families Plan. More than 90 residents (largely comprising of children, young people and parents) shared their views, as did a large number of staff and external stakeholders. This feedback has driven and shaped the final 2016-19 Children and Families Plan.

2. How consultation was carried out

2.1 Needs assessment

- A “task and finish” group was established to oversee the development of the needs assessment. This group had representation from a range of services¹ and met three times in July, August and September 2015.
- Direct consultation with young people to inform the needs assessment took place with the Tower Hamlets Youth Council in June and September 2015. Feedback raised by children and young people in other ways (e.g. through the last Pupil Attitude Survey) was also gathered and incorporated into the needs assessment.
- The sub-groups of the Children and Families Partnership Board (the Maternity and Early Years and Young People and Preparing for Adulthood groups) have received general updates on the development of the needs assessment. Links have also been made with the joint strategic needs assessment and with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2.2 2016-19 Children and Families Plan

- Parent and Carer Council (13th January 2016 – 11 attendees)
- Family Wellbeing Model Steering Group (20th January 2016)
- Pupils at the Pupil Referral Unit (21st January 2016 and 28th January – 31 attendees)
- Parent Forum at Overland Children’s Centre (21st January 2016 – 12 attendees)
- Pupils at Chisenhale Primary School (26th January 2016 – 12 attendees)
- Young People and Preparing for Adulthood Sub-Group (21st January 2016)
- Children’s Social Care SMT (25th January 2016)
- Learning and Achievement SMT (25th January 2016)
- Resources Management Team meeting (26th January 2016)
- Headteachers’ Executive (27th January 2016)
- Maternity and Early Years Sub-Group (3rd February 2016)
- Online survey available 6th January to 5th February 2016 – six responses received
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (29th February 2016)

¹ Public health, early years, CCG, CAMHS, voluntary sector and the troubled family service.

In addition to the above meetings and the organisations represented on the Children and Families Partnership Board, feedback was sought from the Local Safeguarding Children Board and colleagues in housing and in the Police. Strategy and policy teams in other Directorates were also asked to provide feedback.

3. Key messages from staff

Staff feedback on the proposed priorities was broadly positive. The key messages from staff feedback were as follows:

- Reaching potential: Feedback was to add in actions on school readiness, school attendance and person-centred planning.
- Living well: Housing priorities were particularly welcomed, although the difficulties in tackling housing issues were recognised.
- Playing a part and freedoms: Feedback was to strengthen actions relating to whole families (this feedback applied to all sections, but was particularly pertinent in this section).
- Free from harm: Feedback was to ensure that issues affecting “newly arrived children” are picked up in existing priorities, rather than being a separate priority; and to include actions to address the issue of children who harm others.

This feedback has been incorporated into the 2016-19 Children and Families Plan.

4. Key messages from residents and stakeholders

Resident and stakeholder feedback was also broadly positive. The key messages from resident and stakeholder feedback were as follows:

- Reaching potential: Feedback highlighted the importance of treating each child or young person as an individual.
- Living well: Housing was highlighted by the Parent and Carer Council as an issue affecting all other areas of life. Mental health was also highlighted as a priority by parents. The importance of active play was also highlighted by parents, children and stakeholders.
- Playing a part and freedoms: Feedback was to add in actions around supporting parents in their parenting role, and to encourage parents to engage in activities relevant to their children’s lives.
- Free from harm: Feedback from children and young people was mixed around feeling safe: the younger children consulted with felt safe, but older children cited a number of areas where young people are at risk of harm from others or themselves. Feedback was that a number of people have a fear or mistrust of some services.

This feedback has been incorporated into the 2016-19 Children and Families Plan.