

# Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

## Agenda

**Thursday, 9 February 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel, 160  
Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ**

### Members:

**Chair:** Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

**Vice Chair:** Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Councillor Abdul Wahid, Councillor Ana Miah, Councillor Amina Ali, Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain and Councillor Leelu Ahmed

### Co-opted Members:

Shiblu Miah ((Muslim community representative)), Dr Phillip Rice (Church of England Representative), Joanna Hannan (Representative of Diocese of Westminster), Abena Adeji (Parent Governor), Ashraf Zaman (Parent Governor) and Nafisa Ahmed (Parent Governor (Vacant))

**Substitutes:** Councillor Asma Islam, Councillor Amy Lee, Councillor Amin Rahman, Councillor Kamrul Hussain and Councillor Harun Miah

[The quorum for the Sub-Committee is 3 voting Members]

### Contact for further enquiries:

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[justina.bridgeman@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:justina.bridgeman@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

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<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk>



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## **A Guide to Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee has been established to scrutinise the provision, planning and management of children and young people's services – including children's social care; safeguarding children; children in care; SEN and education inclusion, troubled families and the Youth Offending Service (YOS) education, learning and schools; youth services; early years; education capital estate and youth & play services.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee will discharge the Council's statutory functions to undertake overview and scrutiny, insofar as these pertain to Children's and Education matters. This will include:

- a) Reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's children social care and education functions;
- b) Advising the Mayor or Cabinet of key issues/questions arising in relation to children and education reports due to be considered by the Mayor or Cabinet;
- c) Making reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or Mayor or Cabinet in connection with the discharge of children and education functions;
- d) Delivering (c) by organising an annual work programme, drawing on the knowledge and priorities of the Council, registered providers and other stakeholders, that will identify relevant topics or issues that can be properly scrutinised;
- e) Holding service providers to account, where recent performance fails to meet the recognised standard, by looking at relevant evidence and make recommendations for service improvements;
- f) Considering children and education matters affecting the area or its inhabitants, including where these matters have been brought to the attention of the sub-committee by tenant and resident associations, or members of the general public; and
- g) The sub-committee will report annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its work.

### **Public Engagement**

Meetings of the committee are open to the public to attend, and a timetable for meeting dates and deadlines can be found on the council's website. More detail of how residents can engage with Overview and Scrutiny are available here

[Overview and scrutiny \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny)

# London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Thursday, 9 February 2023

6.30 p.m.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (PAGES 7 - 8)

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest, identified in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine: whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are also reminded to declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it is the Members' responsibility to identify any interests and also update their register of interest form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of an interest, you are advised to seek advice prior the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PAGES 9 - 14)

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the held on 8 December 2022.

### 4. CESSC ACTION LOG

### 5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### 5.1 Youth Provision (Pages 29 - 46)

#### 5.2 Safe East School Health Service

TO FOLLOW

#### 5.3 Challenge Session Report: Increasing women and girls access and participation with sports provision and physical activities in the borough (Pages 47 - 58)



6. **ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

**Next Meeting of the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

Thursday, 4 May 2023 at 6.30 p.m. to be held in Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel



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# Agenda Item 2

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER**

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

### **(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)**

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

**DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests.** In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

### **(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)**

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

### **(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.**

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

### **Guidance on Predetermination and Bias**

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

### **Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting**

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

**Further Advice** contact: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 4800.

## **APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either—  (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or  (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.33 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2022**

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE  
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present in Person:**

Councillor Bodrul Choudhury  
Councillor Ahmodul Kabir  
Councillor Ana Miah  
Councillor Shubo Hussain

**Members In Attendance Virtually:**

Councillor Abdul Wahid

**Cooptee's Present in Person:**

Shiblu Miah	Muslim community Representative
Dr Phillip Rice	Church of England Representative
Joanna Hannan	Diocese of Westminster Representative
Ashraf Zaman	Parent Governor
Nafisa Ahmed	Parent Governor

**Others Present in Person:**

Brenda Landers	Headteacher – Swanlea School
Kabir Miah	Deputy Headteacher – Swanlea School
Sornnaly Hossain	Our Time Youth Forum

**Others In Attendance Virtually:**

Colin Eaton	Financial Services Compensation Scheme
Asnan Mojumader	Apprenticeship Generation Manager

**Officers Present in Person:**

Filuck Miah	(Strategy and Policy Officer, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation Service)
Jenny Miller	Manager - Family Information and Support Service
Steve Nyakatawa	(Director of Education)
Lewis Teasdale	(SEN Manager)
James Thomas	(Corporate Director, Children and Culture)

Farhana Zia (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)

**Officers In Attendance Virtually:**

Aelswith Frayne (Head of Employment and Skills)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Abdul Wahid, who joined the meeting virtually due to ill health.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of pecuniary interests were declared by the members.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTION LOG**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were approved by the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee also noted the actions recorded in the action log.

**4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**4.1 Education Spotlight**

The Sub-Committee heard from Ms Brenda Landers, Headteacher at Swanlea School and Mr Kabir Miah, Deputy Headteacher. They reflected on how students from varying backgrounds succeed in attaining a good set of grades.

The main points to note from the presentation of Ms Landers and Mr Miah were:

- The school had a Leadership Development programme, whereby it identified future leaders from its cohort of teachers and worked with THEP (Tower Hamlets Education Partnership) to develop skills of teachers/leaders.
- Children who attend Swanlea School came from a wide range of backgrounds with 5.5% from disadvantage backgrounds, who go on to Russell Group universities.
- The school instils a positive learning attitude to give students social confidence and doesn't use disadvantage backgrounds as an excuse to success.

In response to comments and questions from members the following was noted:

- Ms Landers confirmed they shared best practice with other secondary schools as well as primary schools, via the THEP partnership.
- Ms Landers said that whilst the school had a traditional academic pathway, it also supported young people via the vocational route. Through its SEND Department it identified young people/carers who may require additional support to learn life skills such as independent living and financial awareness courses. Mr Miah added the arts and crafts faculty at the schools helped to build social confidence of students who had varying needs.
- Ms Landers stated she was incredibly proud of the achievement that her school had made. She said that the bottom 25%, through progress 8, meant that every student counts. She said the intake of the school as a comprehensive school depended on parent choice however 94% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English. Of the 6% that do not make the grade, she said was important to recognise this and support them through alternative pathways.
- She said it was a laudable objective and aim to get youngsters to think about attending Russell Group Universities however many lack the confidence to think about attending Oxford/Cambridge Universities. She said this attitude needed to change and aspiration to attend university ought to be instilled in youngsters from a primary school age. Ms Landers said she believed it was too late leaving this until a child had entered secondary school education. She said these conversations ought to be happening at an early stage, in order to build confidence in a young person that they are just as able to attend prestigious universities.

The Chair thanked Ms Brenda Landers and Mr Kabir Miah for their presentation.

The Sub-Committee then heard from Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Lead for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning who introduced the presentation given by Mr Steve Nyakatawa, Director of Education.

Mr Nyakatawa referred members of the Sub-Committee to the presentation in the supplementary pack and said that as part of the Council's Strategic Plan priorities, the ambition was 'Every child achieves their best in education.' Mr Nyakatawa explained the performance tables for each Key Stage and said for KS1 and KS2, the borough was doing reasonably well however there were

dips in performance because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr Nyakatawa said the A level results on page 14 of the supplementary pack showed the borough was not doing as well when compared to other London Boroughs.

