

# Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

## Agenda

**Thursday, 11 July 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**  
**Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel**

**Members:**

**Chair:** Councillor Abdul Mannan

**Vice Chair:** TBC

Councillor Harun Miah, Councillor Abdul Malik, Councillor Suluk Ahmed, Councillor Sabina Akhtar, 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), Ashraf Zaman (Parent Governor), Hasan Chowdhury (Parent Governor) and Nafisa Ahmed (Parent Governor)

**Substitutes:** Councillor Rebaka Sultana, Councillor Faroque Ahmed, Councillor Sabina Khan, Councillor Ana Miah and Councillor Amin Rahman

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

**Contact for further enquiries:**

Democratic Services,

[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, 11 July 2024

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.

**Further Advice** contact: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer,  
Tel: 0207 364 4348

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

### 4. CHILDREN AND EDUCATION TERMS OF REFERENCE, MEMBERSHIP, QUORUM & DATES OF MEETING FOR 2024/25

### 5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PAGES 19 - 28)

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the held on 09 May 2024.

### 6. ACTIONS LOG

### 7. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### 7.1 Cabinet Member and Corporate Director Reflections for 2023/24 and Priorities for

**Tower Hamlets Council**  
Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
160 Whitechapel Road  
London E1 1BJ

**2024/25 (Pages 63 - 80)**

**7.2 CESSC Draft Work Programme 2024/25 (Pages 81 - 90)**

**7.3 Youth Services (Pages 91 - 126)**

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

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

Thursday, 17 October 2024 at 6.30 p.m. to be held in Council Chamber - Town Hall,  
Whitechapel



The best of London in one borough

**Tower Hamlets Council**  
Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
160 Whitechapel Road  
London E1 1BJ

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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.

## 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.



<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b></p> <p>11th July 2024</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p><b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of Meetings 2024/25</b></p>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Justina Bridgeman, Committee Services Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## Executive Summary

This report sets out the Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of Meetings of the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2024-25 for the information of the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee members.

## Recommendations:

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

1. Note its Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of future meetings as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to this report.
2. Determine the preferred time at which the scheduled meetings will start.

## 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The report is brought annually to assist new and returning Members by informing them of the framework of the Committee set out in the Council's Constitution.

## 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not applicable to this report

## 3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 At the Annual General Meeting of the full Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, the Authority approved proportionality, establishment of the Committees and Panels of the Council and appointment of Members. It delegated authority to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to establish its sub-committees.

- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 21 May 2024 and agreed

to set up three sub-committees, including this one, on which occasion they agreed the terms of reference for all three sub-committees.

3.3 As per tradition, following the Annual General Meeting of the Council at the start of the Municipal Year, various committees are established and those committees note their Terms of Reference, Dates of meetings, Quorum and Membership for the forthcoming Municipal Year. These are set out in **Appendix 1 and 2** of the report.

3.4 Meetings are scheduled to take place at 6.30pm **See Appendix 3.**

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 When drawing up the schedule of dates, consideration was given to avoiding school holiday dates and known dates of religious holidays and other important dates where at all possible.

#### **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 No statutory implications have been identified.

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

6.1 This report recommends that the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee note its Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership, and Dates of future meetings as set out in Appendices 1 – 3. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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

7.1. The Council is required to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discharge the functions under sections 9F to 9FI of the Local Government Act 2000. Establishment of the Children and Education sub-committee is consistent with Paragraph 9 of Part A, and Paragraph 19.6 of Part B of the Council's Constitution. The proposed membership of the sub-committee complies with the requirements of Schedule A1 to the Local Government Act

2000.

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

### **Linked Report**

- None

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 –Terms of Reference of Scrutiny Sub Committee.
- Appendix 2 –Membership for the Scrutiny Sub Committee.
- Appendix 3 – Dates of Scrutiny Sub Committee Meetings 2024/25

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

#### **List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

- None.

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

N/A

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## Terms of Reference of Scrutiny Sub Committee

### Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

**Summary Description:** 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.

**Membership:** 7 non-executive councillors – the chair and six councillors; and 6 co-opted members (consisting of: - a Church of England and a Roman Catholic representative; 3 Parent Governor representatives under paragraph 7 of Schedule A1 to the Local Government Act 2000; and a Muslim faith representative).

Functions	Delegation of Functions
1. Reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's children social care and education functions.	None
2. 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.	None
3. Making reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or Mayor or Cabinet in connection with the discharge of children and education functions.	None
4. Delivering (3) 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.	None
5. 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.	None

<p>6. 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:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>7. The sub-committee will report annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its work.</p>	<p>None</p>

**Quorum:** Three voting Members

**Additional Information:** Is contained in:

- Constitution Part A Section 9 (Overview and Scrutiny)
- Constitution Part B Section 30 (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules)
- Constitution Part D Section 54 (Children and Education Sub-Committee Procedure Rules)

## SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025

<b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub Committee</b> <b>(Seven non-executive members of the Council plus six co-opted members)</b> Can be drawn from all non-executive members. Lead Scrutiny Member for Children & Education will chair.			
<b><i>Aspire Group (4)</i></b>	<b><i>Labour Group (3)</i></b>	<b><i>Ungrouped (0)</i></b>	<b><i>Co-Opted Members (for information – to be appointed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee)</i></b>
Councillor Abdul Mannan - Chair Councillor Harun Miah Councillor Abdul Malik Councillor Suluk Ahmed  <b>Substitutes</b> Councillor Ana Miah Councillor Amin Rahman	Councillor Sabina Akhtar Councillor Shubo Hussain Councillor Leelu Ahmed  <b>Substitutes</b> Councillor Sabina Khan Councillor Faroque Mahfuz Councillor Rebaka Sultana	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joanna Hannan</li> <li>• Philip Rice</li> <li>• Hasan Chowdhury</li> <li>• Ashraf Zaman</li> <li>• Nasfisa Ahmed</li> <li>• Shibli Miah</li> </ul>

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**CHILDREN AND EDUCATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**  
**SUB-COMMITTEE**

**MEETING PROCEDURE AND SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES**  
**2024-25**

**1. Chair and Membership**

- 1.1 Sub-Committees will be chaired by a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. For this Sub-Committee it will be the Lead Scrutiny Member for Children and Education for 2024-25. The membership of the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee has been determined by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**2. Frequency of meetings**

- 2.1 The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee will meet 5 times this year. The following dates are available in the Corporate Diary for 2024/25:

- 11 July 2024
- 24 October 2024
- 05 December 2024
- 13 February 2025
- 08 May 2025

Meetings are scheduled to take place at 6.30pm. The Sub-Committee may arrange other meetings as and when necessary to consider any urgent issues as well as arranging meetings for detailed scrutiny reviews and challenge sessions.

**Support to the Sub-Committee**

- 4.1 The Divisional Director for Strategy, Policy and Performance, will be the senior officer lead and champion the work of the Sub-Committee.
- 4.2 The servicing of meetings will be undertaken by the Council's Democratic Services Team which will include:
- (a) Agenda preparation and dispatch
  - (b) Taking minutes and recording of actions/decisions
  - (c) Dissemination of minutes and decisions

The Corporate Strategy and Communities Policy Team will provide policy support to the Sub-Committee which will include:

- (d) Research and analysis
- (e) Work programme development
- (f) Support with undertaking reviews and challenge sessions
- (g) Drafting review reports and challenge sessions

## **5. Proceedings**

5.1 The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee will generally meet in public and conduct its proceedings in accordance with the rules and procedure contained in the Council's Constitution such as the:

- (a) Council Procedure Rules;
- (b) Access to Information Procedure Rules, and
- (c) The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

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

**HELD AT 6.34 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 9 MAY 2024**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL**

**Members Present in Person:**

Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Councillor Bellal Uddin

Councillor Leelu Ahmed

Councillor Sabina Akhtar

Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain

Shiblu Miah (Muslim community Representative)

Dr Phillip Rice (Church of England Representative)

Joanna Hannan (Diocese of Westminster Representative)

**Members In Attendance Virtually:**

Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Ashraf Zaman (Parent Governor)

**Officers Present in Person:**

Steve Reddy (Corporate Director Children's Services)

Simon Jones (Head of Leisure Operations)

Amelie Gonguet (Public Health Manager, Leisure Insourcing)

Anna Murphy (Strategy and Policy Officer)

Justina Bridgeman (Democratic Services Officer, Committees)

**Officers in Attendance Virtually:**

Dr Tina Sode (Head of Special Educational Needs Education)

**Invited Guests:**

Korkor Ceasar (Chair of Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children's Partnership THSCP)

Ralph Coates (Detective Superintendent, Metropolitan Police)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests received.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting held on 8 February 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

Chair's Update

- Noted that Abena Adeji stepped down as Parent Governor in October 2023. Abena was thanked for her valuable contribution. Hasan Chowdhury will be replacing and will be formerly introduced at the first meeting for municipal year 2024/25.

**4. ACTION LOG**

The action log was circulated for attendees.

**5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**5.1 Scrutiny Government Reforms: Children's Social Care Update - For noting only**

The update report was noted. Members were informed that the item will return to a subsequent sub-committee meeting and a written response to any questions will be circulated by officers.

## **5.2 Tracking: Recommendations: Increasing Women and Girls Access to Sports and Physical Activities in LBTH**

Councillor Iqbal Hossain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, introduced the first item, and noted the leisure service was brought back into council management at the start of May. The sub-committee received an updated action plan last year, highlighting the progress made to increase access to sport and physical activities in the borough for women and girls, who are less likely to be physically active than boys. Following a series of consultations and community engagement activities; including discussions with over 1,200 women and girls during International Women's Week, key themes were utilised to shape the service.

Initiatives for the action plan delivery for scrutiny recommendations include the 'Be Well' programme of services, aimed at promoting fitness through health, wellness and play with swimming classes, fitness instructor courses and apprenticeship opportunities. Councillor Hossain noted that the Women's Inclusive Team and violence against women and Girls Team contributed to the development of the new programmes. The aim is to collaborate with London Sport on a London wide networking session, so additional ideas can be shared to increase the participation of women and girls in sports. The possibility for further projects with external partners such as Sport England and resources are ongoing.

Simon Jones, the Head of Leisure Operations, stated that the service was officially insourced last week and all six leisure centres reopened on 7 May. The booking system transferred to the new leisure management system, 4GLOBAL which will assist in sports participation to increase physical activity. Mr Jones stated that 200 former GLL Better Leisure staff have been integrated into the service and new initiatives will be implemented, A careers fair will take place this month to recruit female lifeguards. Other council departments are collaborating including youth services, young carers and public health.

Councillor Mauim Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, then informed Members that as part of the sports strategy, six coaches have been recruited to deliver sports and physical activities within the borough's primary and secondary schools. Engagement with around 1,515 young people, primarily girls will take place to increase sports participation. Further updates will be brought back to the sub-committee.

Further to questions from the Sub-committee, Councillor Iqbal Hossain, Simon Jones and Ameilia Gonguet, Public Health Manager, Leisure Insourcing;

- Confirmed that swim clinics will be implemented to target residents who don't swim often or cannot swim for advice on techniques or beginner swimming lessons. A staggered timetable is being created and the programme will be launched in the first week of June, which will include

sessions for school children and adults and water safety sessions. Consideration will also be given to establish creche facilities for parents using the centres. Further details will be posted on the website in due course.

- Clarified that lighting issues outside the leisure centres are being addressed following safety concerns raised by residents and feedback from the Community Safety staff.
- Explained that the payments will be made available for residents to 'pay as you go' or pre-book women only appointments to services.
- Confirmed that community engagement with women and girls is ongoing within the public health department, healthy communities and sports and activity teams to ensure the service reflects their needs. Feedback can be brought back to the sub-committee for review.
- Noted that clarification on why membership has declined from 27% to 24% against a target of 25% for residents under 15, will be brought back to the sub-committee for review.
- Confirmed that a partnership approach with schools, youth services, leisure facilities and coaches will be implemented to ensure the best outcomes for young residents.
- Explained that discussions with sixth form schools and colleges are ongoing to promote training and apprenticeship courses in the leisure industry for young women and girls. Consideration will also be given to allow local residents, who are personal trainers an opportunity to establish their own businesses as well as other employment opportunities, such as food and beverages.
- Confirmed that details on impact of women and girls Sports and Physical Activity Collective Networks meeting will be forwarded for review. Final details on the percentage of women employed by TUPE are yet to be disclosed, however, details will be presented to the sub-committee for review.

The Children and Education Sub-Committee **RESOLVED**;

1. That a written brief to clarify why membership has declined from 27% to 24% for residents under 15 to be forwarded to the sub-committee for review.
2. That Officers collaborate with Joanna Hannan for contacts from the School Games organisers who are funded by Sports England for additional partnership opportunities.

3. That details on impact of women and girls Sports and Physical Activity Collective Networks meeting to be forwarded to the sub-committee for review.
4. That a brief overview of the percentage of women staff members to be sent to the Sub-Committee for review once all details have been revealed.
5. That the presentation be noted.

### **5.3 SEND and Inclusion Strategy**

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning introduced the second item, and Steve Reddy, Corporate Director for Children's Services and Tina Sode, Head of Special Educational Needs Education, outlined the partnership with SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

Councillor Talukdar informed Sub-committee Members of the draft strategy, which was considered at the Health and Wellbeing Board earlier in April. A strategy workshop was also held in January, with young residents parents and professionals able to develop the strategy. A consultation is now taking place to ensure stakeholders are given the opportunity to express their views, as the primary objective is to support children and young people with SEND and the current improvement programme. The Deputy Mayor outlined the six priorities and requested Members to give feedback on the draft.

Mr Reddy drew the sub-committees attention to the appendices accompanying the report. which provided analysis, wider research, comparative data, and the various needs for children and young people with SEND. Mr Reddy then reiterated Councillor Talukdar's request for feedback and comments.

Further to questions from the sub-committee, Steve Reddy and Dr Tina Sode;

- Acknowledged that the specific analysis on the interconnected nature of race and gender of young people from minority backgrounds has not yet been conducted, although it will be considered to improve and streamline the various educational and health care plans.
- Explained that the draft strategy is based on feedback from young residents, families, and stakeholders in order to effectively respond and support young people. The six priorities are based on feedback received as well as the Green Paper recommendations. A Peer Review was conducted on the service and collaboration with the Department of Education (DfE) provided a better understanding of how other boroughs manage their services.

- Clarified that the public health team are drafting a detailed Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in regard to underdiagnosed SEND's in terms of gender, although there are higher numbers of boys with Education, Health Care plans (EHCP) than girls. Details will be shared with sub-committee.
- Confirmed that requests have been made to families and carers from the Parents Carer Forum, the Somali Parent Group representatives and attendees at the Special Educational Needs Conference (SENCO) to encourage the completion of the survey. This will ensure communities that are hard to reach are made aware that their feedback is important.

The Children and Education Sub-Committee **RESOLVED**;

1. That details on JSNA in relation to undiagnosed SEND's in relation to gender will be forwarded to the sub-committee once the draft is completed.
2. That the presentation be noted.

#### **5.4 Children's Safeguarding Work**

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning introduced the last item, and Steve Reddy, Corporate Director of Children Services, Korkor Ceasar, Chair of Tower Hamlets Children's Safeguarding Partnership (THCSP), and Det. Chief Inspector Ralph Coates were also present to give overviews.

Mr Reddy outlined the structure, and the subgroups, including quality assurance, the learning development group and improvements to the Review Working group, which reports to the National panel on more serious cases. Members were informed on the development of education partners and how they are represented within the partnership.

Korkor Cesear, discussed the important critical friend approach that Independent Scrutiny provides the THCSP. Members were informed of key achievements and the work the Young Scrutineers contributed to at an Anti-Racial Conference during Safeguarding month. Details on the new priority areas and the introduction of 30 minutes webinars for Rapid Reviews were also outlined.

Det Supt Ralph Coates defined his role as Delivery Group Lead, responsible for the multi-agency improvement projects and the significant progress made within six months, with collaboration from the Young Scrutineers and the serious case reviews. The Serious Incident Notification Process (SIN), where Health, education, and police agencies meet to discuss a specific incident to determine if it warrants a rapid review or serious case review, has also been effective.



Further to questions from the sub-committee, Det Supt Coates and Korkor Caesar;

- Clarified that each priority has a sub category such as adultification in Education. The aim for anti-racism is to compile a statement, signed off by all agencies on THCSP concerns.
- Explained that the Peer on Peer Harm focus relates to education, particularly on line threats from adults or other young people. The Education Safeguarding Forum would provide statistics on sexual assault harassment in schools. These details can be brought back to the sub-committee for review.
- A dashboard is currently being compiled by the independent scrutineer through a Task and Finish Group.
- Acknowledged that recruitment processes require enhancement and that interviews for new support officers are ongoing.
- Clarified that Community Safety Partnership are responsible for the safety of young people and collaborate with social services and the police in and out of the home. Routine intelligence is used to combat issues near schools.
- Noted that there are no statistical trends around particular ethnicities who go missing from care via those from home, although more males are subject to exploitation than females. There is a general increase in neglect which has been reflected in the cost of living workstream currently being undertaken by partners supporting families and the council.
- Confirmed that data on the number of young people who agree to return home can be shared with Members.

The Children and Education Sub-Committee **RESOLVED**;

1. That a written brief on Peer to Peer Harm statistics on sexual assault harassment in schools to be presented to the sub-committee for review.
2. That the presentation be noted.

## 6. SCRUTINY CHALLENGE SESSION

### 6.1 Healthy Weight Recommendations

The Chair provided reflections on the scrutiny challenge session report, which took place in November 2023 and then gave an overview of the recommendations eight recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

Monitor the uptake of Free School Meals to identify and remove barriers and ensure all children can access these.

Recommendation 2:

Ensure that youth services meet our aims around healthy eating, including through their food offer, inclusion of physical activity and training for youth workers.

Recommendation 3:

Ensure children are engaged in food production from growing to cooking to eating, including sharing best practice from the Healthy Families Programme.

Recommendation 4:

Work in partnership across the council and externally i.e., with schools to maximise children's access to green spaces, exercise and sports facilities. Consider any opportunities which may arise through the in-sourcing of leisure services.

