NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Tuesday, 9th September, 2025, 7.00 pm - George Meehan House, 294 High Rd, London N22 8JZ (watch the live meeting here, watch the recording here)

Councillors: Anna Lawton (Chair), Anna Abela, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Mark Grosskopf, Kaushika Amin, Ruairidh Paton and George Dunstall

Co-optees/Non-Voting Members: Christine Cordon (North Harringay Primary School) (Co-Optee), Borwick-Fox (Ferry Lane School) (Co-Optee) and Amanada Bernard (Haringey SEND Parent Carer Forum)

Quorum: 3

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note that this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on.

By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business (late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with as noted below).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

(i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
(ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

To consider any requests received in accordance with Part 4, Section B, Paragraph 29 of the Council's Constitution.

6. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

7. 2025/26 FINANCE UPDATE Q1

To follow

8. CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN Q1 2025/26 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

To follow

9. HARINGEY YOUTH STRATEGY 2025-2030 ACTION PLAN (PAGES 7 - 62)

10. HARINGEY YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024-2027 - YEAR 1 REVIEW (PAGES 63 - 112)

11. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25 (PAGES 113 - 140)

12. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (PAGES 141 - 146)

13. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at item 3 above.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 18th November 2025
- 15th January 2026
- 26 February 2026

Philip Slawther, Principal Scrutiny Officer
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Fiona Alderman
Assistant Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Monday, 01 September 2025

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Agenda Item 6

MINUTES OF THE MEETING Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel HELD ON Monday, 14th July, 2025, 7.10 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Anna Lawton (Chair), Anna Abela, Grosskopf,

ALSO ATTENDING: Christine Cordon (Co-Optee) and Borwick-Fox (Co-Optee)

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Amin, Isilar-Gosling & Dunstall.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Urgent Business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 13 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

7. MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED

That the Panel:

I. Noted the terms of reference attached at Appendix A of the report and Protocol attached at Appendix B of the report, for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and it's Panels.
II. Noted the policy areas/remits and membership for each Scrutiny Panel for 2025/26, attached at Appendix C of the report.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

RESOLVED

It was noted that:

I. Amanda Bernard was appointed to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel as a non-voting co-opted member for the municipal year 2025/2026.
II. That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon were appointed as voting co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, participating at meetings when educational matters are being considered.
III. That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon were appointed to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel, as voting co-opted members, which has responsibility for considering educational matters

9. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES

The Panel received a verbal update from the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools & Families on developments within her portfolio, followed by a verbal question and answer session with the Cabinet Member. The following update was provided by the Cabinet Member:

- The Cabinet Member advised that Haringey had achieved the highest grade in relation to the recent local area Ofsted/CQC inspection and that this had been confirmed by the inspection body.
- The Council was moving forward with the Safety Valve programme and it was meeting most of its targets.
- The OSSME unit was open for children with autism. Similarly, the base at Earlsmead was open with four children attending. It was hoped that this would increase to 15. Work was underway at Alexandra Park primary for children with emotional, social, mental health support needs. Work was also starting at the Brook for children with additional complex needs. The Cabinet Member commented that the government seemed to be developing a more inclusive approach to SEND with provision through mainstream schools.
- The SEND white paper was expected in the autumn. It was commented that the organisation was lucky to have a DCS who was also vice-president of the association of Directors of Children's Services.
- The government has expanded Free School Meals but this won't happen until September 2026. A lot of work was being done to understand how this would be delivered. The government had extended eligibility to children whose parents were on Universal Credit and removing the current income cap of £7400.

- The Cabinet Member noted that there was also the Mayor's free school meals programme and that there was work to be done to get families to apply for it who were also eligible for FSM through the government scheme. The Cabinet Member commented that children would not be bringing their pupil premium with them. There was a working group in place to look at these type of issues.
- The Cabinet Member advised that she was hoping to convince schools to join a joint procurement exercise to reduce food costs to schools.
- The Cabinet Member advised that she had visited the three government funded pilot breakfast clubs in Haringey – Earlham, Holy Trinity, and St. Mary Priory. The service has produced a video of the visit and the Cabinet Member encouraged Members to watch it.
- The inaugural meeting of local authority governors took place and there were 15 governors in attendance. The Cabinet Member commented that there was work to be done to raise the level of knowledge of governors.
- The Cabinet Member advised that the Council had submitted a long submission to the Select Committee on special needs. The Cabinet Member advised that she would send this round to head teachers and the chairs of governors.