In response to comments and questions the following was noted:

- Mr Nyakatawa explained that the 'A' level results were lower than that of other boroughs as many students go across to other boroughs to attend sixth form and further education colleges. He said they were looking at best practice and were working to retain students within the borough.
- KS1 and KS2 results had decreased partly due to the pandemic however measures are in place to ensure results in reading, phonics and maths improve with increased monitoring and evaluation being done.
- Mr Nyakatawa said they work with schools to drive improvements and those that do not fall within the remit of the Local Authority, such as maintained schools or academies, then they are directly contacted via the London Director.
- In reference to Ebacc, Mr Nyakatawa said this gave students a boarder range of subjects to study and students who studied for the Ebacc were better placed for further and higher education. He said he'd like to see the performance figures improve for Ebacc study.

The Chair thanked Mr Nyakatawa for his presentation.

Lastly, Ms Aelswith Frayne, Head of Employment & Skills, Mr Colin Eaton from Financial Services Compensation Scheme and Mr Asnan Mojumader, Apprenticeship Generation Manager gave a presentation on how they are assisting young people into employment and career opportunities.

In response to comments and questions from members the following was noted:

- The Council Internship for young carers is being revived and there is a programme to offer 12 internships from January 2023. Funding for the pilot project needs agreement by the Corporate Leadership Team.
- Consideration is also being given to Services converting job vacancies into apprenticeships in hard to fill services/professions such as housing, planning and finance.
- Ms Frayne said the Employment and Skills Service did have performance targets to get people into work of 4 per month which was monitored corporately.

The Chair thanked Ms Frayne and her colleagues for their presentation.

#### 4.2 SEND Statement of Action

The Sub-Committee heard from Ms Sornnaly Hossain from Our Time Youth Forum. Ms Hossain was supported by Ms Jenny Miller, manager of the Family Information and Support Service.

Ms Hossain gave an account of her experience of the education system in Tower Hamlets as someone with SEND needs. She explained the bullying she had experienced and how the forum had helped her gain confidence to stand up to those who bullied her. She explained how this had affected her mental health. She said she was a member of the SEND Improvement Board and felt it was important to voice her opinions especially to managers responsible, to bring about change.

In response to comments and questions from members the following was noted:

- Bullying should be taken seriously by teachers and parents. There was a lack of acceptance of SEND children and attitudes needed to change.
- In reference to the earlier discussion about where students choose to study for further education, Ms Hossain said she would encourage young people to attend out of borough settings as this built their confidence and independence.
- Members expressed their appreciation for Ms Hossain and her inspiring presentation.

The Chair thanked Ms Hossain for her presentation.

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Lead for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning introduced the SEND presentation stating a review of the Council's progress against the Statement of action in response to the SEND Inspection in 2021 would be presented by Mr Steve Nyakatawa, Head of Education and Mr Lewis Teasdale, SEN Manager.

Mr Lewis Teasdale took members through the presentation outlining the existing priorities for the service and said these had been categorised into priority 1,2, 3,4 and 5. He explained the progress made against each priority and said the feedback from the second formal review with the DfE and NHSE in September and the forthcoming meeting in January 2023 would help build the evidence for the actions listed in the written statement of actions.

In response to comments and questions from members the following was noted:

- Mr Lewis said there had been an increase in demand for SEND services since the pandemic. Each case is assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Mr Lewis acknowledged provision within the borough was spread out and said they were looking at ways to provide a 'blended' service,

where a child with mild or lesser autistic needs could be provided with care within a school setting as well as spending half a day at a specialist facility. He said the right balance was required.

- Mr Nyakatawa made reference to the one minute guides and said this provided a useful summary of ECHP plans, education provision and the integrated commissioning arrangements within the borough.

The Chair thanked Mr Nyakatawa and Mr Lewis for their presentation.

## 5. SUB-COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair, Councillor Choudhury referred members to the Sub-Committee's work programme for 2022-23 and asked members if they had any comments or questions relating to the work scheduled for the sub-committee to scrutinise.

- No comments or questions were asked in relation to the work programme.

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. **NOTE** and **AGREE** the work programme for the upcoming meetings for 2022-23.

## 6. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

There was no other business to be discussed.

The meeting ended at 8.58 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Bodrul Choudhury  
Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

## Scrutiny Action Log

Name of Committee: **Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

Municipal Year: **2022-23**

Reference	Action	Assigned to	Scrutiny Lead	Due Date	Response
Insert date	Insert agenda item title and the action requested by the committee	Insert name of director	Insert scrutiny lead	Insert Date	Response provided by the service/ witness
14.07.22					
13.10.22	<p><b>1. Youth Justice: The Youth Justice Service Performance with a specific focus on drugs, grooming of young people and county lines</b></p> <p>The committee requested a response about the new responsibilities around education and attendance.</p>	<p>James Thomas</p> <p>Corporate Director for Children &amp; Culture</p>	<p>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</p> <p>CESSC Chair</p>	20.10.22	Response provided on 19.10.22. See Appendix 1 for response.
	<p><b>2. Youth Justice: To understand the findings from the inspection report and review the plan for improvement</b></p> <p>The committee raised concerns about the rising number of children from Tower Hamlets entering the criminal justice system and wanted to know why.</p>	<p>James Thomas</p> <p>Corporate Director for Children &amp; Culture</p>	<p>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</p>	20.10.22	Response provided on 19.10.22. See Appendix 2 for response.
21.11.2022	Challenge Session: Increasing women and girls access to sports provision	<p>James Thomas</p> <p>Corporate Director for</p>	<p>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</p>	20.12.22	See Appendix 3 response received on 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Scrutiny Action Log

	<p>The committee requested data/breakdown of female participation in sports in Tower Hamlets, with a specific focus on ethnicity.</p> <p>The committee requested a response on whether the 'first come' policy has been reviewed.</p> <p>The committee requested a response on any actions or plans being taken to redesign existing sporting facilities in Tower Hamlets to make them more accommodating to women and girls.</p>	Children & Culture			
Page 16	08.12.22				
09.02.23					
04.05.23					



Insert attachments as appendices where applicable

## Appendix 1:

### The new responsibilities and attendance

#### **The role of the Virtual School supporting the YJS and the *educational engagement\** of children on orders.**

\*Please note that educational engagement is the term used by the Department of Justice that means attendance but also has a wider meaning re: enabling attendance for children with no ETE offer. i.e. Taking a child presenting as NEET to ETE.

The Virtual School for Children in Our Care (CIOC) works alongside the YJS to support all children who are on an order, to improve or create engagement with education. Put simply, this is attendance with or sourcing of an educational offer.

There is an element of cross over with the most difficult to reach cases in care also coming under the YJS so the Virtual School jointly funded an education officer with the service.

The Education Officer is a qualified teacher (QTS) who works between the Virtual School and YJS.

The Virtual School also works across Education and the Social Care provision of the authority to get the best outcomes for children in its remit. This is a very powerful synergy, providing comprehensive insight and support for professionals and the children. At inspection this was seen as strength.

The Education Officer is part of a team of education professionals in the Virtual School, receiving constant educational continuous professional development (CPD) essential due to the fast-paced movement of curriculum change in KS4, KS5 and vocational education that our children access. The post holder provides strategic support to all YJS staff across the entire cohort whether in care or not. This support includes navigating school and college offers to make sure all children have an ETE offer. For example at the start of the academic year advocating for young people, often in place of their parents, to make informed decisions about education offers. This advocacy is essential due to the challenging nature of the cohort, which has high levels of SEND, EAL and histories of underachievement, exclusion and disruption to learning.