Recommendation 5:

Consider using food ambassadors to promote healthy eating and provide information on recipes which are culturally relevant. Understand that food and eating are individually and culturally specific and sensitive.

Recommendation 6:

Review existing social spaces for young people in the borough and investigate any levers the council has to provide or encourage the provision of social spaces for young people that are not food outlets. Continue efforts to make fast food outlets healthier.

Recommendation 7:

Ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities can benefit from healthy food provision and access sports and exercise where there are additional barriers. Utilising tools such as EIAs to identify potential risks and barriers to this group.

Recommendation 8:

Research the needs of underweight children and those who may have eating disorders, especially being conscious of the potential impact of messaging on these groups.

Following the overview, Members;

- Noted the proximity of fast food restaurants to schools is a hinderance to the initiative, as unhealthy food is often cheaper. Further work is required in regard to the location of unhealthy food establishments to schools. The Chair informed Members that work is ongoing within Council departments to elevate concerns.
- Observed that healthier foods available in shops are more expensive than unhealthy choices, which discourages children from purchasing.
- Expressed that many children are still hungry after eating healthier foods in schools and many do not like the choices available, so they will still purchase unhealthy foods after school.

The recommendations were approved by the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The report will be submitted to the Mayor and Cabinet for an executive response to the recommendations and remarks made at this meeting. Anna Murphy, Strategy and Policy Officer, stated that members will receive an action plan in the municipal year 2024/25 to address the recommendations.

The Children and Education Sub-Committee **RESOLVED**;

1. That the report will be submitted to the Mayor and Cabinet for executive response to the recommendations.
2. That the presentation be noted and recommendations **APPROVED** subject to minor amendments noted at this meeting.

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

The Chair congratulated all Members, co-optees, officers, and partners for participating in the sub-committee meetings and reflected on the key areas of the Council's agenda. This included the implementation of the Universal School Meals initiative, the hard work of the Youth Service and the preparation of the Children's Services Inspection.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

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## Scrutiny Action Log

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

Municipal Year: **2023-24**

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
<b>11.07.23</b>	Provide further data and information on Care Experience	James Thomas  Corporate Director for Children & Culture	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b>  CESSC Chair	08.08.23	Email sent on 09.08.23 with links providing further information included in Appendix 1.
	The Chair requested details on all local universities' contributions to the borough in regard to the S106 Planning obligations and gave an open invitation to attend a sub-committee meeting to discuss	<b>Anna Murphy</b>  Senior Strategy & Policy Officer	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b>  CESSC Chair		I've run a quick search on both CIL and S106 records and it looks like there is only one development that shows up. Application PA/14/01852 relates to Queen Mary University and secured just over £38k in S106 financial contributions and several in-kind obligations relating to local employment opportunities. Unfortunately, we don't appear to have received the contributions and its unclear whether or not the planning permission was in fact implemented. My team is looking into this at the moment.  Further information included in Appendix 2.
<b>12.10.23</b>	Clarify the timescales for the completion of the research report on free schools' meals carried out by Queen Mary University	<b>Anna Murphy</b>  Senior Strategy & Policy Officer	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b>  CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 3.

## Scrutiny Action Log

	Provide school attendance data for Tower Hamlets	<b>Layla Richards</b> Head of Strategy and Commissioning	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 4.
	Research and provide any available data on the link between overcrowding, mental health and attendance.	<b>Layla Richards</b> Head of Strategy and Commissioning	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 5.
	Provide further data on Youth Service uptake including: - Breakdown of new contacts - Gender split in participants	<b>Kelly Duggan</b> Head of Youth Justice Service	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 6.
	Provide a breakdown of the Equalities monitoring data for employees of the youth service, esp. gender	<b>Kelly Duggan</b> Head of Youth Justice Service	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	10.11.23	Further information included in Appendix 7.
30.12.23	A written brief on free school meal deals, including the type of options available and costs per meal to be brought to sub-committee members for review.	<b>Jenny Pittam</b> Head of Contract Services	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 8.
	Further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.	<b>Tina Sode</b> Head of Special Education Needs	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 9.
	Details on the numbers of young people who are NEET including those on remand to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Acting Corporate Director Childrens Services	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 10.
	A written brief on details and numbers on the Post 16 needs list to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b>	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b>	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 11.

## Scrutiny Action Log

		Acting Corporate Director Childrens Services	CESSC Chair		
	Details on speech and language therapy provision in conjunction with BARTS will be brought to the sub-committee for review.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Acting Corporate Director Childrens Services	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.01.24	Further information included in Appendix 12.
<b>08.02.24</b>	A written brief on uptake figures for Free School Meals to be submitted to the sub-committee for review.	<b>Somen Banerjee</b> Director of Public Health	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 13.
	Share a brief on spice in Vapes and our work on this	<b>Somen Banerjee</b> Director of Public Health	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 14.
	Provide written evaluation of services including Safe East, Healthy Lives and THEWS	<b>Somen Banerjee</b> Director of Public Health	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Circulated to Members via Email as Evaluations included commercially sensitive information. The Healthy Lives Evaluation has not been completed yet and will be brought back to CESSC in 3 months' time.
	Following the updated JSNA you have agreed to share an update on what has and hasn't worked in terms of your work on Childrens Health in the last year.	<b>Somen Banerjee</b> Director of Public Health	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	<b>Action To Follow</b> The updated JSNA is incorporated into the Annual Public Health Report and will be shared at a later date when it is ready to be published. The due date for this response does not align with Public Health's end-of-year review and it has been requested that this information is shared at a later stage.
	A written brief on how parents' complaints in specific schools were resolved and how the council engaged with parents and community groups to discussed outside of this meeting	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 15.

Page 32	Has the TH lead members made an active effort to liaise with the local representative organisations (such as the THPA and Muslim Parent Group) to address the concerns that have been raised by parents in relation to specific aspects of the RHSE curriculum e.g. naming of sexual body parts and menstruation at early years, LGBT content, sex education etc. If so, please provide some evidence of such engagement to address genuine concerns of the community.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 16.
	Has the TH Guidance considered the cultural and religious sensitivity that exists in the community in relation to some of the contentious aspects of the RHSE curriculum. I note that religion is also a protected characteristic under the equality act 2010.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 17.
	How was the TH Policy drafted? Was there any meaningful engagement with community stakeholders such as school leadership team, governors, parents and local community and faith organisation to ensure the DfE Guidance was adhered to, factoring in local demographic and religious sensitivity etc. Please provide any evidence of such engagements.	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 18.
	Has the TH lead team members made any effort to investigate some of the local protests that were organised by parents in some primary and secondary schools. Was there a role for the council to work closely with school and parent bodies	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 19.
	A breakdown on the PFI charges for all borough schools to be presented to the sub-committee for review including overview of the risks of	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 20.



## Scrutiny Action Log

	insufficient knowledge and funding you have highlighted				
	A brief overview of the PFI value for money findings, difference between schools, contract terms and council limitations to be presented to the sub-committee for review	<b>Lisa Fraser</b> Director of Education	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	30.04.24	Further information included in Appendix 21.
Page 33	<b>09.05.24</b> Provide a written response on why the percentage of members aged under 15 dropped from 27% to 24% against a target of 25% in 2022. Highlight whether this has increased since.	<b>Simon Jones</b> Head of Leisure Operations	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	02.07.24	Further information included in Appendix 22.
	Provide a written update on the two Tower Hamlets Women's and Girls Sports and Physical Activity Collective Networks meeting and the impact it has had in engaging women and girls on their needs for accessing sport provision in the borough.	<b>Simon Jones</b> Head of Leisure Operations	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	02.07.24	Further information included in Appendix 23.
	Provide a brief overview of the percentage of female leisure centre members.	<b>Simon Jones</b> Head of Leisure Operations	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	02.07.24	Further information included in Appendix 24.
	Provide a written response on the work undertaken to tailor services to meet the needs of boys, Asian, Bangladeshi, and Black students.	<b>Dr. Tina Sode</b> Head of Special Education Needs	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	02.07.24	Further information included in Appendix 25.
	Share the JSNA on SEND with the Committee upon its completion.	<b>Dr. Tina Sode</b> Head of Special Education Needs	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	02.07.24	The JSNA has been delayed and is unlikely to be ready until the Autumn.
	Provide data and dashboard on peer-to-peer harm, with a particular focus on sexual assault and harassment in schools.	<b>Layla Richards</b> Director of Commissioning and Culture	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	02.07.24	The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP) has a priority on peer-to-peer harm. However, the THSCP does not currently have data on peer-to-peer harm.

## Scrutiny Action Log

	Provide data on ethnicity for looked after children, those on plans, and those who go missing and identify any trends.	<b>Layla Richards</b> Director of Commissioning and Culture	<b>Cllr Bodrul Choudhury</b> CESSC Chair	02.07.24	Further information included in Appendix 26. The THSCP is currently undergoing a piece of work to change the dashboard and show more information around disproportionality and ethnicity. This work is in progress over the next few months.
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### Appendix 1 – Care experience data and information

In response to the request for further data and information on care experience the service have provided the below links, the first two links will be particularly relevant for those of you who were not members of the sub-committee last year:

1. The independent review of children's social care  
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230308122449/https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/final-report/>
2. Stable homes built on love consultation – the government response to independent review  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-stable-homes-built-on-love>
3. Care experience matters  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-experience-matters>

### Appendix 2 – Universities contribution S106 and CIL

Attached is a spreadsheet summarising the planning applications relating to universities that I've identified and any financial and non-financial obligations that were secured. Regarding CIL, none of the schemes on the list paid any CIL – mostly because the developments all relate to educational type uses which is charged at £0.



University S106  
Benefits.xlsx

### Appendix 3 – Free School Meal Research Report

### [Tower Hamlets Universal Free School Meal Policy Lived Experience Report](#)

## Appendix 4 – School Attendance Data

Absence rates - autumn term: England, Inner London and Tower Hamlets between 2018/19 Autumn term and 2022/23 Autumn term

Area	Measure	2018/19 Autumn term	2019/20 Autumn term	2020/21 Autumn term	2021/22 Autumn term	2022/23 Autumn term
England	Overall absence rate	4.3%	4.9%	4.7%	6.9%	7.5%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	10.9%	13.1%	13.0%	23.5%	24.2%
Inner London	Overall absence rate	4.0%	4.5%	5.0%	6.0%	7.2%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	10.1%	11.8%	14.4%	19.0%	23.8%
Tower Hamlets	Overall absence rate	4.0%	4.6%	4.9%	5.5%	7.4%
	Percentage of persistent absentees (10% or more missed)	9.8%	12.0%	14.5%	17.0%	26.5%

(1) Total includes state-funded primary, secondary and special schools. Data for special schools is available from 2016/17 to present.

(2) The overall absence rate is the total number of sessions missed due to absence for all pupils as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions for all pupils. One session is equal to half a day.

(3) A pupil enrolment is identified as a persistent absentee if they miss 10% or more of their possible sessions.

**Appendix 5 – Overcrowding affects children’s wellbeing, Finding solutions in Tower Hamlets**



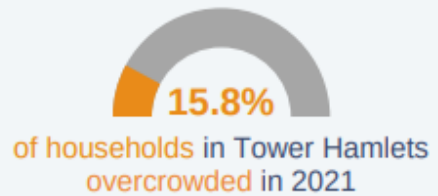
# Overcrowding affects children's wellbeing



## Finding solutions in Tower Hamlets

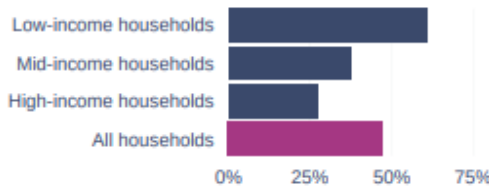
### How many households are affected?

Commonly used indicators of overcrowding such as the 'bedroom standard' have various purposes, including to help prioritise and allocate housing for residents on the housing list. Using this criterion, **15.8%** of households in Tower Hamlets were estimated as living in overcrowded conditions in 2021 (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Percentage of households that met the overcrowding criteria as per 2021 census

About **half** of all responses to a survey of 620 families during the pandemic said they didn't have enough space. **Lack of space** is more prevalent for **low-income households** (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2:** Percentage of households who reported not having enough space in their homes in a survey of 620 parents of children aged 0-4 and parents to be living in Tower Hamlets

"One of the biggest concerns in our area is overcrowding. And children just not having enough space for study, for play within their homes, that is a huge concern."  
*Tower Hamlets parent*

### Key research findings



The usual indicators of overcrowding miss many of the ways in which lack of space affects families and children.



Families experiencing overcrowding often face other issues with their homes.

### Recommendations to improve residents' wellbeing



1. Policymakers could adopt **broader indicators** of overcrowding.



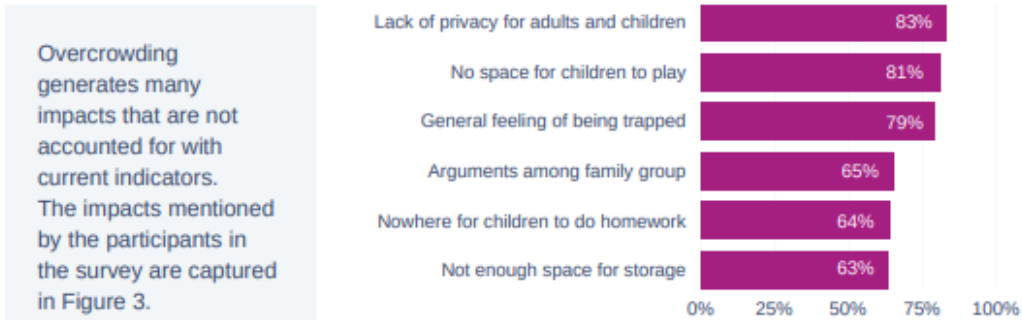
2. Landlords can provide space for **storage** and clothes drying, and **prioritise repairs**.



3. Planning rules can require child friendly, suitably sized **balconies** for new builds.

Underpinning evidence

**The usual indicators of overcrowding miss many of the ways in which lack of space affects families and children**



Overcrowding generates many impacts that are not accounted for with current indicators. The impacts mentioned by the participants in the survey are captured in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Impacts of lack of space, for respondents who reported this problem

**Families experiencing overcrowding often face other issues with their homes**

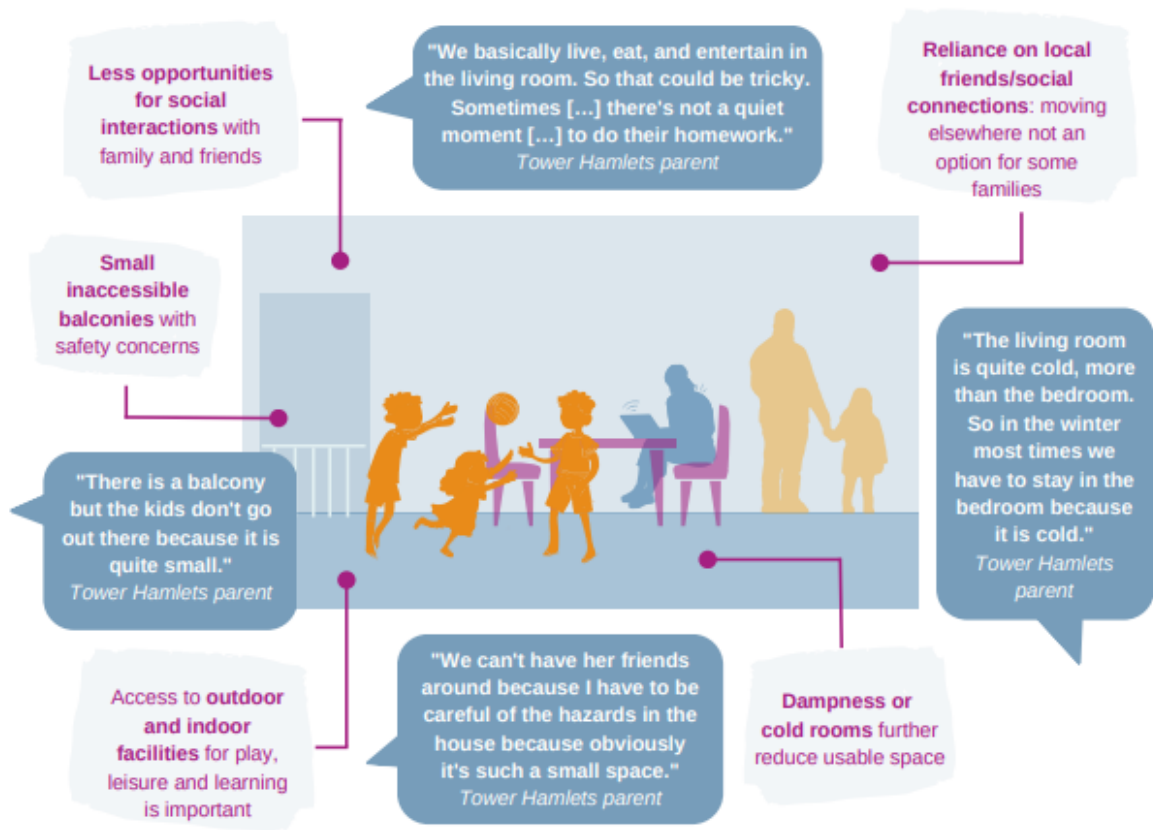


Figure 4: Overcrowding issues reported by parents

## Underlying research



Cameron C, et al. "Housing and environment for young children during the pandemic: Families in Tower Hamlets: A community survey and panel findings". <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/publication/2012563>

**About the study:** Community survey that collected data on the experiences of young children, their parents and carers in Tower Hamlets during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants were families with young children, a majority of whom were women, who lived in Tower Hamlets during the COVID-19 pandemic. 620 people completed the first survey and most (620) also completed a second survey. People were recruited via communication from Tower Hamlets Council authority targeting low-income households.