The following arose during the discussion of this item:

a. The Panel sought clarification about how the government's announcement on Free School Meals (FSM) would interact with the Mayor of London's pledge on FSM. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the government funded FSM for all KS1 pupils, but within that cohort some of those children would be eligible to receive the Pupil Premium based on their parents being in receipt of benefits and being below the income threshold. The Cabinet Member emphasised that for those children it was important that they were registered through the government scheme, so that the school could receive £1400 additional funding per pupil. For juniors, FSM was not universal and only children whose families were below the income threshold would receive them. The Mayor's scheme would fund the rest. The Cabinet Member set out that 26% of Haringey's school children were receiving FSM.
b. In relation to a follow-up, the Cabinet Member advised that children would be receiving the exact same meal regardless of which scheme they were eligible for, however the Mayor's scheme actually paid more per head to the school than the government's scheme. However, it was important that those who were eligible for Pupil Premium to be registered under the government's scheme.
c. The Panel sought the Cabinet Member's views in relation to the funding for the breakfast club trial, in light of concerns that the funding provided did not match the funding required for provision of healthy meals. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that she had met with the heads of the three schools and acknowledged that they had different experiences based on the size of the school and the number of pupils involved. The Cabinet Member advised that she got the impression that the heads of both Holy Trinity and St Mary's were determined to make it work. The Cabinet Member emphasised that she wanted schools to buy into joint procurement in order to maximise the economies of scale and reduce the cost of the food.
d. The Director advised the Panel that the annual engagement meeting was part of the inspection framework for the Area SEND inspection and that as part of the follow-up to the inspection, they came back to speak to the Council annually about the progress made since the inspection. The Panel noted that

there was annual submission compiled in response to this and that the inspection body did not have any concerns with the latest submission. The Corporate Director advised that there were still things that the service was not happy with, such the wait times for speech and language therapies.

e. The Panel enquired about school closures. In response, the Cabinet Member advised that two schools were due close because of falling pupil numbers. These were Tiverton and St Peter's & Gildas. The Cabinet Member commented that it was regrettable and that nobody wanted schools to close, but that the numbers were the numbers. St Peter's & Gildas would have four pupils below Year 6 until the end of the term. In context, it was noted that Hackney has eight schools closing.
f. The Panel enquired about what could be done to support school provision in Haringey for the Jewish community, rather than attending education settings in Hackney. In response, officers advised that they worked closely with community leaders to find solutions, but that that there were challenges related to the statutory requirements behind building schools.

RESOLVED

Noted.

10. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE Q1 TO JUNE 2025

The Panel received a cover report and an accompanying presentation that provided an analysis of the performance data and trends for a set of performance measures relating to Looked After Children (LAC), Children on Child Protection Plans (CPP) and Children in Need (CIN). The presentation was introduced by Richard Hutton, Performance, Data and Analytics Manager as set out in the report at pages 39-52. Ann Graham, Corporate Director of Children's Services was also present for this item, along with Cllr Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families. In addition, the Director of Early Help, Prevention and SEND, as well as the Director for Safeguarding and Social Care were also present for this agenda item. The following arose as part of the discussion of this item:

a. The Panel sought clarification about what was being done to investigate the reasons behind a drop in referrals from schools to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). In response, officers advised that the data was heavily scrutinised and cross referenced with other data from the Early Help service. The Director commented that a drop in referrals wasn't necessarily celebrated, Instead it was about having the right referrals into the system at the right time. The Corporate Director advised that they monitored referrals and the wider system very closely. The Panel was advised that there was a triangulation between an increase in the uptake of Early Help services and a decrease in referrals to the MASH. The Family Hub model used in Early Years allowed the service to identify needs much earlier and this reduced referrals to the MASH.
b. In relation to a questions about Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs), officers advised that performance for timeliness was very highly a couple of years ago at 97%, this had dropped slightly to 86%, however the national

average was around forty percent. Officers acknowledged that the number of EHCPs was increasing, but it was commented that the census data showed that Haringey had seen a slower rate in increase at 4.7% than the London average (7.5%) and the national average at 10%. Officers attributed this slower rate of increase to the early intervention model and that fact that children were seen at a much earlier point in the system and this reduced the number who required an EHCP.

c. In response to a follow up question, officers acknowledged that they were seeing an increase in complexity, despite the fact that overall school numbers were down slightly.
d. The Panel queried the decreasing trend of immunisation figures and questioned why Haringey was performing worse than the national average. In response, officers advised that the figures related specifically to LAC and so it wasn't influenced by families being sceptical of vaccinations or different take-up levels within different communities. It was often the older children within the LAC cohort who less likely to take up the offer of vaccination. Officers also noted that the LAC Nurse at Bounds Green Health Centre had recently retired and that there had been a decrease in take-up while a permanent replacement was found. Officers advised that they were working with Public Health colleagues and were doing everything they could to ensure LAC were being immunised, including looking at their immunisation records at both the child's first health assessment and their first LAC review.
e. The Panel queried the reasons behind a drop in the numbers of care leavers who were in education, employment or training. In response, officers acknowledged that there had been a two-year period where the figures had dropped, but that they were starting to increase again. Officers commented that they were unsure of the specific reasons behind this. It was noted that Haringey had around 10% of its care leavers who were in higher education and that this compared favourably with other boroughs.