The Education Officer and Headteacher of the Virtual School are the visible face of the service for our schools and other establishments, reassuring, supporting and challenging teachers and leaders to promote the educational engagement of our children. It is essential that our children and their needs are visible. This representation extends to the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Service (THESS) which is also under the remit of the Virtual School Headteacher. This linkage provides regular insight

into the Designated Safeguarding Lead network (DSLs) of all our schools. This allows the service to clearly communicate policy and expectations for education in the YJS across the LA.

Education placement and via this attendance, is further supported by the Education Officer being a sitting member of the Fair Access Panel (FAP) which makes sure that school age children with issues arising are placed in the most suitable provision. This linkage means that 100% of our school age children have a school to attend.

It is essential that the needs of our learners are advocated for with internal and external agencies who can offer support to improve engagement. When needs are met, attendance improves.

The education officer links with the wide variety of education, vocational and careers areas that the LA offers. For example, the SEND department has a Youth Justice Champion who assists advocating for needs assessments and health requirements to be reflected into comprehensive Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs) sometimes created from scratch because the need has previously been missed.

The THESS also has oversight of Children Missing in Education and any child Electively Home Educated (EHE). In other authorities' children known to the YJS can fall into these categories in particularly EHE. Our joined-up services mean we are alerted to any child in these categories instantly. We do not have any electively educated child out of school on an order nor would it be allowed.

**Attendance work in place** - A key responsibility of the Education Officer is to promote engagement with education. This means good and regular attendance to set ETE hours and for statistical purposes, this is measured as "on the last week of the order." This is that we aim to improve attendance, or in many cases, gain education offers for children so their engagement is better by the time their order is complete, than when they joined the service.

**School age** - In the Virtual School, we monitor attendance in real time for all children in care. To do this for the YJS, we work with the Behaviour Attendance Support Service – BASS – to monitor attendance daily with our schools. This monitoring has 100% coverage for children of school age and has proved very effective in spotting attendance tailing off or difficulties at school. Schooling provides many the supervision hours required by an order. Our work with the BASS means that 100% of our school age children have an educational offer and 70% of those children improved or maintained their attendance while on an order last year. 30% of those children had very good attendance at 85%+. This confirms that being on an order has a positive impact on a child's engagement with education. This makes sure a child is safe and gaining the skills and support to we hope not to reoffend.

## Scrutiny Action Log

**Post-16** - Monitoring attendance for young people Post-16 is more problematic. This is due to the wide range of institutions involved, varying attendance requirements for College Courses and the co-operation of FE colleges in data collection. To counter these issues, the Virtual School pays for an Attendance and Welfare Officer from the BASS to phone institutions and develop relationships. The officer has now been in place for the last year, progressing attendance monitoring from just at New City College and LEAP in the LA to a wider range of both in and out of borough institutions. Coverage is not 100% and there are children in this cohort NEET. However, 54% of children in a provision monitored had improved or maintained their attendance while on an order last year.

The challenge at Post-16 remains the number of children NEET. Many come to notice out of the academic cycle, making it very difficult to gain a place on a course. Work and apprenticeship options are limited because the majority do not have L2 English and Maths – a requirement for these options.

We have put in place three solutions to this issue

- Halilbury Youth Centre offers access to Street League, which provides sports leadership qualifications and L2 Functional Skills English and Maths. This is often 1:1 support for the most challenging young people.
- Prevista at KitKat Terrace also offer Functional Skills L2 English and Maths. This is in a group setting and can be joined on a rolling basis as children come to notice. This also supports over 18's who need to gain L2 English and Maths.
- Finally, in the past two years, LEAP – our alternative provider – has extended its offer to children Post-16. At present, this is for children already studying at LEAP graduating from KS4. This is a sizable number of our cohort. This is a fantastic support for our children as it provides a continuous education offer with professionals they know and trust. Courses include Functional Skills in English and Maths as well as pathways into work via the West Ham Foundation and NHS. The offer at LEAP has been further improved for children known to YJS by winning funding for a Task Force from the Department of Justice to support children who could be drawn into crime.

**New responsibilities for the Virtual School and how these will support the YJS** - The Education Officer was put in place to give expert support to our children but also because horizon scanning by the Headteacher indicated a direction of travel from the DfE and central government re: Virtual Schools being asked to support a wider remit of children vulnerable.

You will notice the Virtual School Headteacher has the additional title: Executive Headteacher of the Corporate School for Children Vulnerable. The latest of these additional responsibilities is now formally in place: Children With A Social Worker (CSW) – See attachment.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1086931/Promoting\\_the\\_education\\_of\\_children\\_with\\_a\\_social\\_worker\\_-\\_virtual\\_school\\_head\\_role\\_extension\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086931/Promoting_the_education_of_children_with_a_social_worker_-_virtual_school_head_role_extension_2022.pdf)

This new responsibility is strategic. It requires the Virtual School to move to monitor and give support to schools and agencies working with CWS, making the needs of these children visible. Underachievement of this group is higher for all metrics than Children in Care. Care in almost all cases sees a rise in attendance, outcomes and progress for

## Scrutiny Action Log

CIOC. Our first step on meeting this challenge has been to appoint an Assistant Headteacher to be the visible advocate for CSW and champion initiatives to support key groups in the cohort. The YJS cohort is one of these groups – we will be researching what works and what are the common challenges for CSW on cohorts. This work will be supported by a DfE research partner, and we have further reached out to the National College of Education for academic support.

The new responsibility is formative, and the post holder must contribute to research re: what works for Children in Need (CIN), requiring Child protection (CP) or close to care. Every authority will be sharing their findings to agree national policy going forward.

**Appendix 2:**

**More children are in our criminal justice system.**

We are not able to compare the total number of children that we are working with in total to that of our neighbours. However, we can compare performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that all Youth Justice services are marked against.

**First Time Entrants:**

Our First Time Entrants are higher than Waltham Forest and Hackney. However, we have been able to reduce our numbers year on year by a similar extent to our neighbouring boroughs.

The HMIP report highlighted that we were not using our diversionary offer as well as we could have done. We have had a renewed focus on this and we have already been able to see this in our data of the last 6 months.

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Tower Hamlets and City of London	Waltham Forest	Newham	Hackney
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25962

25962

**First Time Entrants**

**Apr 21 - Mar 22**

First Time Entrants

72	55	93	49
----	----	----	----

Rate per 100,000	<b>236</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>192</b>
------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

**Apr 20 - Mar 21**

First Time Entrants	96	72	116	82
Rate per 100,000	<b>313</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>321</b>

<b>% difference</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-40%</b>
---------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

**Use of Custody**

In relation to the custody KPI of the number of children that we have in custody, we have the lowest rates of children in custody and are doing significantly better than our neighbours for the last 2 years.

<b>Tower Hamlets and City of London</b>	<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>Newham</b>	<b>Hackney</b>
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**Use of Custody**

**Jul 21 - Jun 22**

Custodial disposals	2	4	8	11
<b>Rate per 1,000</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.44</b>
<b>Jul 20 - Jun 21</b>				

## Scrutiny Action Log

Custodial disposals

4	4	7	8
<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.31</b>

**Rate per 1,000**

**% difference**

**-6%**

**0%**

**3%**

**12%**



Appendix 3**1. Data/breakdown of female sports participation in Tower Hamlets, with a specific focus on ethnicity.**

Leisure Centre Female Participation Breakdown can be viewed in the table below and illustrates the current percentage of BAME female users across the borough. Usage figures were configured from Dec 22 Usage.