Ucci M, Ortegón-Sánchez A, Mead NE, Christie N, Albert A, Christie N. (2022) Exploring the Neighbourhood Environments for Enhanced Parental Well-being in Areas of High Child Poverty: A Qualitative Study. *Environmental Research and Public Health* doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191912563

**About the study:** Carried out in partnership with community groups in Tower Hamlets, the study explored the experience of how housing and the local area affects the health and well-being of children aged 2–12 years old from two local authorities: Tower Hamlets in East London, and Bradford District in West Yorkshire. Data was collected from 13 interviews (and questionnaire data) with Tower Hamlets and Bromley by Bow, focusing on aspects related to child poverty. The themes emerging from the study.

This work was undertaken as part of ActEarly: A City Council-led initiative to make changes to improve the health and opportunities for children in Tower Hamlets, Bradford, West Yorkshire and Tower Hamlets. It is part of the UK Prevention Research Partnership, an initiative funded by the UK Government, local Councils, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), local health administrations, and leading health research charities.

### Partners



<https://actearly.org.uk/>

For more information contact [redacted]



**Associated Links (Appendix 5)**

[IJERPH | Free Full-Text | Exploring the Interactions between Housing and Neighbourhood Environments for Enhanced Child Wellbeing: The Lived Experience of Parents Living in Areas of High Child Poverty in England, UK \(mdpi.com\)](#)

<https://actearly.org.uk/>

**Appendix 6 – Breakdown of New Contacts with the Youth Service**

That further data on Youth Service uptake, including a breakdown of new contacts and the gender split in participants, will be provided to the sub-committee for review.

	September	October	November	Total
Female	91	196	396	683
Male	131	302	1019	1452

The data above is in relation to the offer provided by Young Tower Hamlets

**Appendix 7 – Breakdown of Gender Equalities Monitoring Data for Youth Service Employees**

2. That a breakdown on equalities monitoring data for employees of the youth service, specifically gender to be provided to the sub-committee for review.

	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	White
Female	9	12	0	1	7
Male	12	8	0	0	1

The data above is in relation to the staff in Young Tower Hamlets. This includes the current permanent staff as well as the interim project team.

**Appendix 8 – UFSM School lunch and “Meal Deal” offers in Tower Hamlets Secondary Schools**

## UFSM School lunch and “Meal Deal” offers in Tower Hamlets Secondary Schools



- The Mayor funds £2.90 per day for a Secondary School UFSM
- This can be spent on a 2 -course lunch or “Meal Deal” at midday to include a main or vegetarian choice and will also include vegetables, salad options, bread & a dessert option.
- In schools with limited dining facilities, the UFSM allowance can also be spent on a “Meal Deal” at morning break – samples provided.
- All schools will have 1, 2 or 3 week menu offer – samples provided.
- The price the Catering Contractor charges the school for the meals will vary depending on individual Contract Terms and Conditions.





## Sample of a “Meal Deal” offered by Accent Catering who provide meals at the following schools

Mulberry Girls School  
Mulberry Shoreditch  
Mulberry UTC Canary Wharf College 3  
(Crossharbour)  
Bishop Challoner  
Mulberry Stepney Green



## Sample of a “Meal Deal” at CGFS, Bow & Morpeth Schools provided by Olive Dining Catering Services



### Meal Deal

1

HOT MAIN **OR** SANDWICH **OR** WRAP **OR** BAGUETTE

2

HOT DESSERT **OR** SMALL FRUIT POT **OR** PIECE OF FRUIT

**LOOK OUT FOR THE PURPLE LABELS**


*2 items for  
£2.61*

The best of London  
in one borough



# Contract Catering Services UFSM offer at Swanlea School (Week 1) £2.90



 <b>SWANLEA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU</b> OCTOBER 2023	SWANLEA SCHOOL WEEK ONE				
	<b>MON</b> (Planet Earth Day)	<b>TUE</b> (Street Food)	<b>WED</b> (Traditional Day)	<b>THU</b> (Favourites)	<b>FRI</b> (World Food Day)
<b>Main</b>	Beef Keema Curry with Rice	Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie with Mashed Potato	Roast Beef & Potatoes with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Crispy Battered Fish with Homemade Tartar Sauce & Chips	Thai Red Chicken Curry with Rice
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake	Margherita Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges	Chickpea & Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Italian Quorn Meatballs with Cheese Mega Sub with Potato Wedges	Thai Stir-Fried Vegetables with Noodles
<b>Slides/Vegetables</b>	Sweetcorn & Peas	Broccoli and Carrots	Roasted Root Vegetables	Peas & Baked Beans	Vegetable Medley and Sweetcorn
<b>Salads</b>	Crated Carrots & Sultanas Salad	Cauliflower & Coriander Salad	Chef's House Salad	New Potato Salad / Sweetcorn Salad	Sweet Chill, Tomato & Basil Salad
<b>Dessert</b>	Cheese and Crackers with Grapes & Apple Wedge	Fruity Yoghurt Bar	Homemade Cheese Twist	Fruit Salad with Vanilla Ice Cream	Thai Baked Pineapple with Yoghurt
<b>Daily Options</b>	Daily Salad / Fresh Bread / Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter / Organic Yoghurts				


Respect | Aspire | Achieve

The best of London in one borough



# Contract Catering Services UFSM offer at Swanlea School (Week 1) £2.90



 <b>SWANLEA SCHOOL LUNCH MENU</b> OCTOBER 2023	SWANLEA SCHOOL WEEK TWO				
	<b>MON</b> (Planet Earth Day)	<b>TUE</b> (Street Food)	<b>WED</b> (Traditional Day)	<b>THU</b> (Favourites)	<b>FRI</b> (World Food Day)
<b>Main</b>	Caribbean Brown Chicken Stew with Rice	Curried Beef Meatballs with Savoury Rice	Roast Chicken & Potatoes with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Breaded Fish with Homemade Tartar Sauce & Chips or Teriyaki Salmon Wrap with Mixed Side Salad	Beef Bourguignon with Rice
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Macaroni Double Cheese with Fried Leeks	Vegan Spicy Chicken Style Strips & Sweet Chilli Sauce Wrap with Baked Potato Wedges	Chickpea & Mixed Vegetable Spicy Rice	Jack Sweet Potato, Bean and Vegetable Curry with Rice	Spinach, Pepper & Caramelized Onion Quiche with Provencal Potato
<b>Slides/Vegetables</b>	Sauteed Leeks and Sweetcorn	Curried Roasted Cauliflower and Peas	Broccoli and Carrots	Peas and Baked Beans	Ratatouille and French Beans
<b>Salads</b>	Carrots & Cucumber Ribbons	Asian Noodle Salad	Chef's House Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw	Macedoine of Vegetable Salad
<b>Dessert</b>	Cheese and Crackers with Grapes & Apple Wedge	Fruity Yoghurt Bar	Apple Crumble Style Yoghurt	Fruit Salad with Vanilla Ice Cream	Yoghurt with Cinnamon & Vanilla Pear
<b>Daily Options</b>	Daily Salad / Fresh Bread / Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter / Organic Yoghurts				

Respect | Aspire | Achieve





# Accent Catering Sample Menu (Week 1)

*Week 1* **Spring Menu**

Week Commencing: 08/01/2024, 05/02/2024 and 11/03/2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>MAINS</b> <i>Fresh Flavours</i>	Kung Pao Chicken Stir Fry with Peppers Served with Egg Noodles and Chinese Roasted Greens (G,So,E)	Chicken Tikka Masala Served with Turmeric Rice and Aromatic Cauliflower (None)	Mexican Chicken, Peppers and Beans Fajita Served with Mexican Wholegrain Rice and Sweetcorn (G,Mu,Mk,Ce)	Classic Italian Beef Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread and Green Beans (G,E,Mk,So)	Fish Finger Bap with Lemon Coleslaw (G,E,F,Mu) or Salmon Fishcakes with Lemon Mayo (G,E,F) Served with Beans and Peas
<b>VEGGIE</b> <i>Meat free</i>	Kung Pao Quorn Stir Fry Served with Egg Noodles and Chinese Roasted Greens (G,Mu,So,Ce,E)	Veggie Chickpea Tikka Masala Served with Turmeric Rice and Aromatic Cauliflower (None)	Roast Veggie, Beans and Cheese Quesadilla Served with Mexican Wholegrain Rice and Sweetcorn (G,Mu,Mk,Ce)	Mediterranean Vegetables Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread and Green Beans (G,E,Mk,So)	Homemade Veggie Burger with Tomato Relish in a Toasted Bun (G,Su) Served with Beans and Peas

<b>JACKET POTATOES</b>	
<b>MONDAY</b>	Cheese and Beans topped Jacket Potato (Mk)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Tuna Mayonnaise topped Jacket Potato (E,F)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Cheesy Coleslaw topped Jacket Potato (E,Mu)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Chilli con Carne topped Jacket Potato (None)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Cheese and Beans topped Jacket Potato (Mk)

<b>DESSERT</b>	
<b>MONDAY</b>	Apple Crumble with Custard (G,Mk)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Fruity Flapjack (G,Su)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Baked Citrus Pudding with Lemon Sauce (G,Mk,E)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Banana Tea Bread (G,Mk,E)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Winter Fruit Crumble with Custard (G,Mk)

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### **Appendix 9 – Further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.**

Data is not collected on the number of young people with EHC plans who initially enrolled on a BTEC course and later switched to another pathway due to the limited offer. However, we do know that BTECs often cater to diverse learning styles and abilities, providing a more practical and vocational approach for children and young people. By excluding BTEC qualifications (level 2 and below) from our 6<sup>th</sup> form offer, young people are limited in their educational choices, and their ability to thrive and excel in areas that align better with their individual strengths and preferences is hindered. A review of the current 6<sup>th</sup> form offer is in progress, and the outcome of this review will provide suggestions to address the concerns mentioned above.

### **Appendix 10 – Further details on young people with EHCP no longer studying BTEC Courses to be brought back to the sub-committee for review.**

- At the start of the 23/24 academic year 130 young people (aged 17 to 25) fell under the NEET category. This has risen to 179 young people (January 2024).
- The NEET population is diverse in terms of age, with the following distribution:
  - 5 young people aged 17.
  - 15 young people aged 18.
  - 23 young people aged 19.
  - 42 young people aged 20.
  - 30 young people aged 21.
  - 26 young people aged 22.
  - 22 young people aged 23.
  - 14 young people aged 24.
  - 2 young people aged 25.
- 4 young people (aged 22-25) are currently servicing a custodial sentence.
- The highest number of NEET young people falls within the age group of 20.

- ASD is identified as the primary need for 22 young people who are NEET.
- SLCN is identified as the primary need for 37 young people who are NEET.
- The Preparing for Adulthood service team are:
  - further exploring targeted interventions for NEET young people with ASD and SLCN to address their unique needs and challenges.
  - working collaboratively with colleges and training providers to further develop and implement early intervention programs for younger NEET young people (17-18 years old) to prevent prolonged disengagement.
  - fostering collaboration between educational institutions, employers, and support services to create a seamless transition for NEET young people into education or employment.

### Appendix 11 – Post 16 Needs

There are 1228 17- 25-year-olds with EHCPs in Tower Hamlets:

- **408** 17- and 18-year-olds
- **184** 19-year-olds
- **636** 20 – 25-year-olds

These young people attend a wide range of placements and access a variation of courses including A level qualifications and supported internships. However, only 79 are being educated in mainstream 6<sup>th</sup> forms in Tower Hamlets whilst 377 attend the local further education college (NCC). 156 young people are accessing the post 16 offer in our special schools (including Phoenix College) and 34 are educated out of borough. Work continues to reduce the number of young people being educated out of borough, but the needs of some young people are such that they need a level of care and education that cannot be provided in Tower Hamlets.

The needs of young people with SEN have been clearly articulated (via surveys, evaluation forms, face-to-face meetings, and presentations) by themselves and their parents and carers. A key area highlighted by young people and their families is communication. They want us to communicate better and have highlighted that accessibility to information about available services is crucial. They have expressed the desire to easily find information about what is on offer and gain a clear understanding of how the system operates. They feel that professionals should possess a comprehensive understanding of the system and the available support and be able to communicate this in a way that is

understandable for them. Young people were clear that they want to minimise the need to repeat their stories across different arenas. Parents and carers continue to request an increase in the availability of places for young people aged 16 and above, with a specific focus on Autism, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. Young people with SEN would like access to leisure opportunities and youth clubs tailored to their needs. Young people with SEN and their families expressed a need for more support to develop social skills in young adults to facilitate their transition into adulthood, further and higher education, and employment. Parents shared that some of their young people with SEN are at risk of exploitation and would like support in keeping them safe. Young people said they want to be heard and feel that the council listens but does not always act.

Services are collaboratively working to develop a 'tell-us-once approach to SEN,' enhance communication, and improve information sharing by updating and refining the local offer, alongside hosting regular Let's Talk SEND events. The post-19 specialist offer is currently under review with the aim of expanding services for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and considering post-19 developments for those with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. The Young People's Service and the Special Educational Needs Service are jointly developing youth sports and fitness sessions tailored for young people with SEN and exploring the introduction of Phab clubs in Tower Hamlets. New training providers, after assessment, have been added to the pool of organisations delivering life skills training to young people with SEN. There is an increased focus on creating new opportunities and providing additional support to ensure young people develop as much independence as possible, supporting their journey to adulthood.

### **Appendix 12 – Speech and Language Provision**

- On average in Sep 2022 – Aug 2023, 92 referrals every month were received for children under 5 to SaLT, of which 58 were accepted on average each month.
- 2.0 FTE additional members of staff on fixed-term contracts and some temporary staff have been recruited to help reduce the waiting list for an initial contact with a therapist. The staffing has been in place since April 2023.
- There has been a reduction of numbers waiting from almost 500 in October 2022 down to 70 currently. The average wait time has reduced from a peak of 35 weeks to under 15 weeks.
- Bart's Health NHS are currently providing between 60 and 80 initial contacts every month which is enough to keep reducing the waiting list. Their current target is to reduce the average waiting time to below 10 weeks from referral.

- Referrals and Acceptances
  - On average, the Speech, and Language Therapy service received 92 referrals per month for children under 5 during Sep 2022 – Aug 2023,
  - Of these, an average of 58 referrals were accepted each month.
- Staffing Enhancement
  - To address the waiting list for initial therapist contact, 2.0 full-time equivalent additional staff on fixed-term contracts and temporary hires have been recruited.
  - The expanded staffing has been in operation since April 2023.
- Waiting List Reduction
  - There has been a significant reduction in the number of individuals on the waiting list, decreasing from nearly 500 in October 2022 to the current count of 70.
  - The average waiting time has also decreased substantially, dropping from a peak of 35 weeks to under 15 weeks.
- Bart's Health NHS Contributions
  - Bart's Health NHS is actively involved in providing between 60 and 80 initial contacts each month.
  - This level of service is instrumental in the continuous reduction of the waiting list.
  - The current target is to further reduce the average waiting time to below 10 weeks from the point of referral.

These developments indicate positive strides in addressing the demand for Speech and Language Therapy services, with a notable impact on reducing waiting times and enhancing accessibility for the referred children under the age of 5.

Appendix 13 – Uptake figures for Free School Meals

# Uptake of Meals



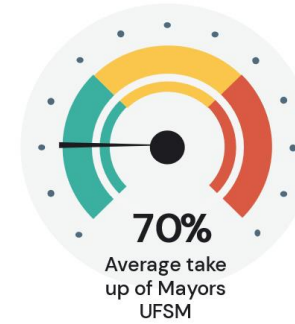
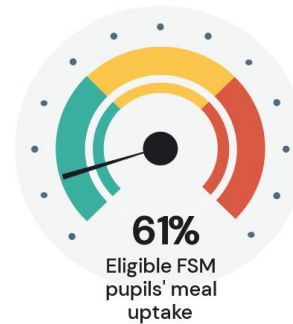
**22/22**

Eligible secondary schools receiving UFSM

**16/16**

Secondary schools received comprehensive equipment installations

## Meal Take Up Performance (across all schools)



### Performance Summary

Across all schools there is an average meal take up rate of 70%.

There has been an upturn in eligible FSM pupils having a healthy meal up from 55% to 61% since September 2023.

Please note: Meal uptake across all schools in the borough has seen an uplift. However, this was undermined by data accuracy issues at five schools. Therefore, the abovementioned figures have excluded these schools from the analysis.



Images show a POD and on-going installation works to a kitchen.



**Appendix 14 – Written brief on Vaping – Action on vapes containing Spice**

[Vaping CESSC briefing April 2024.docx](#)

**Appendix 15 – Resolving parents’ concerns: Collaborative engagement with schools and community**

If parents are unhappy about any aspect of the curriculum and complain to the school, then the school’s own complaints procedure needs to be adhered to. It is a matter for individual schools to deal with and address. Tower Hamlets schools have been advised by the Council to engage with parents, in line with the Department for Education recommendations that schools need to meet with parents to show resources, allow time for questions and to clarify how the topics will be taught in their school. After careful consideration, schools then make the final decision as to how topics will be taught at their school, with an awareness of what is best for their school community.

**Source:** [Relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education: FAQs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Appendix 16 – Engagement efforts with local representative organisations: Addressing concerns on RHSE Curriculum**

Many meetings and discussions have been held with a wide range of Tower Hamlets groups and organisations, taking place over several years. Engagement with LBTH local representative organisations include: LBTH Heads Consultative; Children and Families Partnership Board; School Governing Bodies; LBTH RSE Steering Group which was set up by the previous Mayor and Lead Member and which included the Tower Hamlets Parents Association; separate meetings with the Tower Hamlets Parent Association; SACRE; LBTH branch of the National Association of Headteachers; the Maryam Centre; East London Mosque; LBTH Annual Parents Conference; Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum; the Mayor’s Advisory Board; the SENCO conference and the RSE stakeholders forum. A Council Officer also spoke to large numbers at the Somali Mosque at Whitechapel and the East London Mosque at specially convened meetings. The curriculum preferred by the East London Mosque was also sent out to all schools by the Council.

**Appendix 17 - Cultural and religious sensitivity in RHSE Curriculum**

Much thought and consideration was given to the different cultural and religious sensitivities within the Borough before developing the borough advice to schools around RSHE. The Council is aware of the cultural and religious sensitivities and has worked with the Mayor’s Advisory Group, Headteachers and local faith groups.