Centre	Pre-Paid Members		Usage	
	BAME %	Non-BAME %	BAME %	Non-BAME %
John Orwell Sports Centre	25.23	74.77	60.55	39.45
Mile End Park Leisure Centre	55.49	44.51	64.36	35.64
Poplar Baths Leisure Centre	60.78	39.22	60.91	39.09
Tiller Leisure Centre	51.36	48.64	51.73	48.27
Whitechapel Sports Centre	79.23	20.77	74.27	25.73
York Hall Leisure Centre	28.26	71.74	26.42	73.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.96</b>	<b>48.04</b>	<b>58.51</b>	<b>41.49</b>

Current BAME female participation has risen in Q3 but with a slight decrease in pre-paid members across the borough. It should be noted that GLL has declared that the statistics are representative of those who have listed their gender as female and does not incorporate data from pre-paid members that

did not disclose their gender or “preferred not to say”. For context it is a national trend that membership and participation reduce as the nights get longer, weather changes and we build to the end of the year.

The recognised way that sports participation, including that for women, is recorded is the Sport England Active Lives Survey. The Council is currently working with Sport England and London Sport to obtain the female participation data for Tower Hamlets, which will be used to set the baseline for our Women & Girls Sport Action Plan

### **2. A written response on the ‘first come’ policy (first refusal for bookings) being a barrier to women and girl’s sporting provisions in Tower Hamlets and how the council plan to address this.**

The first come first served priority booking system is an industry standard employed across the country, whereby an existing booker of a sports facility get priority booking in the next period if an application is submitted within the given time period. This provides continuity for the booker and its participants and consequently the ability to maintain participation. There have been no complaints regarding limited or less access for female sport and there is no indication that this policy has adversely impacted female sports participation in any way. Examples of where female participation is well represented (in female football, hockey and rugby) can be evidenced at both John Orwell and Mile End between 18.00 – 22.00.

### **3. A written response on any prospective plans for the commissioning/redesigning of existing sporting and leisure spaces to ensure the safety of women and girls, once sports and leisure services move in-house. Also, a written response on working on co-production with women and girls to bring sports into the community.**

All sports facilities are and will be designed in accordance with Sport England Technical guidance, which outlines best practice. Safety is a key consideration within the design guidance and the technical design guidance can be viewed on Sport England’s website [here](#).

A Women's & Girl's Sport Action group has been established initially with representation from various Council Departments with the intention to increase membership to include:

- Community / sport representatives and
- Regional and national organisations such as the Muslim Women's Sport Foundation, The Youth Sport Trust, London Sport etc

The Group is currently planning a programme of female sport starting with the tasks informed by the calls to action from the Overview and Scrutiny and the promotion of International Women's Day with a week of activity co-produced with the local community designed by women for women.

In preparation for the service coming in-house, the Council will undertake consultation and co-production with partners, users, staff and the community to inform and potential future investment and programming. It is proposed that the first workshop is held in first quarter 2023 to look at options for the future programming of the estate.

As set out above, the Council will seek to engage in April 2023 on how the Leisure Service will operate from May 2024. This consultation is being developed currently, and is expected to include the following themes, if not exclusively:

- Identify what actively deters women and girls from using leisure centres now, whether this is driven by the way facilities are designed, their condition, the cost of the service, the level of staff training, etc.
- Discover what activities women and girls would most want our leisure centres to offer, when, and in what format (e.g. mother & child swimming sessions on a Saturday morning, women only swimming for an hour every day, etc.)
- Find out what improvements would encourage more use of our leisure centres by women and girls, prioritised by the scale of impact, to identify any 'quick wins'
- Seek advice on what other, non-leisure, facilities and/or activities would encourage women and girls to enter our leisure centres, e.g. places to meet, family friendly spaces, refreshments, etc.
- How women and girls want to be engaged and find out about activity and opportunities.
- Opportunities to gain qualifications, volunteer or enter employment

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# Young Peoples Service

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## Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

9 February 2023

Agenda Item 5.1



# Young Peoples Service

## *Youth Achievement Awards 2022*



# Young Peoples Service

## *Context and Background*

Tower Hamlets Young Peoples Service commissions £1.2 million in contracts for delivery for services for young people.

There are approx. 35,000 children in the borough and 12% between March - December 2022 have accessed our commissioned service offer.

The commissioned offer ranges from Detached and Universal provision to highly specialised offers for children and young people progressing through education, LGBTQI+, and those with special educational needs. This is further supported by the offer in the Voluntary Sector.



# Young Peoples Service

## *Our current service offer*

Area of Delivery	Contract Provider
Detached Provision	Poplar HARCA
Arts Programme	Poplar HARCA
SEND	Tower Project
LGBTQI+	Step Forward
School Transitions	Half Moon Theatre
Universal Offer	Newark Sporting Foundation Osmani Trust Poplar HARCA Coffee Afrik Women Inclusive Team Ashaadibi Centre Numbi Arts
Targeted	Streets of Growth





# Young Peoples Service

## Universal, Participation Performance KPI's

- The table below demonstrates the performance KPIs of the commissioned services over the financial period between 2022-2023.
- The target for contacts has already been met and the target for Participants is very likely to be exceeded by the end of Q4.
- In relation to Recorded and Accredited Outcomes such as AQA and ASDAN, First Aid etc. These are having a positive impact, with the upcoming February Half Term these are expected to exceed targets.
- The Young Peoples Service have not received any complaints over the last 12 months

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Month	Profiling	Contacts Target	Actual	Participants Target	Actual	Recorded Outcome Target	Actual	Accredited Outcome Target	Actual	
April	10%	369	863	251	338	160	126	49	36	
May	15%	554	1140	377	487	240	157	74	36	
<b>June</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>1913</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>114</b>	Q1
July	25%	923	2280	629	1172	400	583	123	196	
August	30%	1107	3083	754	1579	480	1006	147	374	
<b>September</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>1476</b>	<b>3201</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>1665</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>386</b>	Q2
October	50%	1845	3791	1257	2067	800	1170	245	438	
November	60%	2214	4005	1508	2182	960	1258	294	483	
<b>December</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>2583</b>	<b>4260</b>	<b>1760</b>	<b>2399</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1437</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>485</b>	Q3
January	80%	2952		2011		1280		392		
February	90%	3321		2262		1440		441		
<b>March</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3690</b>		<b>2514</b>		<b>1600</b>		<b>490</b>		Q4

# Young Peoples Service

## Demographic Participation Data

Gender	Total	%
Male	2120	70%
Female	874	29%
Prefer not to say	60	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>100%</b>

There are 70% of male young people accessing youth provision compared to girls at 29%.

Age	Total	%
11	100	3%
12	197	6%
13	323	11%
14	497	16%
15	536	18%
16	434	14%
17	358	12%
18	320	10%
19	214	7%
20-25 (SEN)	75	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>100%</b>

14-16 year olds are the largest cohort accessing youth provision. The data is demonstrating that the services are engaging the right age group for diversion away from risk taking behaviour.

Ethnicity categories	Total	%
Somali	166	6%
Asian/Asian British	1773	58%
White/White British	401	13%
Mixed/Multiple	190	6%
Arab/Other	136	5%
Black/Black British	289	9%
Unknown/Prefer not to say	99	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>100%</b>

58% of the engaged cohort are Asian/Asian British young people followed by 13% of White/White British. The data identified a gap in provision for Somali young people. We have commissioned 4 Somali providers to deliver youth programmes in the borough, data will be available from March 23.

SEND	Total	%
Disability	205	7%
No Disability	2797	92%
Prefer not to say	52	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>100%</b>

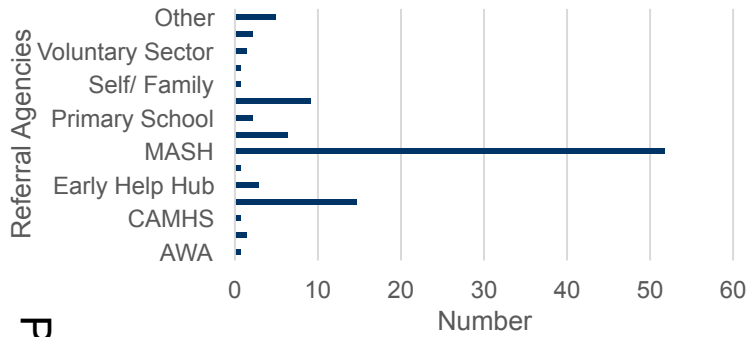
7% of young people identify with having SEND with 92% do not. This particular indicator seems low and is a focus of development with providers.



# Young Peoples Service

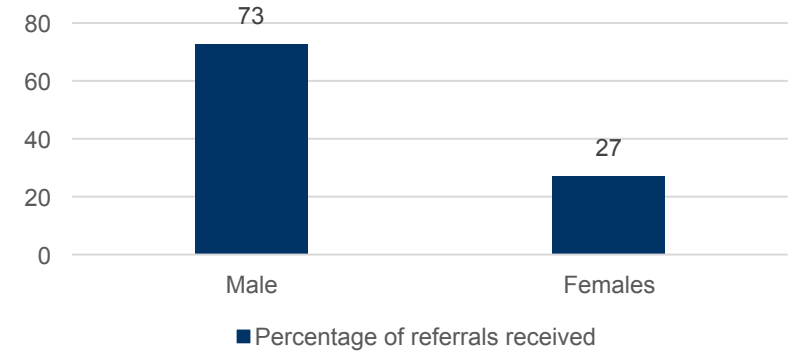
## Targeted Youth Support Service (April 22 – Jan 23)

**Total Referrals by Agency**



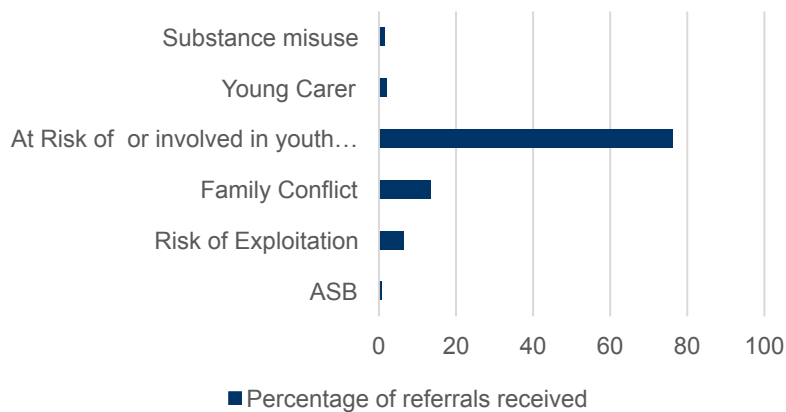
Over 50% of referrals are received via MASH with the main reason at 70% being children and young people being at risk or involved in youth violence and crime

**Gender Breakdown**



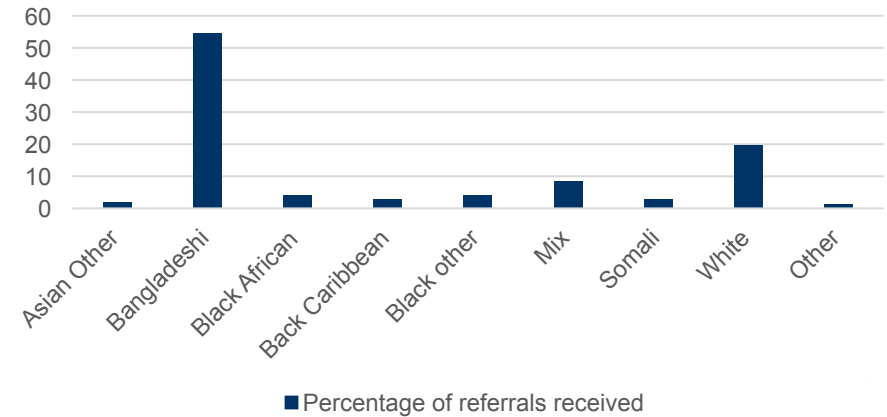
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**Main Reasons for referral**



The gender and ethnicity breakdown mirrors the universal with approx. 70/30 split in gender and Bangladeshi and White being the two ethnicity groups engaging with targeted youth support service

**Ethnicity Breakdown**



# Young Peoples Service

## *What's going well?*

Clear governance in place across the partnership with quarterly provider meetings, detached and outreach forums in place

KPIs are exceeding monthly targets

Robust contract monitoring

Well embedded relationships with statutory and third sector partners

Through strong partnership working, we go the extra mile to achieve great outcomes for young people

# Young Peoples Service

## Supporting Asylum Seekers & Refugees through Youth Work case study

Having identified two hostels in the local area with 30 11-17 year olds new to Tower Hamlets, we needed to ensure that these families are included as part of our community and support the young people in achieving positive outcomes.

Our strong partnership working allowed us to quickly identify and engage with these young people:

Engaged with parents, carers & young people providing awareness of youth offer, developing trusted relationships

Listening to young peoples ideas and interests to develop future programmes

Detached team attended hostels on 3-5 occasions engaging 17 young people identifying those who wants to attend youth club provision

Local youth club providers 3 separate occasions, spending up to 2 hours per visit

Young people supported to engage in youth activities on 2-3 occasions followed by a handover to local centre-based youth workers



### Next Steps:

- Engage young people residing at the Ibis hotel @ Whitechapel (moving to Booth House) in local center-based youth clubs
- Set up a 'After school club' for Seth court cohort at Mowlem Primary School in partnership with Mowlem Children & Family Centre
- To introduce drama and art-based trauma informed programmes to support the well-being & interests of the whole family

#THYOUTH



# Young people and partners



**LGBTQIA+ Provision**  
**Young people & partner presenting**



**Girls Provision**  
**Young person & partner presenting**

**Youth  
Council  
Young Mayor**



# Overview of future service model and how we can increase provision

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## Young Tower Hamlets



# Overview of the future model

## Introduction and context

*Vision, we are ambitious for Tower Hamlets children and families and endeavour for every child and young person to be healthy, safe and successful.*

- Page 40
- These slides set out Tower Hamlet's bold and ambitious plan for a new and modern Youth Service that meets the needs of children in 2023 and beyond. The proposed model is aligned to the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan 2022-2026, specifically in relation to:



Priority 3:  
Accelerate  
education



Priority 4: Boost  
culture, business,  
jobs & leisure



Priority 5. Invest in  
public services



Priority 6. Empower  
communities & fight  
crime



Priority 8. A council  
that works for you  
and listens to you





# Overview of the Young Tower Hamlets model

## *Key highlights of the new offer*

There is a strong desire from the community, as well as politicians, for greater investment into services for the children and young people of Tower Hamlets. By 2024, Tower Hamlets Youth Service will have:

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A safe space in every ward offering universal provision by a skilled workforce underpinned by a youth work curriculum

Integrated Detached Team (IDT) to respond when serious incidents occur and pro-actively prevent further incidents from happening

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) teams providing intensive support for a range of needs

A strong sports offer, supporting in the development of a healthy lifestyle and leadership skills for the future

More structured activities in parks, a space for families or groups of young people to share experiences

New branding and marketing of the Youth Service offer co-produced with young people