**Appendix 18 – Drafting TH Policy: Stakeholder engagement and adherence to DfE guidance**

The previous RSE Guidance from the Department for Education came out in 2019. Following this, many LBTH schools were unsure as to how to interpret and teach certain sections, especially the teaching of the body parts and same sex families in primary schools. Headteachers asked the Local Authority for advice and guidance. The advice developed was supported by Borough Safeguarding Leads and Medical Leads. Again, engagement with LBTH local representative organisations included: LBTH Heads Consultative, Children and Families Partnership Board, School Governing Bodies, LBTH RSE Steering Group which included the Tower Hamlets Parents Association, SACRE, LBTH branch of the National

Association of Headteachers, Maryam Centre, East London Mosque, Annual Parents Conference, Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum, Mayor's Advisory Board, SENCO conference, RSE stakeholders Group.

### **Appendix 19 – Local protests RHSE Curriculum**

The Council is committed to supporting schools and our local community in order to give children the best start in life. The Council has worked closely with parents and schools, where there have been differing views, and has helped to ensure that due process has been followed through schools' individual complaints procedures, if necessary.

### **Appendix 20 – Breakdown on PFI charges and overview of PFI Value for Money**

A breakdown on the PFI charges for all borough schools to be presented to the sub-committee for review including overview of the risks of insufficient knowledge and funding you have highlighted:

[Children & Education Scrutiny \(Annual PFI Charge\)](#)

London Borough of Tower Hamlets - PFI Charges Report	
Report Year	2023/24
School	Ben Jonson
Current Year PFI Charge	£587,780.79
Previous Year PFI Charge	£576,119.86
Change in PFI Charge	£11,660.93
<b>Build Up of Current Year PFI Charge</b>	
Base Costs	£354,757.54
Pupil Numbers - Latest	591
Pupil Numbers - Previous	593
Change in Pupil Numbers	-2
DSG Subsidy	£203,385.16
Indexation Factor	14.00%
ACR's	(£3,523.88)
Deductions	(£19,162.15)
Comms Rebate	(£658.40)
BSF Charges	£0.00
Insurance	£0.00
Benchmarking	£4,682.71
3rd Party Income Credits (Mulberry only)	Not Applicable to Selected School
Utilities Excess (Mulberry only)	Not Applicable to Selected School
Additional Hours / Life Cycle (Mulberry only)	Not Applicable to Selected School
<b>TOTAL CHECK</b>	<b>£587,780.79</b>

**Appendix 21-** A brief overview of the PFI value for money findings, difference between schools, contract terms and council limitations to be presented to the sub-committee for review

[Children Education Scrutiny \(PFI Vs Budget\)](#)



		2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			
LAESTAB	School Name	Budget	PFI Charges	%	Budget	PFI charge	%	Budget	PFI charge	%	Budget	PFI charge	%	
2112043	Ben Jonson	3,647,423	365,396	10%	3,816,035	544,253	14%	3,869,110	576,751	15%	3,983,923	587,781	15%	1
2112056	Bonner	5,145,177	211,503	4%	5,341,624	337,865	6%	5,094,372	334,278	7%	5,091,593	351,372	7%	1
2114507	CFGS	9,508,282	1,186,574	12%	10,067,171	1,603,258	16%	10,218,669	1,657,475	16%	10,460,733	1,813,939	17%	1
2112159	Clara Grant	2,593,588	160,718	6%	2,704,529	280,791	10%	2,765,751	293,987	11%	2,792,259	334,043	12%	2
2112118	Columbia	2,394,469	202,503	8%	2,531,568	321,933	13%	2,544,297	340,631	13%	2,646,367	394,887	15%	2
2112281	Harbinger	1,712,122	183,452	11%	1,886,995	265,238	14%	1,819,749	281,503	15%	1,995,562	337,447	17%	3
2114105	Langdon Park	7,283,667	722,839	10%	7,799,706	1,112,280	14%	7,738,827	1,178,888	15%	7,910,118	1,355,851	17%	3
2112004	Lansbury Lawrence	2,622,828	359,144	14%	2,735,628	416,225	15%	2,790,964	445,929	16%	2,848,342	433,469	15%	-
2112397	Marion Richardson	2,540,168	203,468	8%	2,682,988	320,397	12%	2,723,872	348,364	13%	2,790,812	334,700	12%	-
2114242	Mulberry	8,704,844	842,983	10%	9,508,692	1,240,569	13%	9,898,054	1,384,149	14%	10,504,523	1,590,837	15%	2
2112001	Old Ford	3,722,673	351,973	9%	3,878,181	516,707	13%	3,859,772	538,376	14%	3,946,033	599,032	15%	2
2112446	Olga	2,245,439	408,721	18%	2,742,029	345,951	13%	3,189,113	403,005	13%	3,356,439	491,830	15%	2
2112908	Osmani	2,293,963	199,628	9%	2,502,350	296,331	12%	2,583,430	337,822	13%	2,708,025	395,883	15%	3
2114276	Stepney Green	7,107,018	1,041,641	15%	7,651,470	1,435,957	19%	8,021,223	1,568,498	20%	8,304,566	1,746,799	21%	2
2112499	Stepney Park (Redlands)	2,431,874	206,550	8%	4,629,278	281,573	6%	4,867,530	318,311	7%	4,752,779	364,961	8%	2
2112569	Stewart Headlam	1,834,437	129,880	7%	1,824,200	188,151	10%	1,828,891	195,525	11%	1,653,231	195,217	12%	2
2112828	Thomas Buxton Primary	2,478,197	202,575	8%	2,606,926	311,796	12%	2,624,864	332,553	13%	2,685,557	382,497	14%	2
2112623	Virginia	1,303,547	166,658	13%	1,362,940	228,089	17%	1,395,972	235,208	17%	1,422,930	283,680	20%	3
2112631	Wellington	2,461,568	227,932	9%	2,479,497	338,864	14%	2,556,424	355,772	14%	2,515,550	327,536	13%	1
		72,031,281	7,374,139	10%	78,751,805	10,386,227	13%	80,390,883	11,127,025	14%	82,369,340	12,321,760	15%	
	Childrens House													
	Columbia Market													
	Harry Roberts													
	Old Church													
	Phoenix													

It is difficult for the new leisure insourcing team to comment on historical access data as GLL did not provide information or comments alongside their equality's dashboard. However, we observe that prevalence of under 15 was 24% in 2018 and 2019 and then raised to 27% in 2021 before falling back to 24% in 2022. The team is not aware of any targeted initiatives at the time which could have led to an increase membership in 2021 except the lifting of the pandemic restriction and the drive to get children and young people active again following the COVID-19 lockdowns. It is also interesting to note that in 2022, the under 15 represent only 16.6% of our total population and so it is unclear why the indicative target was based on 25.7%.

### **Appendix 23 – Update on Tower Hamlets Women's and Girls Sports and Physical Activity Collective Network meetings**

Prepared by: Pauline Stewart

The first W&G SPA Collective Network meeting to place 12 December '23 (Host by SPA, Street Games, Youth Sports Trust) attended by 32: LBTH (SPA, Public Health, Leisure Insourcing, Young People Service), Clubs, Sports Organisations, Schools, Community Groups that supports in the delivers W&G SPA & Wellbeing sessions within the borough.

This was an introduction meeting mainly discussion around resources i.e. what supports & needs (Partnership work, Venue's, Funding, Courses)

SPA lead on International Women Week Programme 4-10 March '24: A template was distributed to all to engage in the weeks programme offering event, activities, sessions inputting to the week programme, working in partnership, delivery, resources, marketing etc.

The impact was great we collaborated with over 20 partners to provide a larger program ended with International Womens Day community event at the townhall 9 March, organised & delivered by female providing local talent: Health & Wellbeing Sessions, Inspirational Speakers, Singers, Poets, Dancers, and women run business and Health & advice stalls attended by over 500. The weeks programme engaging over 1200 women and girls who participated.

Second Meeting 12 March '24

An attempt made progress the conversation around partnership working between schools and community organisations, a basic start form was produced and circulated including details we discussed an immediate need to explore opportunities in the summer term with sport and physical activities the group can offer bring community organisations into your school into schools.

The database was shared back with the group before the school holidays in the hope that it will help planning for the next term.

There was also a discussion around the need for bid camps and funding support to sign up to receive StreetGames London Funding Flash.

Street Games (Changing Sport, Strengthening Communities, Transforming lives:

Us Girls Tower Hamlets & Hackey had an impact:

- 2800 Unique Opportunities for Women & Girls
- 5 Locally Trusted Organisations
- 100 young women & girls engaged.
- 28 new sessions offered at each LTO
- 10 staff/young leaders accessed training

### **Campaign to encourage Women & Girls participation – May - October 2023**

Building on the success of the national “This Girl Can Campaign” from Sport England, Tower Hamlets developed a local digital campaign to inspire women and girls to participate in sports and physical activity, and to promote the range of activities available to them in the borough.

The campaign called “**Find your...**” was shaped by local women and girls to empower them to find their **place**, their **community**, their **friends** and their **fun** to improve their physical and wellbeing. The aim was to support support women to be active in ways that work for them, regardless of age, background or ability.

The campaign was launched in August 2023 and ran for 6 weeks as part of the Tower Hamlets Leisure Insourcing project. Digital outcomes and behaviour change were measured to assess impact.

#### **The challenge:**

Improving access to sport and physical activity and reducing the gender activity gap is a strategic priority for the council. However, our local data and intelligence shows that:

- Women (57,7%) are less likely to be active than men (65,5%) (*Adults Active Live Survey 2020-21*)
- Girls (26,7%) are less likely to be active than boys (37,5%) (*CYP Active Live Survey 2020-22*)

National data from the England Active Lives survey (2022-23) also shows that girls (26%) are less likely than boys (43%) to have a more positive attitude towards sport and physical activity.

Many factors can prevent women and girls to be as active as they would like to be, including fear of judgement, lack of confidence, lack of time, fear of safety etc.

By sharing a realistic vision of local women and girls enjoying exercise together within their own community, our “Find your...” campaign aimed to address some of those barriers by empowering them with the confidence to exercise on their own terms.

### The Campaign outputs:

- Coordinated a photoshoot and videos of local women and girls using our leisure centres that reflects the diversity within our community.
- Updated the existing Women & Girls webpage on the council website to include the campaign narrative, opportunities for women and girls and useful signposting links.
- Ran paid adverts across Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Google.
- Posted content natively on the council’s social media accounts, including case study videos.
- Shared articles in the residents’ e-newsletter, Headteachers’ Bulletin, staff newsletter and Members’ Bulletin.

### The Campaign outcomes:

#### Digital outcomes

- The webpage gained **8k page views** and **487 returning visitors**. This demonstrates a **1k% increase in page views** compared to the same date range in the previous two months (16 Jun – 10 August 2023) before the campaign launched.
- Across all platforms, the paid adverts gained:
  - **1.5m impressions** (total number of times the adverts were shown)
  - **100k reach** (number of people to see the adverts – Facebook and Snapchat only)
  - **8k link clicks** (number of people that clicked through to the webpage)
  - **10.7k full video views** (Snapchat only)
- Native social media content gained **8.8k impressions**, 102 clicks and 81 engagements.

#### Behaviour change

- Data provided by Better (Tower Hamlets Leisure Provider at the time) shows that there was a steady increase in female participation from August onwards, following a slight decline in June/July:

Female Participation	Usage	Percentage
May	39662	43.07%

June	40997	35.57%
July	38663	32.05%
Aug	28552	38.26%
Sept	35903	39.08%
Oct	36088	41.07%
<b>Total</b>	<b>219865</b>	<b>38.18%</b>

The female membership base rose from 48% in Q1 (Apr-Jun), to 48.6% in Q2 (July-Sept).

There were no significant changes made to Better's Women Only programme during this period, nor was there any other increased awareness other than this campaign, which suggest that the trend can be attributed to the awareness campaign.

#### How is the new approach being sustained?

- The photos and videos of local women will be used as stock imagery across council campaigns - including leisure insourcing.
- The campaign will be run again in the future during specific periods (e.g. International Women's Week etc.) or to raise awareness and boost engagement of specific initiatives (e.g. new women and girls free swimming initiative).

#### Lessons learned:

Co-developed communication campaigns representing women and girls being active in a positive, realist and inclusive way is likely to have a positive impact on both engagement and physical activity levels.

#### Appendix 24 - % of female leisure members

GLL equalities dashboard shows that female memberships were consistently below target of 49,2% since 2019. However, for May 2024, new female members represent 51.85% which is green performance. A range of initiatives and activities including free swimming and targeted communication are being implemented within the new Be Well service to better support women and girls to be active.


#### Appendix 25 – Work undertaken to tailor services to meet the needs of boys, Asian, Bangladeshi, and Black students:

It is essential to clarify that, while there is no specific programme or initiative exclusively dedicated to boys, Asian, Bangladeshi, and Black students, substantial work is being done to comprehensively meet the educational and health needs of *all* children and young people with SEND.

Our approach to SEN provision is inclusive and holistic, ensuring that every child and young person receives the education and support they need, regardless of their background. All Education, Health, and Care plans are developed in collaboration with educators, parents, and healthcare professionals to ensure the provision of bespoke support. Additionally, feedback from young people with SEN, parents, and the community is invaluable in shaping our practices and ensuring that all children and young people with SEN receive the highest standard of care and education. Such feedback has been incorporated into our new SEN and Inclusion Strategy, which demonstrates our commitment to continuous improvement and the adaptation of our SEN services to meet the evolving needs of our diverse population.

**Appendix 26 – Data on looked after children, those on plans, and those who go missing:**

[Item 6b Q4 2023-24 THSCP Data - CSC \(2\)](#)

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b></p> <p><b>11th July 2024</b></p>	
<p>Report of: <b>Steve Reddy, Corporate Director Children's Services</b></p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Corporate Director's Reflections and Priorities for Children's Services 2024/25</p>	

<p><b>Originating Officer(s)</b></p>	<p>Steve Reddy, Corporate Director for Children's Services</p>
<p><b>Wards affected</b></p>	<p>All Wards</p>

## Summary

This cover report accompanies the presentation slide deck and will focus on:

- Reflection on the previous year's work within Children's Services and any strengths or lessons learnt.
- Priorities for the Directorate for 2024-25.

## Recommendations:

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

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform the forward planning activity for the Sub-Committee.

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# Children's Services Directorate

Steve Reddy, Corporate  
Director Children's Services

Page 65

11<sup>th</sup> July 2024



# Context



- There were **64,200** 0 to 17 year-olds in the borough in 2021. That's **21%** of the population, and an increase of 8,855 between 2011 – 2021.
- More than **1 in 4 children (27%)** living in relative low income families (2023). This figure rises to around 1 in 2 children when housing costs are taken into account.
- **301** children were looked after, including **31** unaccompanied asylum seeking children (as of March 2023). The through care service was working with **459** young people aged 14 to 25.
- **96%** of pupils in the borough in schools rated good or outstanding (December 2023).
- **68%** of pupils in Year 6 met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, equal to the inner London average of 68% (2022/23).
- **69%** pupils achieved grade 4+ in GCSE English & Maths, slightly lower than London average of 71% (2022/23).
- **18%** of pupils with a special need or disability (2022/23).
- **18.5%** of reception age children, and **42.7%** of year 6 children were overweight or obese in 2022/23.
- There were **142** first time entrants to the criminal justice system for every 100,000 10-17 year olds in 2022, below the London average (167)



**Corporate Director  
Children's Services**

**Steve Reddy**



**Director Children's Social  
Care (Supporting Families)**

**Susannah  
Beasley-Murray**



**Director For Education**

**Lisa  
Fraser**



**Director Commissioning  
and Youth**

**Layla  
Richards  
(Covering)**



Youth justice

Early Help

SEND &  
Educational  
Psychology

School  
Governors, Info &  
Traded Services

Safeguarding &  
quality assurance

Assessment &  
early intervention

Pupil Access &  
School  
Sufficiency

Tower Hamlets  
Virtual School

Children with  
disabilities/  
family support  
and child  
protection and  
exploitation

Children looked  
after/leaving care

Social work  
academy

Young Tower  
Hamlets

Strategy and  
Commissioning

Contract Services

Music service/  
Arts Education

Early Education & Childcare

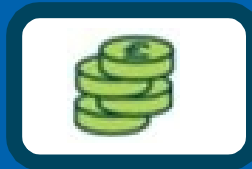


# About the directorate

1,553  
staff



Budget of £94  
million for  
2024/25



Schools budget  
of £337  
million for  
2024/25



# TH Strategic Plan: Children's Services Priorities



## PRIORITY

## PLEDGES / POLICIES



**TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance

University Bursaries

Universal Free school meals primary and secondary



Page 69

**ACCELERATE EDUCATION**

Nursery and day care provision

Work opportunities for care experienced children

SEND support

Review of sixth forms and college performance

Early help & family hubs

Breakfast Club provision

Promoting high quality learning

Child Healthy Weight

Adolescent offer

Young Tower Hamlets

Support for GCSEs



**INVEST IN PUBLIC SERVICES**

Improvement of services: children's social care, youth justice and SEND

Support for children at risk of poor mental health



# 23/24 Annual Delivery Plan Priorities – Quarter 4 (Part A)



Ref	Measure	2023-24 Outturn	Q4 Outturn	Q4 Min Target	Q4 Target	Q4 RAG
KPI 001	Number of EMAs awarded	Data Available June 2024	Data Available June 2024	750	1250	Data Available June 2024
KPI 002	Number of university bursaries awarded	Data Available June 2024	Data Available June 2024	360	400	Data Available June 2024
KPI 012	Number of primary school pupils in KS2 receiving council-funded FSM	11,542	11,542	No target	No target	Data only
KPI 013	% of primary school pupils in KS2 receiving council-funded FSM	91%	95%	80%	85%	Green
KPI 014	Number of secondary school pupils receiving council-funded FSM	11,040	11,040	No target	No target	Data only
KPI 015	% of secondary school pupils receiving council-funded FSM	69%	74%	No target	No target	Data only
KPI 016	Number of young people who contacted and registered with the Council's and Council commissioned youth centres	6,076	6,076	5,220	5,800	Green
KPI 017	Number of users who regularly attend the Council's and Council commissioned youth services	4,009	4,009	3,600	4,000	Green
KPI 018	Number of young people engaged with the Council's and Council commissioned youth centres who achieve a recorded outcome	2,073	2,073	1,665	1,850	Green



# 23/24 Annual Delivery Plan Priorities – Quarter 4 (Part B)



Ref	Measure	2023-24 Outturn	Q4 Outturn	Q4 Min Target	Q4 Target	Q4 RAG
KPI 019	Number of young people engaged with the Council's and Council commissioned youth centres who achieve an accredited outcome	689	689	540	600	Green
KPI 020	Number of active education, health and care (EHC) plans	4,550	4,550	No target	No target	Data only
KPI 021	% of education, health and care (EHC) assessments completed within 20 weeks	51%	55%	59%	65%	Red
KPI 023	Number of children supported by the Early Help Children and Family Service	20,769	20,769	17,000	19,000	Green
KPI 024	% of contacts into MASHI that are reviewed and progressed within timescales	96%	96%	90%	95%	Green
KPI 025	Rate of first time entrants to the Youth Justice system	Data Available June 2024	Data Available June 2024	185	155	Data Available June 2024
KPI 026	% of young people that re-offend	Data Available June 2024	Data Available June 2024	30%	20%	Data Available June 2024
KPI 027	Number of children subject to protection plans	307	307	No target	No target	Data only
KPI 028	% of Care Leavers aged 17-25 who are in education, employment or training (EET)	73%	73%	65%	75%	Amber
KPI 029	Number of children looked after	276	276	No target	No target	Data only



# Priorities for the coming year



- Develop support for Key Stage 5 students and progress proposals for Institute for Academic Excellence
- Prepare for inspections of Children's Social Care, Youth Justice and SEND.
- Launch Young Tower Hamlets
- Complete the roll out of Family Hubs
- Work with partners to deliver our Accelerate! partnership plan





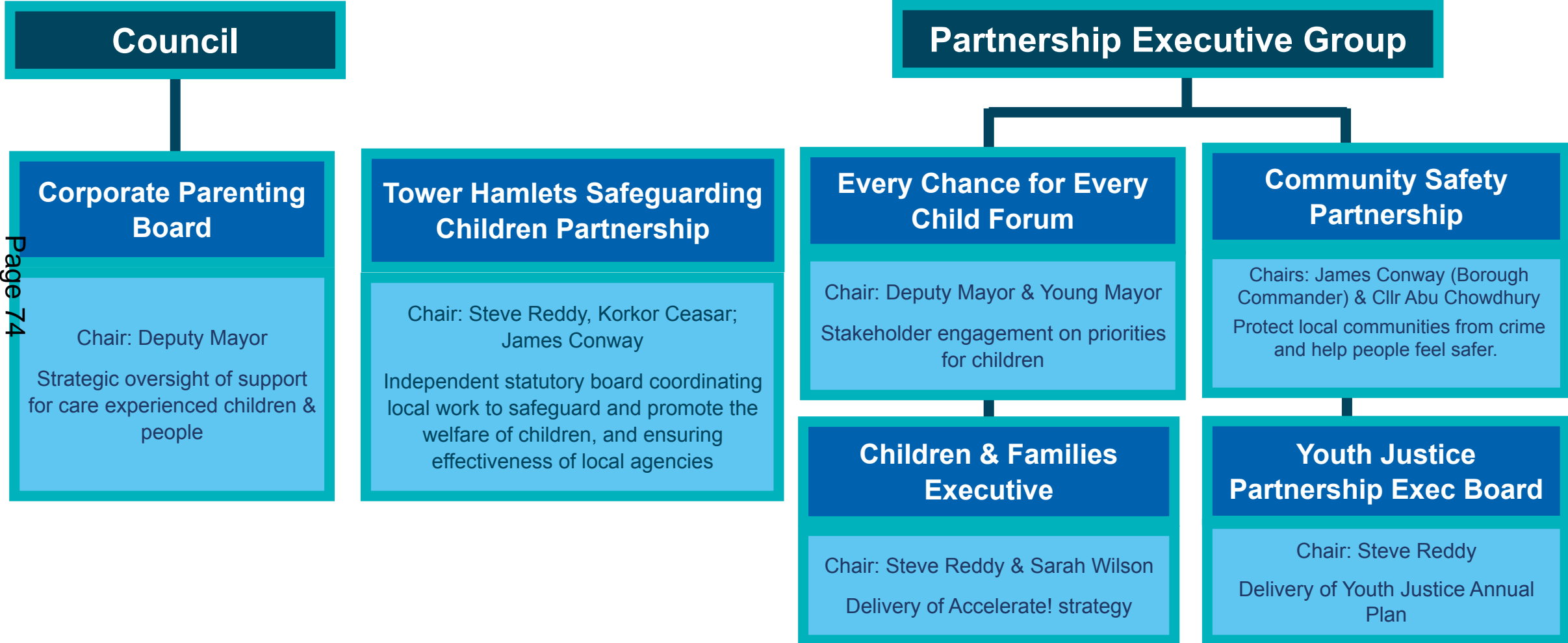
# Our local stakeholders



- Families, children and young people
- Schools : 66 primary; 17 secondary; 8 registered independent secondary, 4 '14 to 19' provision and 5 special schools
- Nurseries and childminders
- Community and voluntary sector groups and the local Voluntary Sector Children and Youth Forum
- Local health partners including the GP Care Group, East London Foundation Trust (CAMHS) and the Royal London Hospital
- Metropolitan police



# Key partnership boards



Page 74



# Key elected members we work with



## Executive Mayor

Page 75  
Oversight of services and activities that fall within the Mayor & Cabinet Portfolios.

See further details [here](#)

## Deputy Mayor & Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning

Political responsibility for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of local authority children's services (Statutory guidance [here](#))

Oversight of children's services and activities.

Chairs Corporate Parenting Board

## Chair of the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The committee discharges the council's statutory functions to undertake overview and scrutiny, as they relate to Children's and Education matters. See further details [here](#)



# Member responsibilities - children's services



## Members of the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Members of committee take part in scrutinising the provision, planning and management of children and young people's services

Page 76

## Councillor Members of the Corporate Parenting Board

Responsibilities of the board include maximising the voice of children in meetings, policy and service developments and maintaining a focus on delivery of Corporate Parenting Strategy. An report on the work of the board is produced annually.

## Corporate Parenting Responsibilities for all Councillors

- All staff & all elected members share corporate parenting responsibilities.
- When a child comes into care (or is under 25 and was looked-after for a certain period of time) the Local Authority (LA) becomes their 'corporate parent'
- Guided by the 'Corporate Parenting Principles' - focused on the needs that children and young people have, which good parents would generally meet, and local authorities must have regard to ([link here](#))



# What issues do members usually get involved in?



- Safeguarding
- School places
- Provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Complaints



# How can members support children and families?



- Let families know what's available: bursaries, EMA, Family Hubs & the Local Offer
- Promote fostering [www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk](http://www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk)
- Champion care experienced children as a 'Corporate Parent'
- Encourage children and young people to get involved in Young Tower Hamlets, our Youth Council and Young Mayor scheme and other fantastic groups for young people
- Encourage residents to take part in consultations via 'Let's Talk Tower Hamlets'

Page 78



# Key contacts



Role	Name	Email	Executive Support
Corporate Director Children's Services	Steve Reddy	steve.reddy@towerhamlets.gov.uk	Starina Richmond d'Monte Tel: 020 7364 4956
Director of Children's Social Care (Supporting Families)	Susannah Beasley-Murray	susannah.beasley-murray@towerhamlets.gov.uk	Caleigh Freeman Tel: 020 7364 2169
Director of Education	Lisa Fraser	lisa.fraser@towerhamlets.gov.uk	Sharon Thomas Tel: 020 7364 4056
Covering Director of Commissioning and Youth	Layla Richards	layla.richards@towerhamlets.gov.uk	Sharon Thomas Tel: 020 7364 4056

Page 79



# Safeguarding children contacts



## What should you do if you are concerned about a child?

If you have a concern about the welfare or safety of a child during the office hours of 9am-5pm, you should contact the Tower Hamlets MASH:

Tel: 020 7364 5006 option 3  
Extensions: 5606/5601/5358/7796  
Email: [Mash@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Mash@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

If a child is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999


Your responsibility is to report your concerns. A Social Worker will follow these up with any necessary investigations or assessment or alternatively contact:

Emergency Duty Team (EDT) – Out of hours service  
Tel: 020 7364 4079 (after 5pm and at weekends).

**Link on TH Website:** [Safeguarding Children Partnership \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)





Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b>  <b>11th July 2024</b>	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
Report of:	Classification: Unrestricted
Draft Forward Plan for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee 2024-25	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Zaid-UI Islam, Strategy and Policy Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

**Summary**

This cover report accompanies the presentation slide deck and will focus on:

- The proposed subject items for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee work programme 2024-25. Meetings are on:
  - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024
  - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024
  - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024
  - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025
  - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Recommendations:**

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

1. Review and feedback on the presentation in order to inform the forward planning activity for the Sub-Committee.

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# Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Draft Work Programme  
2024-2025



# 11 July 2024 Draft Agenda



Appointments/TOR	<b>Vice Chair appointment and TOR</b>	Appoint committee Vice Chair and agree terms of reference	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> , Chair of CESSC
Spotlight  Page 84	<b>Youth Services</b>	To review progress made in rolling out Youth Services and feed into the development of a new Young Tower Hamlets Strategy.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> , Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning <b>Steve Reddy</b> , Corporate Director, Children's Services <b>Fetuma Hassan</b> , Young Mayor of LBTH
Spotlight	<b>Cabinet Member and Corporate Director Reflections and Priorities</b>	To share reflections on work in the portfolio area in the last year and priorities for Children's Services for 2024-25.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> , Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning <b>Steve Reddy</b> , Corporate Director, Children's Services
Work Programme	<b>Draft CESSC Work Programme 2024-25</b>	To review the draft CESSC Work Programme for 2024-25.	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> , Chair of CESSC



# 17 October 2024 Draft Agenda



Spotlight	<b>Early Help Offer</b>	Review progress in developing an early help offer for families with partners, including a family hub approach.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> , Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning <b>Steve Reddy</b> , Corporate Director, Children’s Services <b>Susanna Beasley Murray</b> , Director, Children’s Social Care
Spotlight Page 85	<b>Inspection Preparation – Children’s Social Care</b>	To review the preparation for the upcoming inspection of Children’s Social Care (ILACS).	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> <b>Steve Reddy</b> <b>Susanna Beasley Murray</b>
Spotlight	<b>Inspection Preparation – Area SEND Inspection</b>	Review progress delivering the SEND Improvement programme and readiness for Area SEND Inspection, including performance against key measures such as the timeliness of EHCPs.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> <b>Steve Reddy</b> <b>Lisa Fraser</b> , Director of Education



# 5 December 2024 Draft Agenda



<p>Spotlight</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 86</p>	<p><b>Youth Justice Improvement Work</b></p>	<p>Review Youth Justice improvement work since the previous judgement and YSJIP Peer review and readiness for expected Youth Justice inspection.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b>, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning  <b>Steve Reddy</b>, Corporate Director, Children’s Services  <b>Susanna Beasley Murray</b>, Director Children’s Social Care</p>
<p>Spotlight</p>	<p><b>Corporate Parenting</b></p>	<p>Review delivery of Corporate Parenting Strategy</p>	<p><b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b>  <b>Steve Reddy</b>  <b>Susanna Beasley Murray</b></p>
<p>Spotlight</p>	<p><b>Children and Young People’s Mental Health</b></p>	<p>Review council and partnership support provided to children and young people at risk of poor mental health.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b>  <b>Steve Reddy</b>  <b>Layla Richards</b>, Director for Commissioning and Youth</p>



# 13 February 2025 Draft Agenda



Spotlight	<b>Free School Meals</b>	To review the implementation of free school meals and assess the quality and value provided to students.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> , Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning <b>Steve Reddy</b> , Corporate Director of Children’s Services <b>Layla Richards</b> , Director for Commissioning and Youth
Spotlight	<b>KS5 Educational Attainment and Institute of Academic Excellence</b>	Review and feed into development of new Education Strategy and KS5 Improvement Plan.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> <b>Steve Reddy</b> <b>Lisa Fraser</b> , Director of Education
Spotlight	<b>School Curriculum</b>	Examine the inclusion of RSE and PHSE in school curriculum and directives issued by Tower Hamlets.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> <b>Steve Reddy</b> <b>Lisa Fraser</b>

Page 87



# 8 May 2025 Draft Agenda



Tracking Recommendations	<b>Child Healthy Weight</b>	To track the implementation of recommendations from the scrutiny challenge session on Child Healthy Weight	<b>Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury</b> , Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care <b>Katy Scammel</b> , Associate Director of Public Health
Spotlight Page 88	<b>Children’s Safeguarding Work</b>	Annual review of the work of the Children’s Safeguarding Partnership.	<b>Cllr Maium Talukdar</b> , Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning <b>Steve Reddy</b> , Corporate Director, Children’s Services
Challenge Session	<b>Challenge Session Report 24-25</b>	Review and comment on the Challenge Session Report 24-25 (Subject TBC)	<b>Cllr Abdul Mannan</b> , Chair of CESSC






## Additional Items

- **Challenge Session – Subject TBC**
- **Regular performance briefings** to be shared with the Committee across the scrutiny year, with a particular focus on preparation for expected inspections.
- **Briefing on potential change in national government and its impact on Children’s Services** following the United Kingdom election on 4 July 2024 to be shared with the committee.
- Ensuring the **Young Mayor and Young Scrutineers** are regularly invited to participate in scrutiny activities across the Work Programme.



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Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b>  11th July 2024	
Report of: <b>Steve Reddy – Corporate Director Children’s Services</b>	Classification: Unrestricted
Youth Services	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Danielle Lexton – Improvement Consultant, Children’s Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

**Summary**

This cover report accompanies the presentation slide deck.

- To review progress made in rolling out Youth Services across the borough.

**Recommendations:**

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

1. Review the accompanying presentation in order to inform discussion for the Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.

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# Young Tower Hamlets Progress Update

Page 93

Scrutiny  
June 2024



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	Our strategic ambition The journey so far Context and evidence The interim model
<b>The model</b> Page 94	The future Young Tower Hamlets staffing model Approach to recruitment Safe Spaces
<b>Strategy Development</b>	Young Tower Hamlets Strategy Hackathon consultation events Summary of young people's feedback Staff charter Theory of change
<b>Governance</b>	Finance overview Implementation plan Governance structure



# Our Strategic Ambition

## Strategic priorities, Young Tower Hamlets

- Priority 3: Accelerate education
- Priority 4: Boost culture, business, jobs and leisure
- Priority 5. Invest in public services
- Priority 6. Empower communities and fight crime
- Priority 8. A council that works for you and listens to you



Page 95



## The change programme

- A safe space in every ward
- A workforce that reflects the community
- A skilled and qualified workforce
- Commissioning of specialist youth provision
- What the young people say

## Where are we now

- 8 universal youth sites operational
- Targeted Youth Support & Integrated Detached Team operational
- Sports offer expansion
- Mayor Small Grants allocation
- Extension to the commissioned provider contracts



YOUNG



# The Context and Evidence



## The need is increasing

Demand of services for young people has increased dramatically through the pandemic and has been exacerbated even further in the face of cost-of-living crisis and overcrowded housing affecting young people and their families across the borough. This is also in a context of Tower Hamlets having an overall young population and a significantly higher rate of young people living in poverty.

Page 96

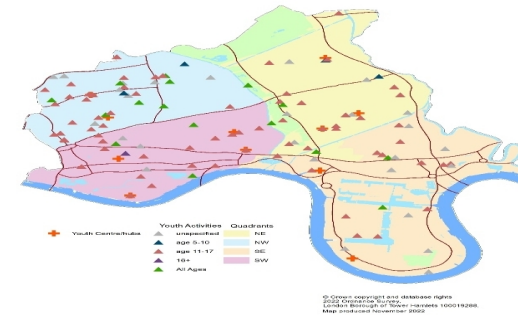
## The investment reducing

A significant reduction in funding to youth services at a local and national level over the past decade has led to an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour and lack of safe spaces for young people to go outside of school hours or during holiday periods.

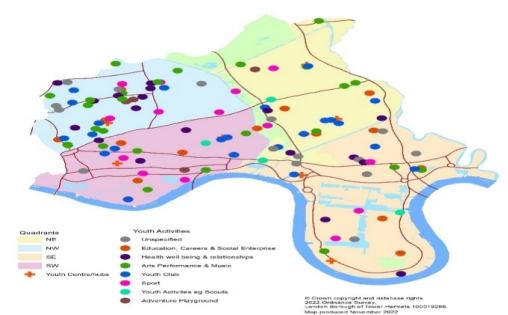
## The evidence is growing

A comprehensive analysis of existing youth provision mapping took place at a borough wide level to inform the detailed plans for the new growth.

### Youth Provision (by age)



### Youth Provision by activity & location



The ONS mid-year estimates also informed the delivery model as it highlighted the rising adolescents that will be potential service users in the next 2-6 years.

Rank	Ward	5-10 years	Ward	11-19 years	Ward	20-25 years
1	Bethnal Green	2,311	Bethnal Green	3,070	Whitechapel	3,600
2	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	2,088	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	1,745	Bethnal Green	3,312
3	Bow East	1,856	Bow East	1,768	St Peter's	2,557
4	Bow West	1,567	Bow West	1,387	Mile End	2,548
5	Bromley North	1,531	Bromley North	1,227	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	2,465
6	Bromley South	1,529	Bromley South	1,963	Spitalfields & Banglatown	2,332
7	Canary Wharf	1,441	Canary Wharf	1,309	Canary Wharf	1,884
8	Island Gardens	1,441	Island Gardens	1,322	Bow East	1,821
9	Lansbury	1,432	Lansbury	2,708	Island Gardens	1,664
10	Limehouse	1,383	Limehouse	406	Lansbury	1,500

The next slide presents a full needs assessment of the borough which sets out where the areas of need and focus should be aligned to over the coming years.