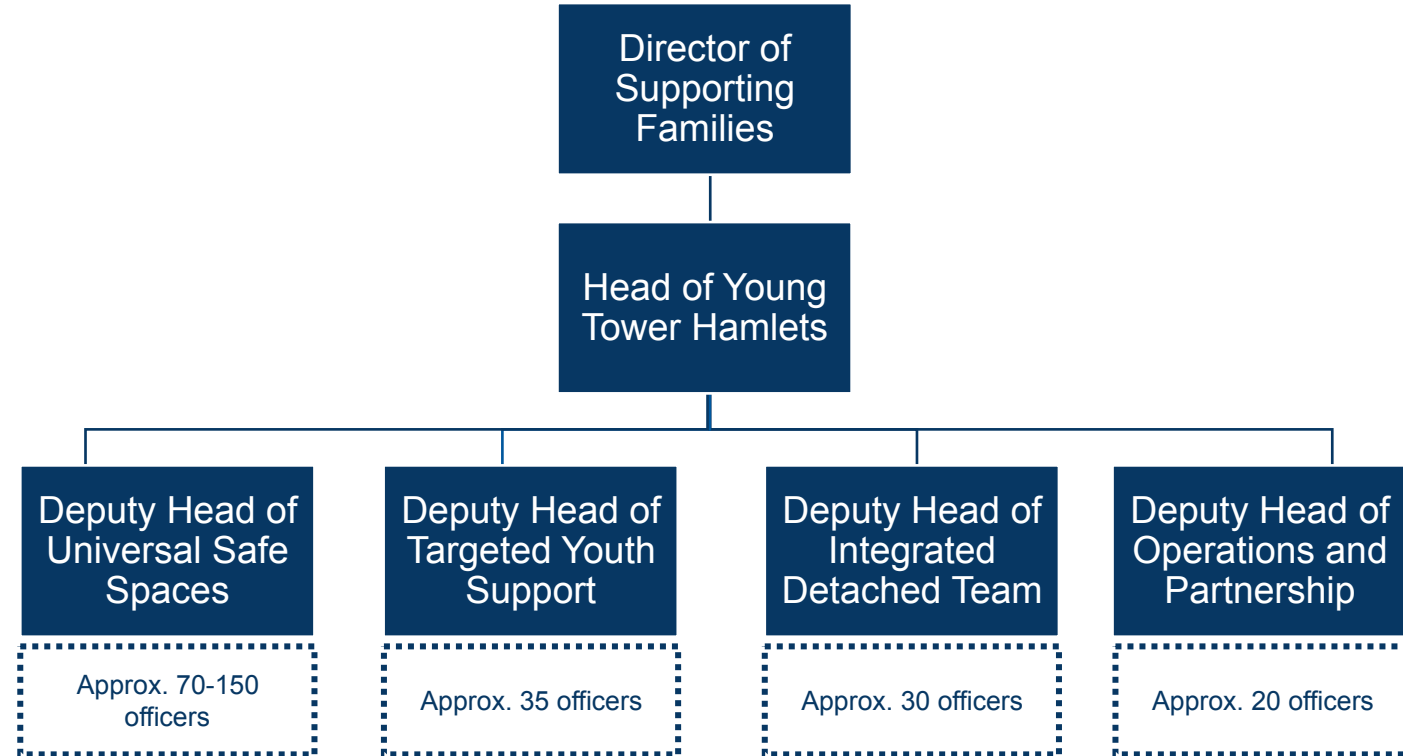
Further integration with Supporting Families, Leisure, Parks and Education

**Young peoples voices will be central in shaping everything we do in delivering Young Tower Hamlets**

# The staffing model

## Proposed new structure

- The staffing model will change from a predominantly commissioned youth offer to an in-house delivery model.
- The introduction of a new in-house youth workforce will be fully qualified and skilled in delivering a consistent new youth offer.
- Full curriculum will be developed and delivered across every ward in the borough.
- The following is an overview of the budget required to transform and deliver the new Local Authority youth service:
  - £8.5M revenue & running cost, new growth
  - £3M capital
  - £2.2M current service budget
  - **Total £13.7M**



What should be taken in to account when developing the new workforce strategy?

\* Note, the proposed structure at this stage is indicative as a formal HR process will need to be followed therefore subject to change.

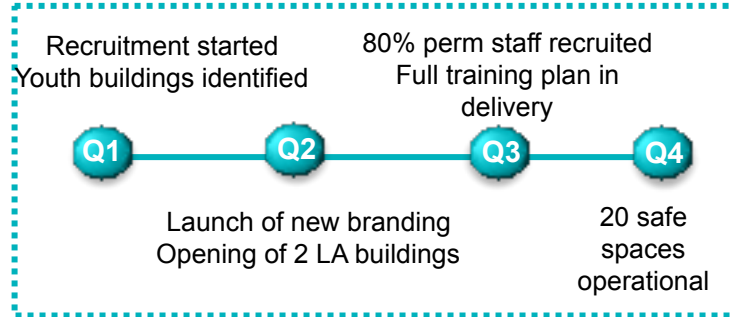
# Young Tower Hamlets

## How will it work and when?

The below sets out the service area's, key highlights of the service and indicative timescales for milestones:

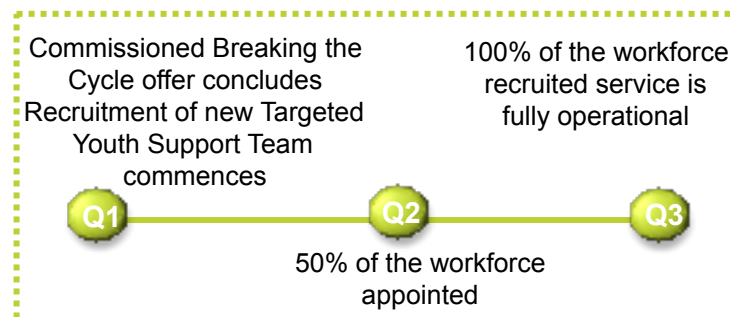
### Universal Safe Spaces

- The universal offer will operate 4 sessions a week during the afternoon and evening (extended during school holidays).
- Young people between the ages of 11+ will be able to access the provision.
- This will provide a 'safe space' for young people in every ward.
- New daily activities supported with a full curriculum that cater to the needs, aspirations, interests of a diverse range of young people, supported with a suite of KPI's.
- The universal provision will be staffed by skilled and qualified youth workers providing safe and trusted relationship for young people



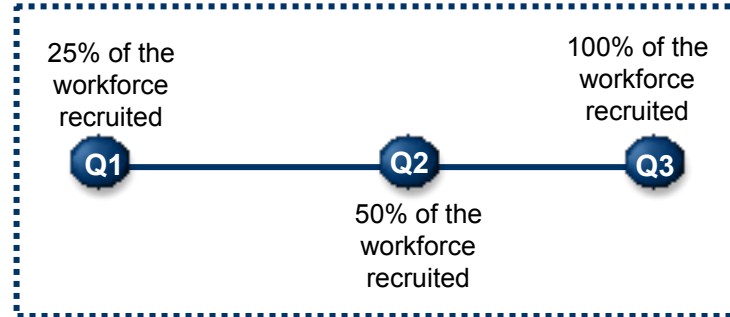
### Targeted Youth Support

- Provides assessment and intervention for young people and their families presenting to services with additional needs at a preventative and early intervention level.
- Consist of qualified and skilled youth workers to develop positive relationships with young people and their families.
- Provide allocated support, undertaking whole family assessments and developing multi-agency intervention plans to address identified needs/risks.



### Integrated Detached Team

- Consist of qualified and skilled youth workers delivering high quality detached youth work
- Deployed as a preventative and responsive measure as part of creating greater safety and support for young people at a neighbourhood and community level.
- Core operational hours will be from 3-8pm, when most serious incidents and offences occur. There will be flexibility to the hours informed by partnership information and intelligence.
- The relationships developed can where necessary support the facilitation of accessing services to help meet identified needs (e.g., education/training/employment, alcohol & drug services and emotional wellbeing & mental health services).



# Programme Structure

## *How the transformation will be delivered*

To ensure smooth delivery of the Youth Service transformation the below programme structure is in place to oversee progress and delivery.

Group	Aim	Frequency	Chair
<b>Youth Service Redesign Executive Board</b>	This group provides strategic direction to the redesign whilst removing blockages, managing risks by exception and budget oversight.	Bi-Monthly	Lead Member
<b>Youth Service Redesign Group</b>	Provides the day today oversight and management of the programme. It is responsible for the management of resources, risks, budget and decision making to ensure the programme delivers to time cost and quality.	Monthly	Director of Supporting Families
<b>Workforce Development Workstream</b>	Development of Practice Framework, new service offer, training plan, timetable (Staff & YP), QA, development of policies, procedures and to ensure the infrastructure to support delivery and safeguarding is in place.	Fortnightly	Interim Strategic Lead Young Tower Hamlets
<b>Buildings &amp; Space Workstream</b>	To ensure the new buildings coming into the portfolio are brought into operational standards. Identify which buildings can be used via 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties.	Fortnightly	Divisional Director of Property and Major Programmes
<b>Communications, co-production &amp; Branding Workstream</b>	To develop robust communications internally for staff and externally for young people and families so they are aware of the new offer and locations and the rebranding of the service.	Fortnightly	Director of Communications and Marketing
<b>HR and change</b>	To design and implement the new staffing structure. Develop the business case, design the recruitment and equalities and inclusion.	Weekly	Head of HR
<b>Finance</b>	Oversight of finance, spend and forecast to ensure the programme remains within the financial envelop.	Monthly	Director of Supporting Families

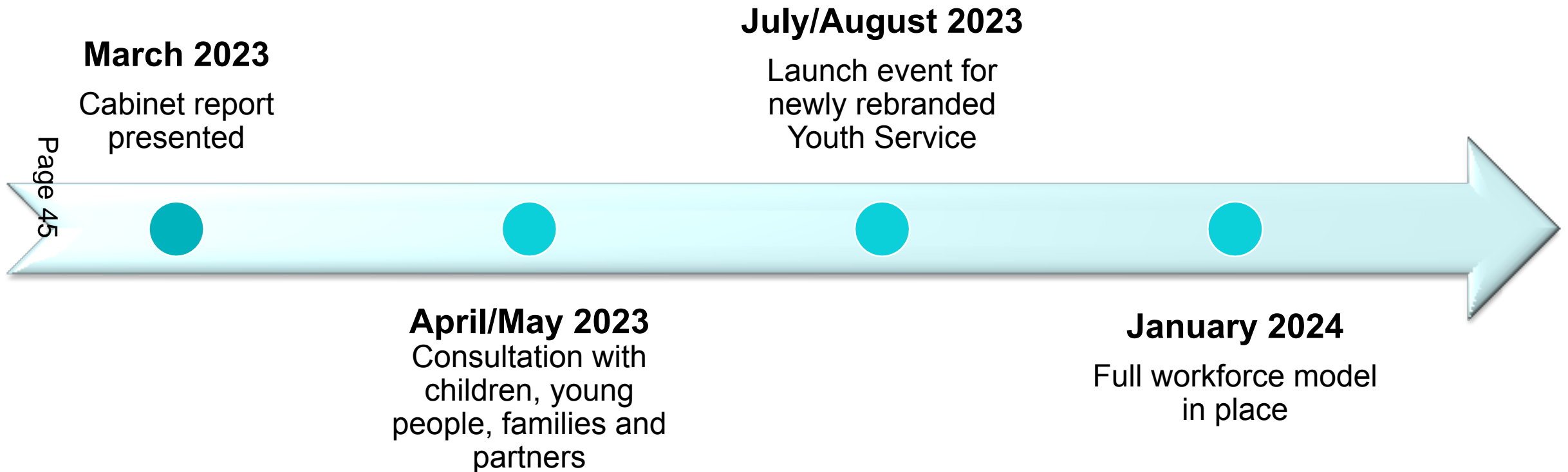
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**Are there any additional workstreams that should be considered?**

# Overview of the future model

## *Timescales*

- The below table sets out the timeline of activity and dates to deliver the transformation required to the Youth Service:




Young peoples voices will be central in shaping everything we do in delivering Young Tower Hamlets

# Questions and thank you

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b></p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> February 2023</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Sharon Godman, Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>How the council and its partners can increase women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough</b></p>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Afazul Hoque, Head of Service, Corporate Strategy and Communities Filuck Miah, Senior Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Communities
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out the findings and recommendations from the scrutiny challenge session on how the council and its partners can increase women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough. The report makes six recommendations for agreement by the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

**Recommendations:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the attached scrutiny challenge session report and agree the recommendations; and
2. Agree to submit the attached report to the Mayor and Cabinet for executive response to the recommendations.

**1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 This paper submits the report and recommendations of the scrutiny challenge session on how the council and its partners can increase women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough for consideration by the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Take no action. This is not recommended as the scrutiny challenge session provides recommendations for increasing women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough. It also recognises that residents, local leisure facilities, schools highly value these provisions and the importance of access for local stakeholders.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Gender inequality pertinent to women and girls access and participation with sports provisions and physical activities remains a key issue for the borough. The pandemic had further exacerbated this by reducing people's ability to engage with local sport facilities and physical exercise as a result of government policies on social mixing rules.
- 3.2 The United Nations Women understand the role that sport plays and the power it has to change lives and suggests its influence can drive gender equality teaching women and girls teamwork, self-reliance, resilience and confidence. Sport inspires and creates meaningful change so that all women and girls have fair access to physical activity and sporting opportunities, whilst helping to unlock some of the challenges in their lives.
- 3.3 Social factors such as social groupings, families and friends in addition to personal dynamics such as age, gender, disability, ethnicity, disposable income can influence levels of commitment and participation with physical activities. In more recent years women in sport have defied gender stereotypes and social norms, becoming the inspiring role models and showing that men and women are equals.
- 3.4 The Children and Scrutiny Sub-Committee held a scrutiny challenge session on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 focusing on the barriers that women and girls faced with access and participation with sport provisions and physical activities in the borough and how the council and its partners can increase provisions to address this. The session was chaired by Cllr Bodrul Choudhury.
- 3.5 The challenge session was underpinned by the following:
- What are the key challenges that council service and its partners face from increasing women and girls access to sports provision/ physical activities in the borough?
  - What are the are key barriers that's stopping women and girls from taking up or sustaining their access to sports provision/ physical activities in the borough?



- What are the policy solutions needed to address the challenge and have impact? Who needs to be involved? How do we need to approach this?

3.6 The challenge session involved a range of stakeholder witnesses including:

- Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation supported by council officers;
- Youth Cabinet Member for Environment
- Youth Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Sports Trust
- Women in Sport
- Women Inclusive Team
- Fitness Reborn UK
- Voluntary Sector Children and Youth Forum Co-ordinator
- School Games Organiser

3.7 The challenge session resulted in the committee making the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1**

Community engagement

Using the co-design framework, the Council's Sports and Physical Activity Service (CSPAS) will set up a steering group to engage women and girls on their needs for accessing sports provision and physical activities.