Other models for youth provision were considered as part of the service design work.



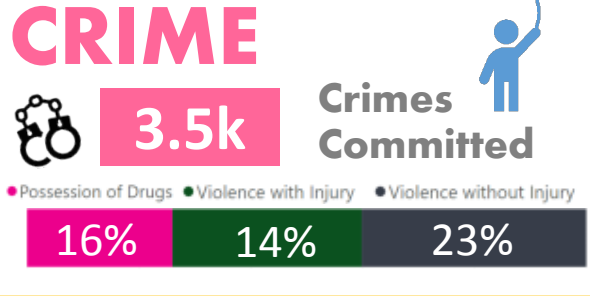
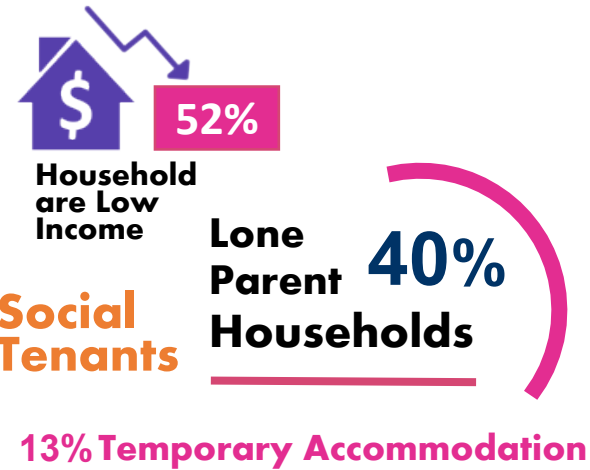
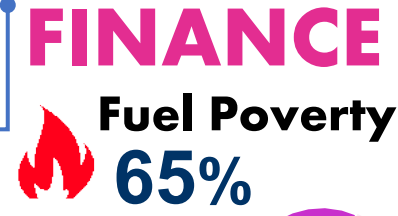
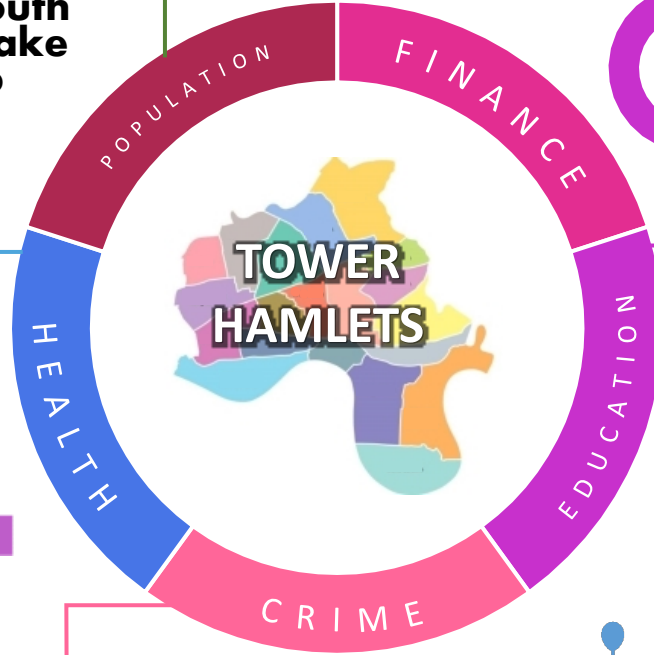
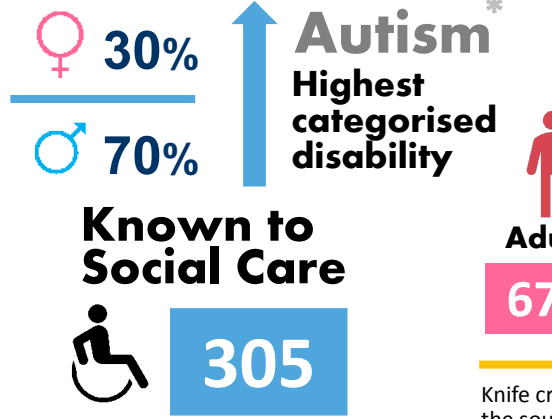
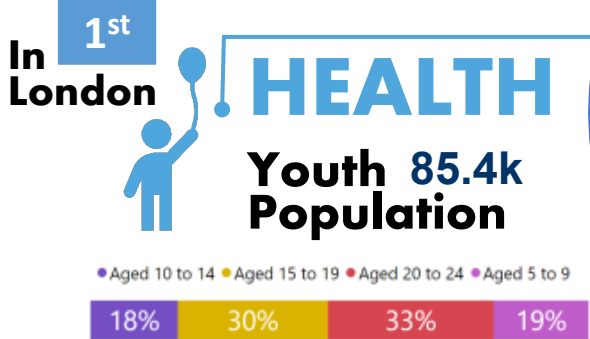
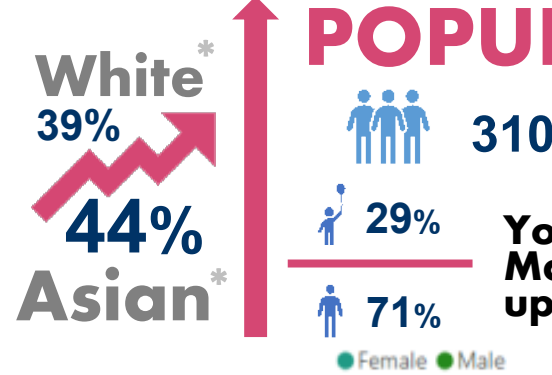
# Addressing Need

## Tower Hamlets Council



### Borough Highlights

- The highest youth population in London
- The highest population density for a borough in London.
- Youth provision to be available in **every** ward



Knife crime is relatively high in the north of the borough in comparison to the south of the borough. Majority of knife related reports are against the ages 18-24

# Recommendations for Next Steps

Page 98

## Strategy Development

To be completed by August 2024

## Commissioning & Partnerships

Finalising the commissioned offer and budget by September 2024

## Safe Spaces

Refurbishment to be completed by 2025

## Skilled and qualified workforce

Commences in June 2024 this will be on-going

## Quality Assurance & Performance

Recruitment of PDL, development of QA framework and datasets to be completed by December 2024

## Workforce Development

Training programme in place.  
Workforce development strategy is in development it will be implemented by December 2024

YOUNG

# The journey so far

## January 2024

- Launch of the Supporting Families Redesign

- **February 2024** Midway Consultation Meeting with staff to feedback on the proposed YTH structure.

## March 2024

- End of Consultation meeting with staff.

## August 2023

- Summer programme launch

## September 2023

- Relocation of Sports Team & development of new sports offer

## April 2023

- Cabinet report agreed
- Project Team recruitment underway
- Hackathons in planning phase

## May 2023

- Hackathons delivered
- Launch of youth & parent survey

6

7

## June 2024

- Young Tower Hamlets Strategy Drafted
- YTH new structure go live

## April 2024

- Final structure announced.
- Development of the Youth Work Statutory Duty delivery plan.
- Draft Hackathon report received.
- +1 Contract Extension Letters to providers

5

- **October 2023** Additional two youth centres open, 7 in total

- National Youth Work Week
- Hackathon delivered jointly with specialist providers.

- **November 2023** First YTH Away Day

## December 2023

- Data Dashboard in development and Needs Assessment completed

3

## June 2023

- Logo and Branding created
- Interim operational teams recruited across Universal & Detached
- YTH delivery timetable developed
- Training programme, policies & procedures created

## July 2023

- Mayors Launch Event at Haileybury
- Goulston St & Columbia Rd live

4

2

1

- **June 2022** launch of new Borough Strategic Plan

- **July 2022** Mandate from Deputy Mayor to develop a Young Tower Hamlets model

- **September 2022** Draft Target Operating Model

- **October 2022** Operating Model agreed

- **November 2022** Define & implement programme structure & governance

- **December 2022** Cabinet report developed & LA youth settings identified for refurbishment

# The Interim Model



- The service is currently delivering via an interim model as we move through the service redesign.
- The interim model consists of a mix of permanent Young Peoples Service staff and a large proportion of agency staff as the permanent service is being restructured into Young Tower Hamlets and the scaling up of the service continues.
- The below sets out a view of the current staffing complement and service offer:

Universal	Detached	Targeted	Sports	Participation & operational support
<p><b>Staffing</b>                      Permanent Staffing: 1                      Agency Staffing: 39</p>	<p><b>Staffing</b>                      Permanent Staffing: 0                      Agency Staffing: 8</p>	<p><b>Staffing</b>                      Permanent Staffing: 9                      Agency Staffing: 4</p>	<p><b>Staffing</b>                      Permanent Staffing: 11                      Agency Staffing: 8</p>	<p><b>Staffing</b>                      Permanent Staffing: 5                      Agency Staffing: 6</p>
<p><b>Commissioned contracts</b>                      X 4 universal £726k                      X 4 Specialist £215k                      X 4 Somali programmes £200k</p>	<p><b>Commissioned Contracts</b>                      X 1 Detached £298k</p>			
<p><b>Service offer</b>                      Delivering universal provision from 8 local authority safe spaces and have engaged from January 2024 1,760 children to date.</p>	<p><b>Service offer</b>                      Preventative and responsive borough wide outreach using the detached youth bus. The team has engaged from January 3,095 children to date.</p>	<p><b>Service offer</b>                      This service has been live for many years with the majority of staff permanent. The team deliver targeted youth support casework. The team have engaged with 78 children from January 2024 to March 2024.</p>	<p><b>Service offer</b>                      The service was within the Culture &amp; Leisure in October 2023 moved into YTH. The service delivers from the Urban Adventure Base and engages with schools on GCSE programmes. The team have engaged 1,461 children from January 2024 to date.</p>	<p><b>Service offer</b>                      The team has been in place for a number of years. The team support with Young Mayors team, Youth Council and engaging with Young Carers. A key achieve was the volume of children who voted for young mayor which was 7,167 out of 18,971, 38%</p>

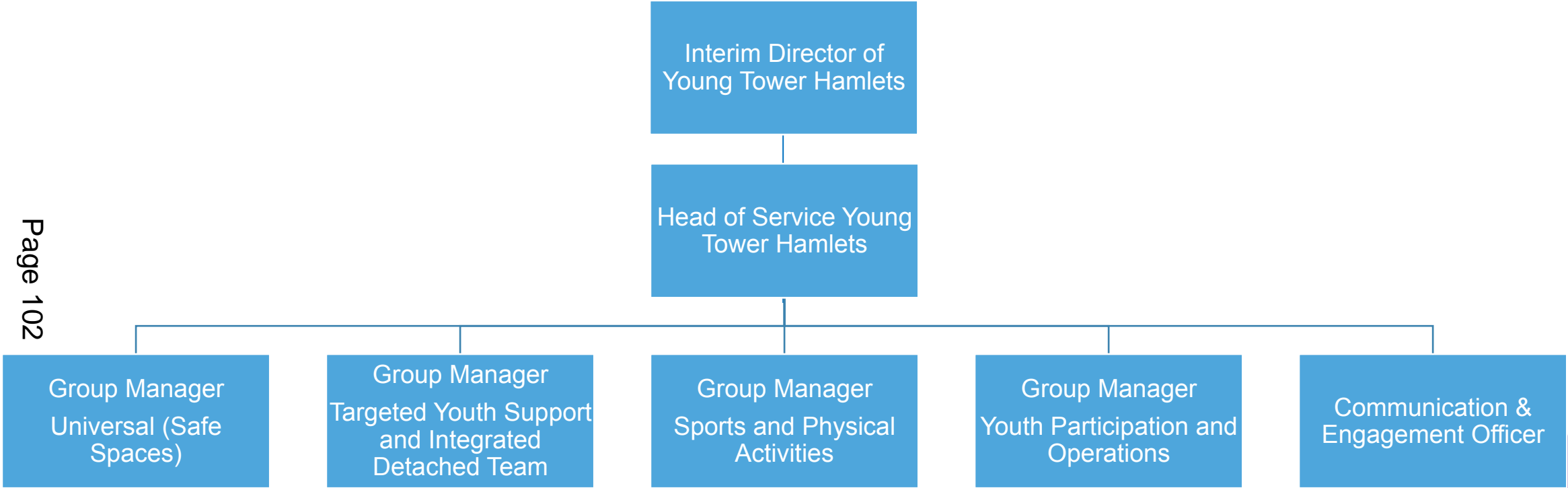
# The Model

Page 101



# Young Tower Hamlets Management Team

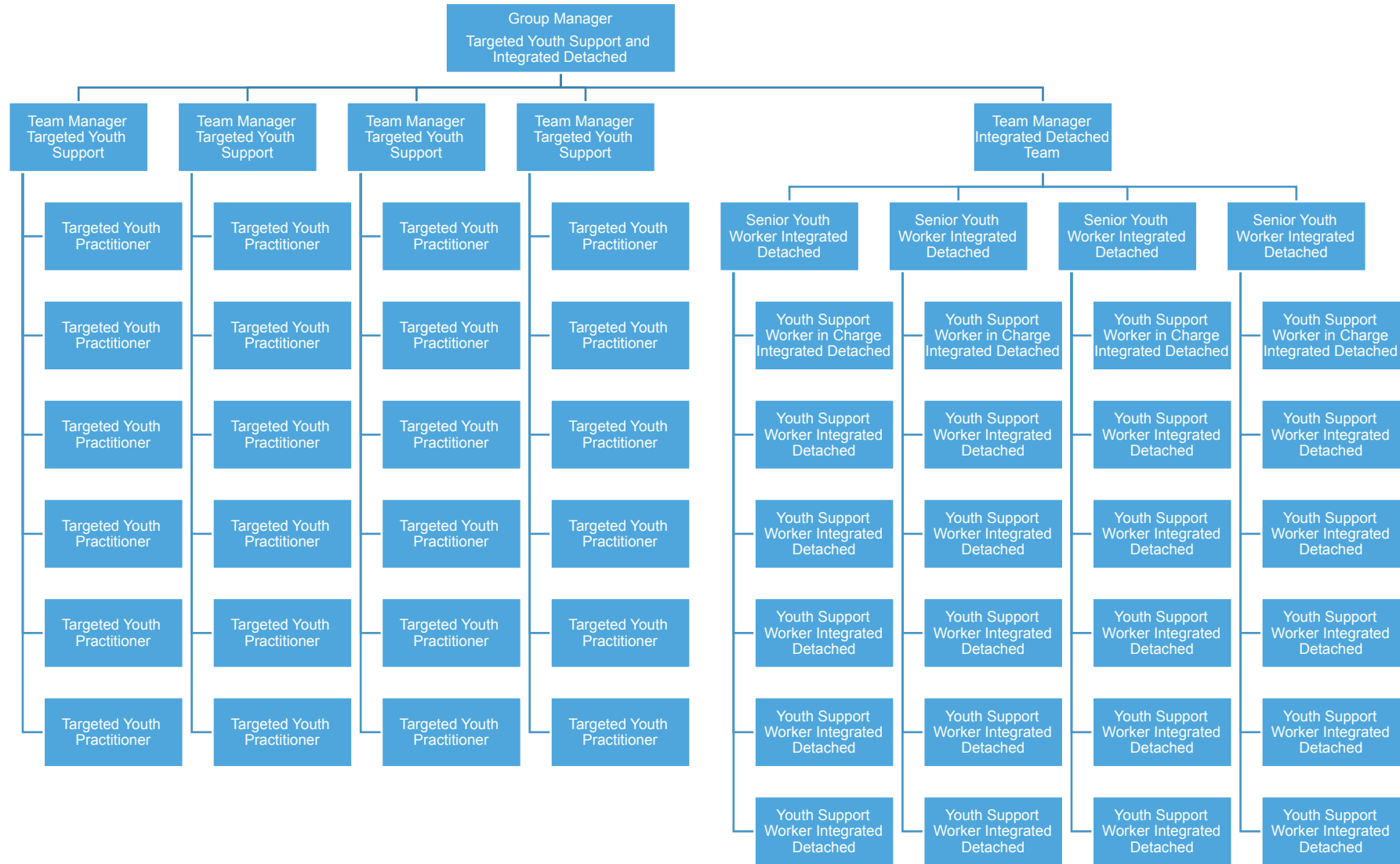
Page 102





# Young Tower Hamlets Targeted Youth Support and Integrated Detached Team

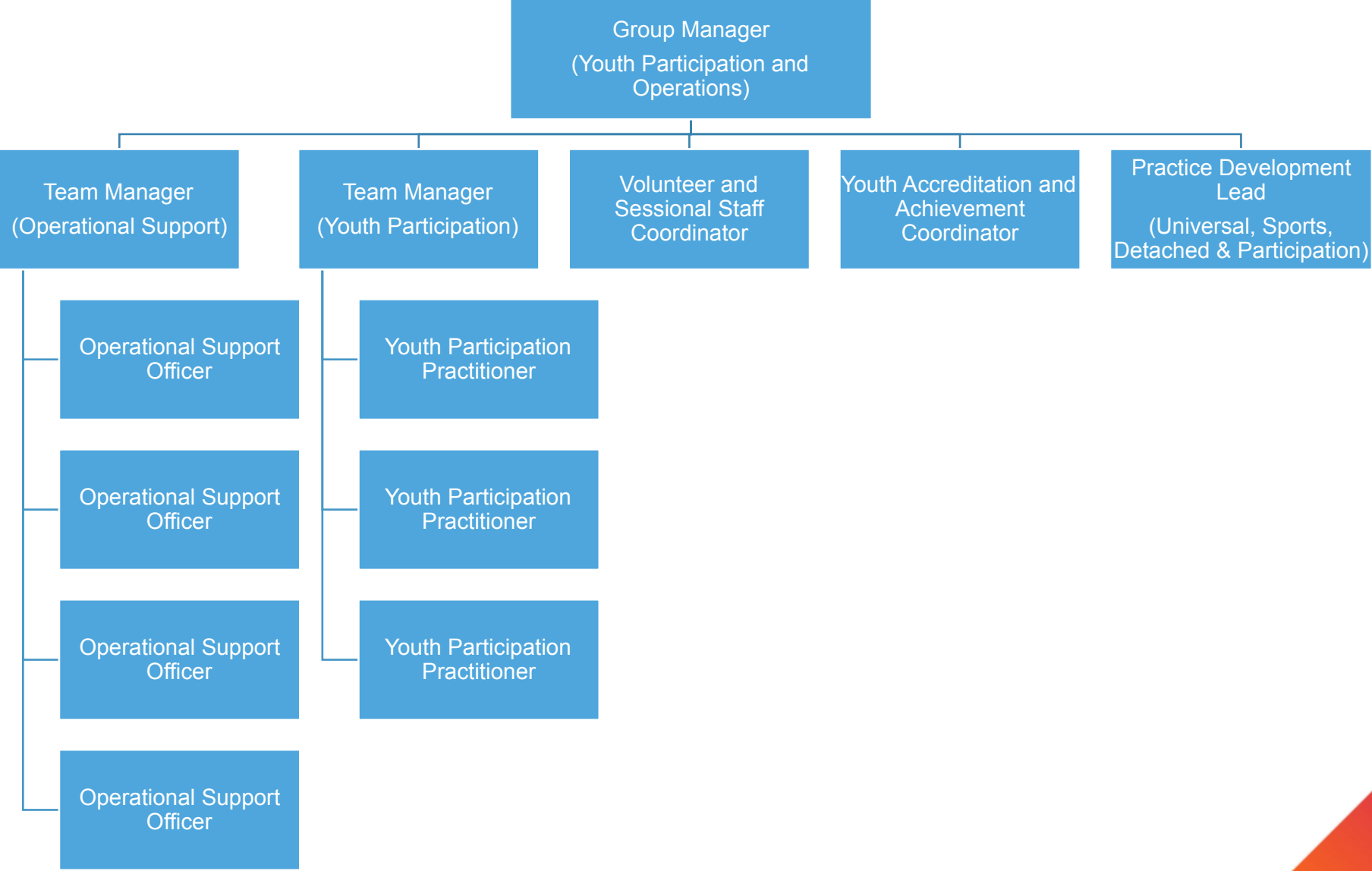
Page 104



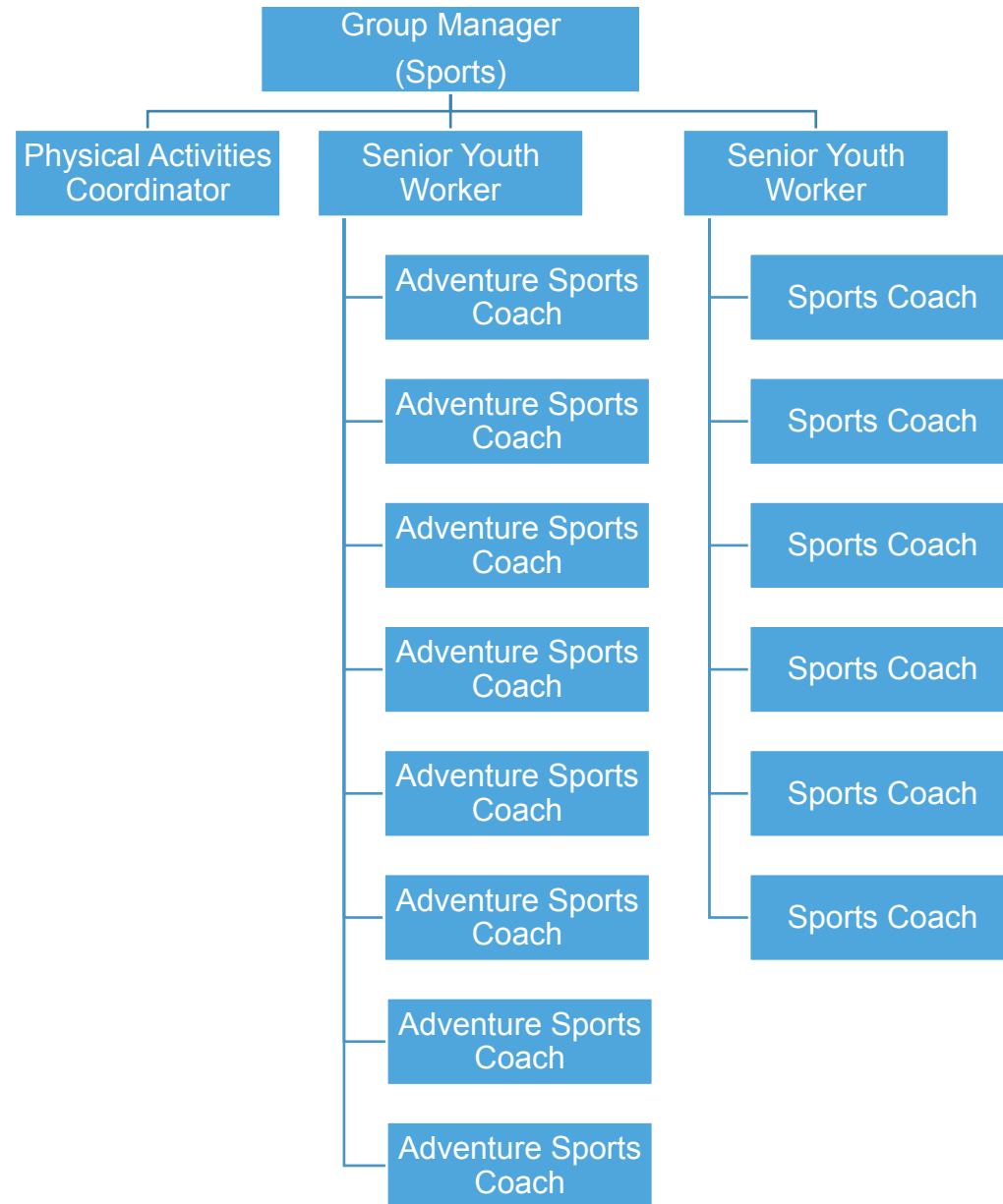
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# Young Tower Hamlets Youth Participation and Operations



# Young Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Team



# Recruitment Approach

The youth service will be primarily delivered by the Local Authority with a diverse, skilled and qualified workforce including apprenticeship opportunities. As part of the transformation of the youth service it will be important to ensure that the workforce reflects the diversity of the local community and population which will be achieved as part of a comprehensive recruitment and selection campaign including:

Job Fair

Promotion in public spaces  
i.e. bus stops,  
Idea's Store etc

Engage with local universities

Website and social media

Engage with local faith groups

Open days

The permanent recruitment will be overseen as part of the Young Tower Hamlets governance which includes representatives from Senior Leaders within Childrens Services and HR as well as being underpinned by a project plan which will detail the required activities and timescales.

As part of informing the approach to permanent recruitment its intended that learning will be harnessed from the interim recruitment that has already taken place as well as other significant recruitment elsewhere within the Council (e.g., Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers).

All permanent positions will be advertised via the Tower Hamlets internet and intranet as well as consideration given to utilising an external recruitment agency to support the campaign and coordination due to the scale and high volume of interest.

Due to the scale and structure, there will be a range of positions providing progression opportunities for potentially internal and external candidates as well as a range of workforce development opportunities.

The first phase of the recruitment will focus on recruiting to the management roles i.e. Director, Head of Service, Group Managers and Team Managers.

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# Safe Spaces Refresh

Young Tower Hamlets universal offer is currently delivered from the following safe space settings:

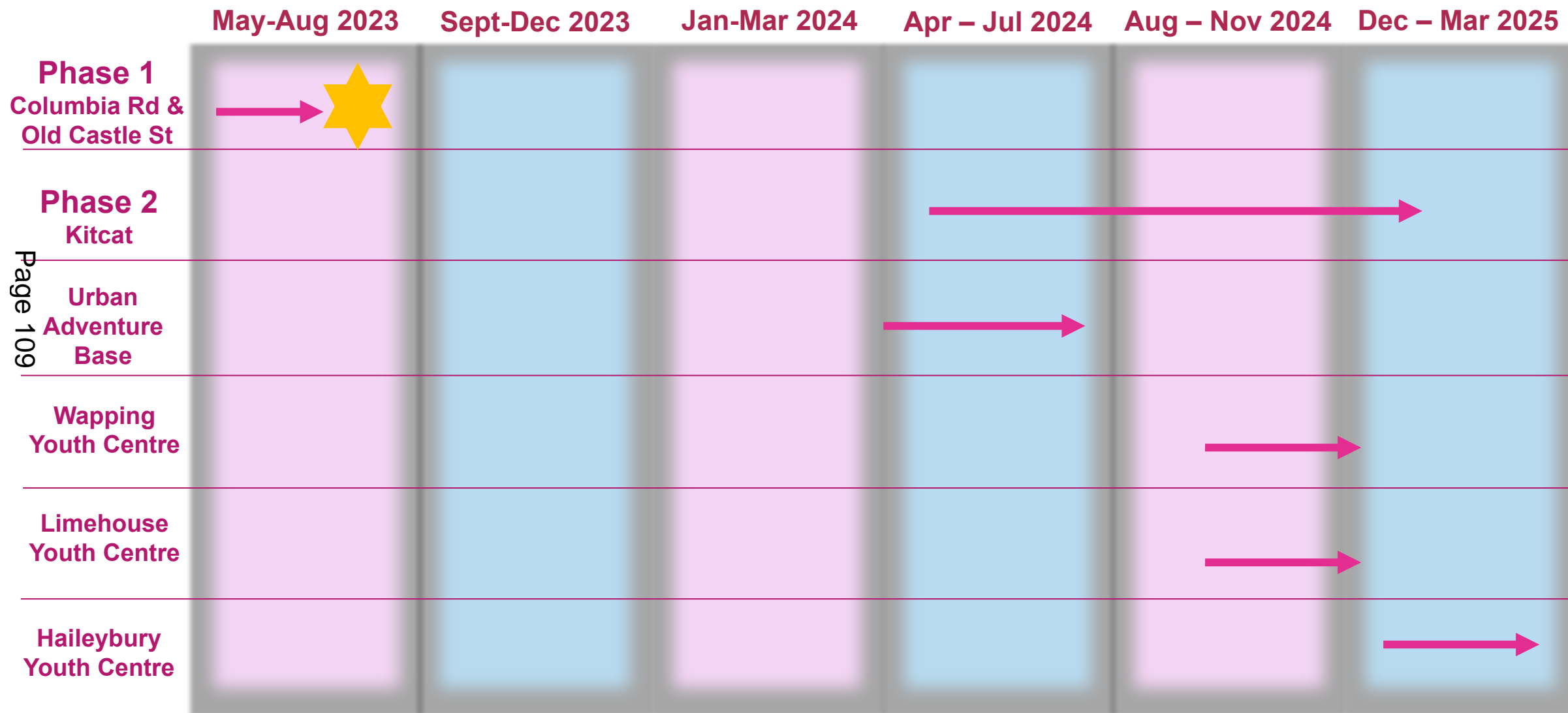
- Columbia Road Youth Centre
- Limehouse Youth Centre
- St Andrews Wharf Youth Centre
- Urban Adventure Base
- Wapping Youth Centre
- Haileybury Youth Centre
- Old Castle Street Youth Centre
- Kitcat Targeted Universal



# Safe Spaces – Refresh Timeline



- The service have been successful in securing £488k in Youth Investment Fund grant funding which needs to be spent by March 2025.

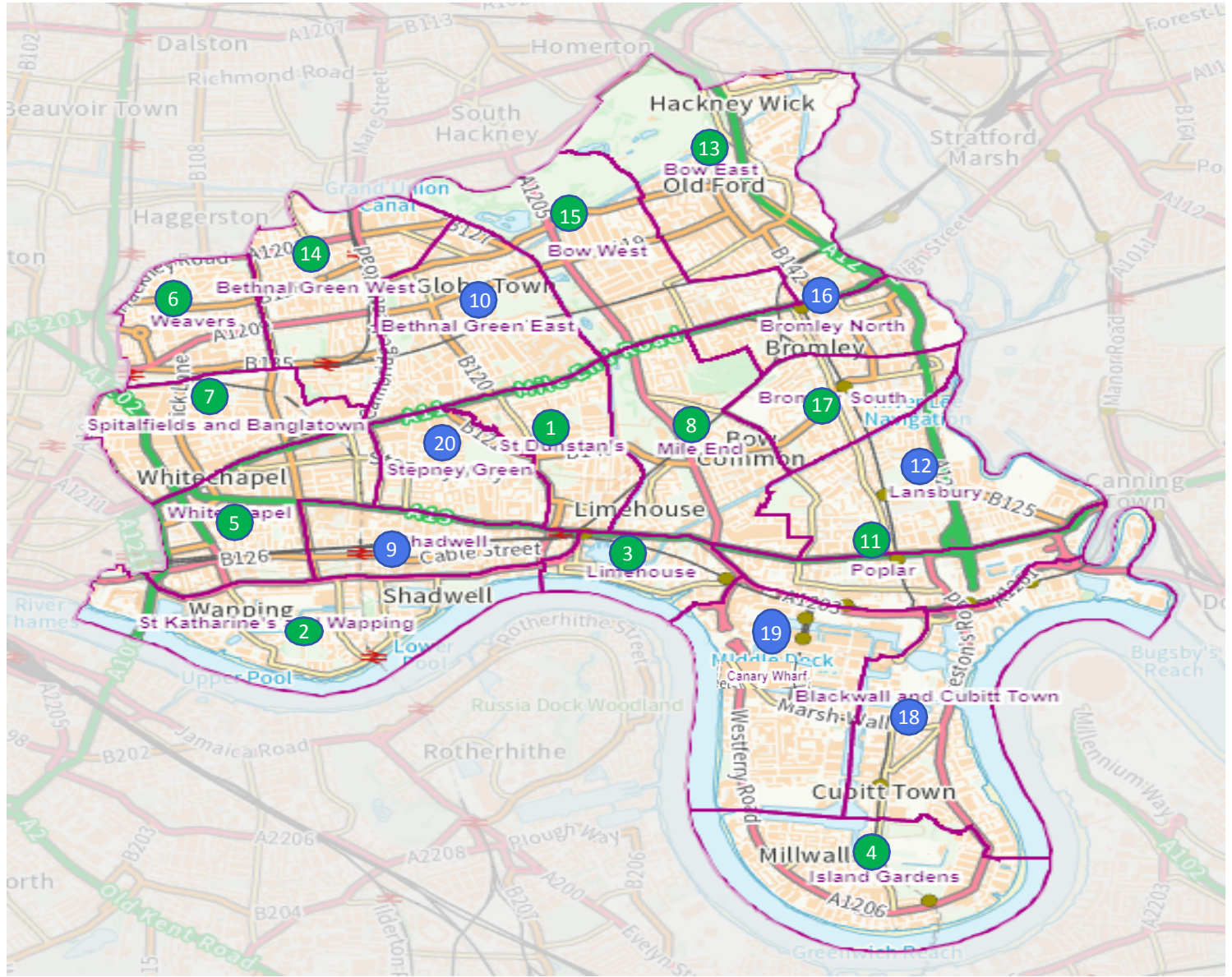


Key
Building operational
Agreement to progress
No building identified

# Safe Spaces – Current delivery next set of buildings?

- The below sets out the delivery method i.e. Young Tower Hamlets (YTH) or Commissioning (C).
- The below in yellow is seeking agreement to progress the next set of Young Tower Hamlets delivery settings.

No	Ward	Building	Delivery	RAG
1	St Dunstan's	Haileybury Youth Centre	YTH/C	G
2	St Katharine's & Wapping	Wapping Youth Centre	YTH/C	G
3	Limehouse	Limehouse Youth Centre	YTH/C	G
4	Island Gardens	St Andrew's Wharf	YTH/C	G
5	Whitechapel	Christian Street Hub	C	G
6	Weavers	Columbia Road Youth Centre	YTH/C	G
7	Spitalfields & Banglatown	Old Castle Street Youth Centre	YTH/C	G
8	Mile End	UAB (YTH) / 99 St Pauls Way (C)	YTH/C	G
9	Shadwell	Darul Ummah Care House	YTH	A
10	Bethnal Green East	Thrive Community Hub	YTH	A
11	Poplar	Poplar Baths Leisure Centre The reach (C)	YTH C	G
12	Lansbury	Spotlight		A
13	Bow East	East Side	C	G
14	Bethnal Green West	Minerva Centre	C	G
15	Bow West	Kitcat	YTH	G
16	Bromley North	Kingsley Hall	YTH	A
17	Bromley South	Bow Community Hub Link Centre (C)	YTH C	G
18	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	Virginia Quay		A
19	Canary Wharf	Phoenix Heights		A
20	Stepney Green	No building identified		R



# Strategy Development

Page 111



# Young Tower Hamlets Strategy Development



- The Young Tower Hamlets strategy is in development with the aim of being finalised in September 2024.
- The final draft strategy will be presented through the following governance CMT, Deputy Mayors Briefing and MAB.
- There are several components required to underpin the strategy to ensure that the new Young Tower Hamlets youth service is built on a solid foundation. The key elements are:

## Hackathon Feedback from young people & parent/carers

•Throughout 2023 a series of engagement events took place in partnership with VCS providers and school settings. The aim of these events were to receive feedback from children and parents/carers on what they would like from their youth centres. A summary report is in development, analysed and will contribute into the young tower hamlets strategy.

## Needs Assessment

•A comprehensive needs assessment of the borough relating to children has been undertaken. The needs assessment provides rich information on our gaps of delivery and our desired outcomes in the future. The needs assessment will be used for commissioning intentions and for delivering frontline youth provision.

## Theory of Change

•Theory of change workshops have taken place which were led by the YMCA George Williams with a range of Tower Hamlets stakeholders to map the transformation required to deliver the short and longer-term outcomes to meet future vision. The theory of change is in draft form and in the process of being signed off.

## Outcomes Framework

•Outcomes framework will support the service with knowing whether the goals set out within the strategy and at a local level are being achieved. The outcomes framework has yet to be devised.

## Youth Work Curriculum

•Provides an educational framework around youth work delivery, how their interventions and activities are being used to support personal, social and practical development for children. This work has not started as yet.