**Recommendation 2**

Affordability

CSPAS should work in partnership with the borough's sport delivery partners, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and grass root sports to ensure that access and participation in sports provision and physical activities is both affordable and is actively encouraged to women and girls.

**Recommendation 3**

Campaigns and publicity

CSPAS should consult the Council's Corporate Communication Service alongside partners' comms services to positively promote women's sports provision and physical activities borough wide.

**Recommendation 4**

Female friendly infrastructure

CSPAS will collaborate with key partners to develop dedicated female friendly infrastructure and includes location, timetable of facilities, build in competitions and develop scope for employment and training pathways for female to work in the fitness sector.

## **Recommendation 5**

### Quality monitoring, intelligence capture and audit

CSPAS will develop robust systems to capture and measure key diversity, equality and usage performance information across all provisions for women and girls. Monitoring should also include, policy reviews, mystery shopping and pulse audits to ensure that the sports provision is relevant, and sustainable.

## **Recommendation 6**

### Women and girls safe routes to sports provision and physical activities

CSPAS will use the feedback from women and girl (on safe routes to sports venues) and engage and work with key partners such as Transport for London public realm and regeneration, to ensure that any policy or access redesign takes on board and reflects the views women and girls.

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The challenge session examined the key issues impacting women and girls from accessing and participating with sports provisions and physical activities in the borough. The recommendations arising from the scrutiny challenge aim to improve access and participation for women and girls residents including age, gender, race and ethnicity, disability and those from low-income families.

## **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
  - Consultations,
  - Environmental (including air quality),
  - Risk Management,
  - Crime Reduction,
  - Safeguarding.
  - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.
- 5.2 [Report authors should identify any other specific issues relevant to consideration of this report. Including, but not limited to, the issues noted above. This section of the report can also be used to re-emphasise particular issues that Members must have considered before taking the decision (for example issues that may come up if an objection was taken to court). Note – Paragraph 5.1 MUST NOT be deleted.]

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The fulfilment of recommendations should be carried out within existing resources of the council and its partners wherever possible. If budget growth was required, this should be requested through the budget setting processes of the council and its partners as appropriate.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty. This requires local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
- 7.2 The legislation also states that having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages; take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected by that characteristic, and encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 7.3 The matters referred to in this report comply with the above legislation.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

- Scrutiny challenge session report on how the council and its partners can increase women and girls access and participation with sport provisions and physical activities in the borough

### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

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#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

Filuck Miah Senior Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Communities.



Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b>  9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Sharon Godman, Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>How the council and its partners can increase women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Afazul Hoque, Head of Service, Corporate Strategy and Communities Filuck Miah, Senior Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Communities
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

### **Executive Summary**

This report sets out the findings and recommendations from the scrutiny challenge session on how the council and its partners can increase women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough. The report makes six recommendations for agreement by the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

### **Recommendations:**

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the attached scrutiny challenge session report and agree the recommendations; and
2. Agree to submit the attached report to the Mayor and Cabinet for executive response to the recommendations.

### **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 This paper submits the report and recommendations of the scrutiny challenge session on how the council and its partners can increase women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough for consideration by the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Take no action. This is not recommended as the scrutiny challenge session provides recommendations for increasing women and girls access and participation in sports provision and physical activities in the borough. It also recognises that residents, local leisure facilities, schools highly value these provisions and the importance of access for local stakeholders.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Gender inequality pertinent to women and girls access and participation with sports provisions and physical activities remains a key issue for the borough. The pandemic had further exacerbated this by reducing people's ability to engage with local sport facilities and physical exercise as a result of government policies on social mixing rules.
- 3.2 The United Nations Women understand the role that sport plays and the power it has to change lives and suggests its influence can drive gender equality teaching women and girls teamwork, self-reliance, resilience and confidence. Sport inspires and creates meaningful change so that all women and girls have fair access to physical activity and sporting opportunities, whilst helping to unlock some of the challenges in their lives.
- 3.3 Social factors such as social groupings, families and friends in addition to personal dynamics such as age, gender, disability, ethnicity, disposable income can influence levels of commitment and participation with physical activities. In more recent years women in sport have defied gender stereotypes and social norms, becoming the inspiring role models and showing that men and women are equals.
- 3.4 The Children and Scrutiny Sub-Committee held a scrutiny challenge session on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 focusing on the barriers that women and girls faced with access and participation with sport provisions and physical activities in the borough and how the council and its partners can increase provisions to address this. The session was chaired by Cllr Bodrul Choudhury.
- 3.5 The challenge session was underpinned by the following:
- What are the key challenges that council service and its partners face from increasing women and girls access to sports provision/ physical activities in the borough?
  - What are the are key barriers that's stopping women and girls from taking up or sustaining their access to sports provision/ physical activities in the borough?

- What are the policy solutions needed to address the challenge and have impact? Who needs to be involved? How do we need to approach this?

3.6 The challenge session involved a range of stakeholder witnesses including:

- Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation supported by council officers;
- Youth Cabinet Member for Environment
- Youth Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Sports Trust
- Women in Sport
- Women Inclusive Team
- Fitness Reborn UK
- Voluntary Sector Children and Youth Forum Co-ordinator
- School Games Organiser

3.7 The challenge session resulted in the committee making the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1**

Community engagement

Using the co-design framework, the Council's Sports and Physical Activity Service (CSPAS) will set up a steering group to engage women and girls on their needs for accessing sports provision and physical activities.

**Recommendation 2**

Affordability

CSPAS should work in partnership with the borough's sport delivery partners, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and grass root sports to ensure that access and participation in sports provision and physical activities is both affordable and is actively encouraged to women and girls.

**Recommendation 3**

Campaigns and publicity

CSPAS should consult the Council's Corporate Communication Service alongside partners' comms services to positively promote women's sports provision and physical activities borough wide.

**Recommendation 4**

Female friendly infrastructure

CSPAS will collaborate with key partners to develop dedicated female friendly infrastructure and includes location, timetable of facilities, build in competitions and develop scope for employment and training pathways for female to work in the fitness sector.

## **Recommendation 5**

### Quality monitoring, intelligence capture and audit

CSPAS will develop robust systems to capture and measure key diversity, equality and usage performance information across all provisions for women and girls. Monitoring should also include, policy reviews, mystery shopping and pulse audits to ensure that the sports provision is relevant, and sustainable.

## **Recommendation 6**

### Women and girls safe routes to sports provision and physical activities

CSPAS will use the feedback from women and girl (on safe routes to sports venues) and engage and work with key partners such as Transport for London public realm and regeneration, to ensure that any policy or access redesign takes on board and reflects the views women and girls.

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The challenge session examined the key issues impacting women and girls from accessing and participating with sports provisions and physical activities in the borough. The recommendations arising from the scrutiny challenge aim to improve access and participation for women and girls residents including age, gender, race and ethnicity, disability and those from low-income families.

## **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

- 5.2 [Report authors should identify any other specific issues relevant to consideration of this report. Including, but not limited to, the issues noted above. This section of the report can also be used to re-emphasise particular issues that Members must have considered before taking the decision (for example issues that may come up if an objection was taken to court). Note – Paragraph 5.1 MUST NOT be deleted.]

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**



- 6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The fulfilment of recommendations should be carried out within existing resources of the council and its partners wherever possible. If budget growth was required, this should be requested through the budget setting processes of the council and its partners as appropriate.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty. This requires local authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
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