## Statutory Self-Assessment

•The NYA have released a statutory self-assessment to inform a new service delivery plan. This is in development and aims to be completed by September 2024.





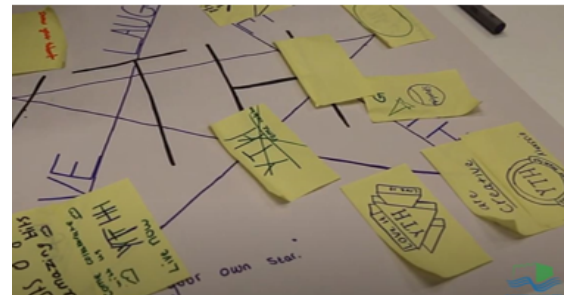
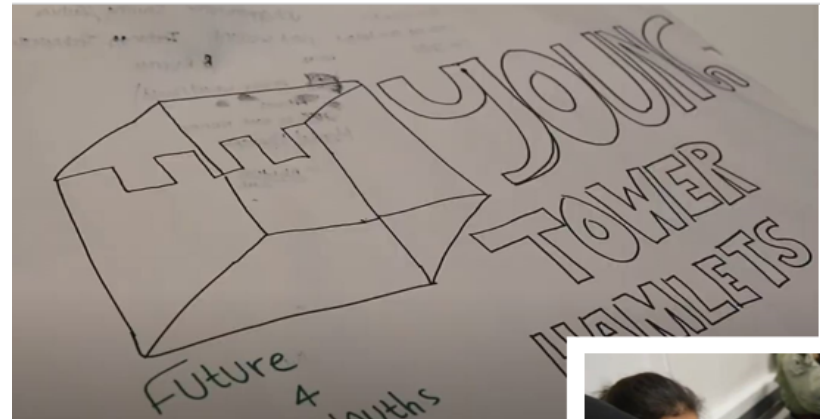
# Hackathon Consultation Events

A comprehensive consultation of the needs, preferences, ideas and ambitions of young people, their parents and those who know them to place by throughout 2023/4. The comprehensive consultation programme encompassed the following:

- **An online survey of young people, 940** responses, through schools, youth providers, social media, residents, and partner organisations.
- **An online survey of parents, 170** responses, through community networks, parent groups, council services, and digital channels.
- **Four large-scale Summer 'hackathon' events** engaging **400** young people, featuring interactive workshops, co-design sessions, competitions, and activity tasters at three youth hubs and a school.
- **A film peer action research project** involving **20** young people, trained to investigate peers' needs using journalism techniques with a professional media company.
- **Four targeted Autumn hackathon session** for specific groups, including Somali boys, girls, SEND young people (up to the age of 25), and young people who identify as LGBTQIA+, contributing to the design and vision of a future youth service tailored to their unique needs.

Page 113

- **Needs & wants** - Creating a modern youth service offer
- **Youth voices, youth choice** - Co-designing brand identity and logo for the new youth service
- **Seeing the Future** - Designing a new youth service in the metaverse.



# Summary of young people's feedback



Youth centres as safe and calm spaces – places 'to be' not just to 'do'.



The desire to be supported by reliable, consistent, high quality youth workers.



Increased access to girls only activities and spaces.



Opportunities for more trips and residential – both fun and learning based, including a suggestion for a trip to the Bank of England!



Access to healthy activities beyond the standard offer, including swimming pools and bicycles.



A system where families can borrow items and equipment they cannot afford, from laptops and games consoles to camping equipment



Giving young people the chance to manage a budget, supporting financial literacy and decision-making skills.



Access to reflective spaces including prayer room



Providing opportunities for young people to engage with and understand



Youth centres to teach digital hygiene, promote healthy use of technology and "avoiding excessive dopamine hits from constant online engagement".



Youth services to be adaptive to current affairs and world events - discussions and activities related to important global issues.



Specialist groups require more awareness, sensitivity and accessibility (SEND/LGBT+)

# What young people say

*"I feel like youth centres should promote more free activities or residentials or things that are in trend. For example, right now it's summertime, so I think that they should provide biking sessions or water fights - even if it may seem as if it's not that useful, it will bring people together."*

*"With crime rates going up, I feel if a young person knows that if they've got somewhere where they feel comfortable and they've got somewhere that they're going to enjoy themselves, they're going to want to come"*



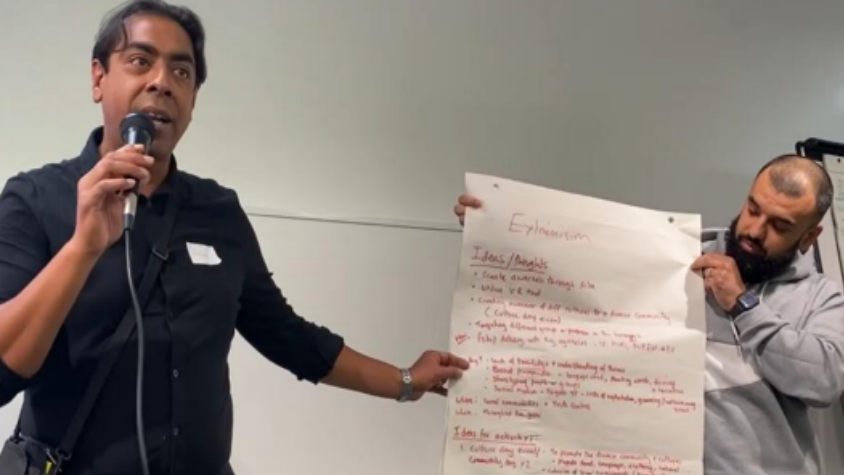
*"It's pretty fun. There's lot lots of activities around here. Most of the time I'm using the studio as I'm a singer or DJ, but at times I would also ask to go and bake, because I'm a baker as well."*



*"I think we have quite a lot, but we need to ask young people what they enjoy and make programmes based on their answers rather than just assuming."*

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**14**



# Young Tower Hamlets Staff Charter

- The Young Tower Hamlets staff charter was developed at a staff away day in November 2023. The 5 key standards for the service are:

**Child Centered**  
Honest, compassionate and respectful to each other, to young people and their families.

**Respect**  
Being professional, positive, and respectful at all times.

**Safety**  
Proactive support to ensure policies are being followed.

**Compassionate**  
Give each other time for reflection and actively listening to our challenges.

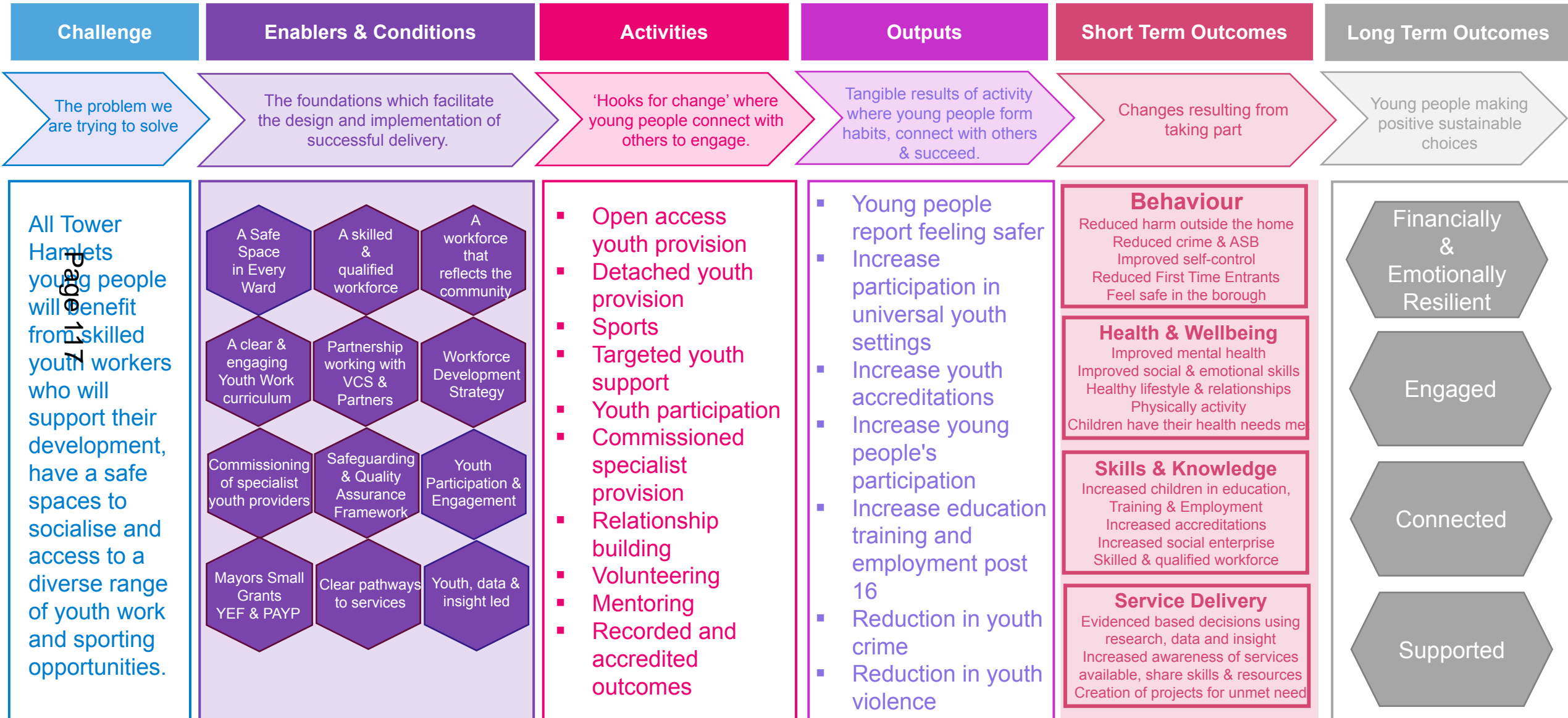
**Excellence & Quality**  
To keep the child's voice at the centre of all the work we do.

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# Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change was facilitated by the YMCA George Williams with a range of staff and partners and aims to set out how Young Tower Hamlets will be harnessed to develop interventions which provide positive experiences for young people in a safe space whilst developing their pro-social identities.



Page 17



# Capital Budget Outturn: April – March 24



## Youth Investment High-Level Capital Spending Forecast

Page 119	Workstream	Item	Budget	Forecast					Over/under £000
			Capital Budget	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2024	TOTAL	
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
1	Safe Spaces	Capital – Goulston & Columbia Rd	1,000	0	150	150	42	342	-658
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>-658</b>

# Revenue Budget Outturn: April – March 24



## Youth Investment High-Level spending Forecast

Page 120

No	Workstream	Item	Budget		Forecast					Over/under	
			Capital Budget	Revenue Budget	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2024	TOTAL		
					£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
1	Safe Spaces	Revenue – building rental	0	800	20	200	110	110	440	-360	
		Furniture fit out	0	40	0	25	0	150	175	135	
		IT Revenue	0	250	0	0	10	125	135	-115	
2	Workforce Development	Training and development	0	240	0	0	10	500	510	270	
		Activity, Equipment and Resources	0	726	10	40	5	20	75	-651	
		Positive Sport and Outdoor Activities	0	200	0	0	0	400	400	200	
3	Comms & Consultation	Comms, Events, branding and design	0	115	10	40	30	30	110	-5	
4	HR & Change	Workforce	0	3,718	45	320	535	600	1,500	-2,218	
<b>Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>6,089</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,935</b>	<b>3,345</b>	<b>-2,744</b>	



# Implementation Timetable

Skilled and  
qualified workforce  
commences in  
June 2024

Finalise the  
commissioned offer  
and budget  
September 2024

Workforce  
Development  
implemented  
December 2024

Commissioned  
Contracts in place  
March 2025

Page 121

Strategy  
Development  
completed August  
2024

Quality Assurance  
& Performance  
completed by  
December 2024

Safe Spaces  
Refurbishment  
completed by March  
2025

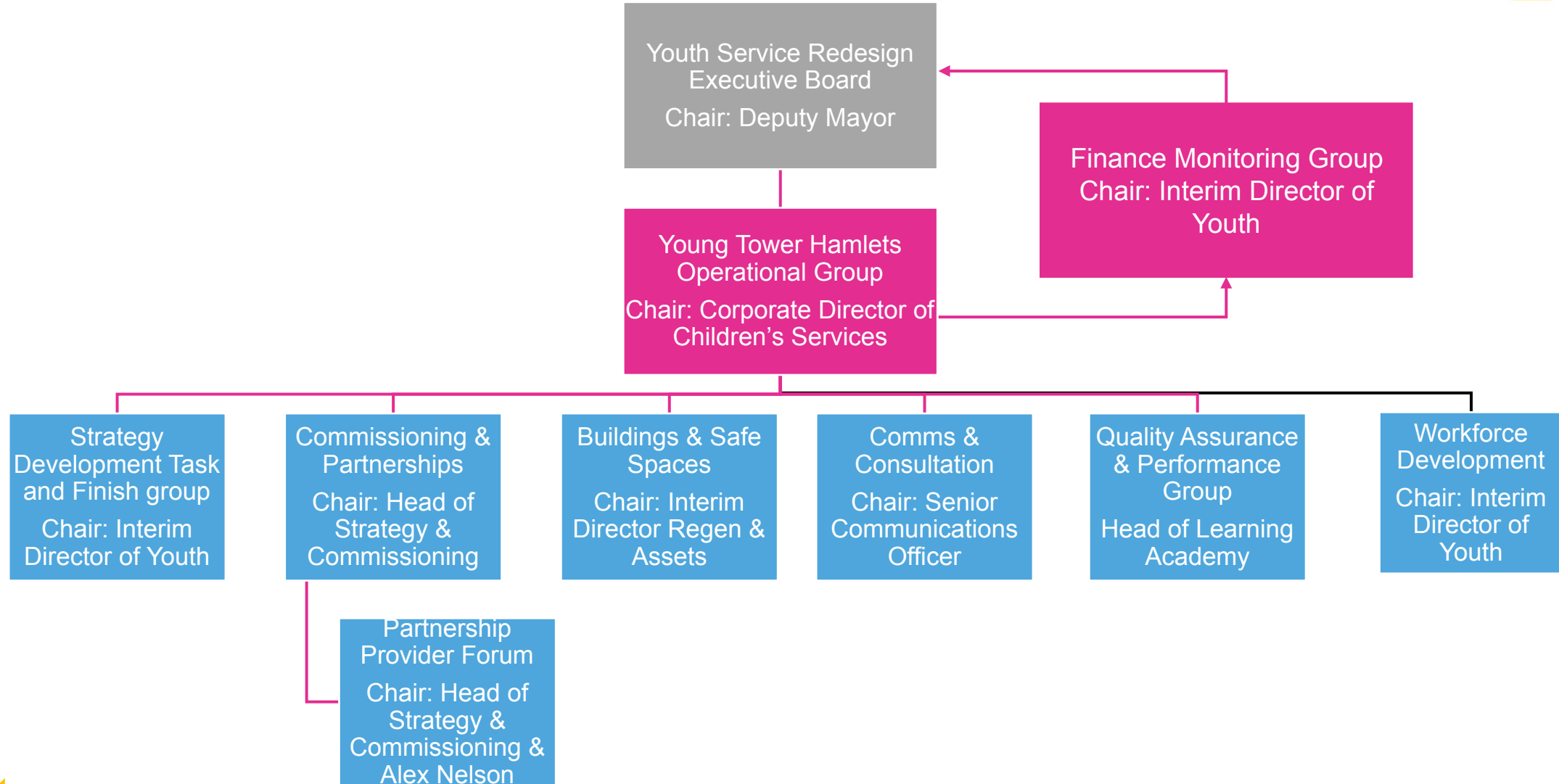
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# Proposed Transformation Governance



Page 122



# Proposed Transformation Governance



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	Deputy Mayor
<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	Corporate Director of Children's Services
<b>Strategy Development Task and Finish Group</b>	Development of YTH Strategy, Youth Work Curriculum, Outcomes Framework, Needs Assessment and Workforce Development Strategy.	Fortnightly	Head of Young Tower Hamlets
<b>Commissioning &amp; Partnerships Workstream</b>	Lead on all aspects of commissioning/recommissioning including quality assurance, spot checks etc and the provider forum.	Monthly	Head of Strategy & Commissioning
<b>Safe Spaces 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	Interim Director Regen & Assets
<b>Comms and Co-production Workstream</b>	To deliver the communications strategy products (website, tiktok etc), planning and delivering events and to develop robust communications internally for staff and externally for children, young people and families informing them of the offer.	Fortnightly	Senior Communications Officer
<b>Quality Assurance &amp; Performance Group</b>	To create and implement a robust Quality Assurance Framework, effective practice framework, performance monitoring dashboard and reporting, policy and procedures development.	Monthly	Head of Learning Academy
<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.	Monthly	Head of Young Tower Hamlets
<b>Finance Monitoring Group</b>	Oversight of finance, spend and forecast to ensure the programme remains within the financial envelop across capital and revenue.	Monthly	Covering Director Commissioning & Youth

# Service Governance

Young Tower Hamlets  
Service Meeting  
Chair: Interim Director  
of Young Tower Hamlets

This meeting will consist of the whole of the YTH workforce with the aim of translating the vision and strategic direction into operational frontline delivery, ensure key messages are communicated across the division, share good practice and knowledge sharing (e.g. Service offer, training etc)

Young Tower Hamlets  
Leadership Team  
Meeting  
Chair: Head of Service

This meeting will consist of the Head of Service, Group Managers and Communications Officer. The aim of this meeting is to ensure there is strategic alignment across all services, workforce matters at a service or individual level. This will also include slots to discuss HR, Finance, Health & Safety

Young Tower Hamlets  
Team Meetings  
Chair: Group Managers

These meetings will include the Group Manager leading discussions with their team to cascade key messages, present service performance, quality assurance, timetable/rotas to sure there is an effective service offer in place.

Supervision and 1:1's  
Chair: Line Managers

Supervision and 1:1's will be taking place at all levels to provide space for 1:1 discussions/feedback, training and coaching, performance conversations and manage workload.

Thank you

Page 125



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