RESOLVED

Noted

11. PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

The Panel received a report which provided an overview of activity in regard to private fostering for the municipal year 2024/25. The report was introduced by Sandy Bansil, Head of Children in Care and Placements as set out in the agenda pack at pages 53-68. Ann Graham, Corporate Director of Children's Services was also present for this item, along with Cllr Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families. In addition, the Director of Early Help, Prevention and SEND, as well as the Director for Safeguarding and Social Care were also present for this agenda item. The following arose as part of the discussion of this item:

a. The Panel noted that a privately fostered child was defined as a child who was under the age of 16, or 18 if the child had a disability, and was placed for 28 consecutive days or more with an adult who was not a relative. A relative in this

situation was defined as either a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, and also included stepparents.

b. The Panel welcomed the fact that the report included the voice of the child. Officers acknowledged that this was important, as it gave reassurance about the experience of children directly from the children themselves.

c. In relation to numbers, officers advised that there were five children in private fostering arrangements in Haringey, with a further two notifications having been received which would require assessment. The Cabinet Member commented that this was an area that involved small numbers of children, but one that was difficult to regulate.

RESOLVED

Noted.

12. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

RESOLVED

I. That the current work programme for the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel was noted.

II. That the Panel gave consideration to the items and reports required for its meetings in 2025/26.

13. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9 September 2025
18 November 2025
15 January 2026
26 February 2026

CHAIR: Councillor Anna Lawton

Signed by Chair ……..

Date ……

Agenda Item 9

Report for: **Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 9th September**

Title: Haringey Youth Strategy 2025 – 2030 and Action Plan

Report authorised by: Ann Graham, Corporate Director: Childrens Services

Lead Officers: Jackie Difolco, Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND
Simone Common, Head of Service: Early Help and Prevention

Ward (s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision: Not applicable

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1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel of the launch of Haringey Youth Strategy and to seek views on the strategy and associated action plan for implementation.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny panel note the contents of the report, directing any comments and observations to the Director for Early Help, Prevention and SEND.

2.2 That members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel agree to receiving an annual progress report of the Haringey Youth Strategy.

3. Background Information

3.1 The Youth Strategy 2025-2030 outlines Haringey Council's commitment to implementing the Borough Vision Call to Action to support young people by focusing on two initial key priorities:

a) Facilitate high-quality activities and spaces for young people: To meet the diverse range of interests, needs and experiences that our young people have.
b) Hearing young people's voices: Encouraging young people's participation in decision making, civic and democratic life in the borough.

3.2 This strategy was developed in alignment with other local strategies focused on young people and in anticipation of the forthcoming National Youth Strategy, set to be published in 2026.

3.3 This strategy consolidates findings from recent engagement with young people, integrating various council initiatives in areas such as placemaking, culture and youth participation. It includes the publication of the Haringey Local Youth Offer, which encompasses both universal and targeted council services, as well as activities provided by the voluntary and community sector (VCS). An analysis of youth services and activities

in the borough provides a comprehensive overview of current provisions, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to inform planning, commissioning and delivery of services. This strategy reflects the current landscape of youth services in Haringey as of 2025, acknowledging that the provision and needs of these services may evolve over the coming years.

3.4 Furthermore, the strategy emphasises the importance of effective engagement with young people and outlines how their involvement in local decision-making will be enhanced. A series of recommendations are made to achieve the strategic outcomes detailed in the Borough Vision, accompanied by indicators to monitor progress and ensure the strategy remains responsive to the evolving needs of young people in Haringey.

3.5 Statutory guidance published in September 2023 for local authorities on services to improve young people's wellbeing stated that over 85% of a young person's waking hours are spent outside of school and formal education. Recreational and educational leisure-time activities provided during those hours can have a significant effect on young people's development and well-being. These activities can support young people to build their skills, improve trust and tolerance and help young people to become active members of society and champion their voice.

3.6 In November 2024, the government announced the development and co-production of the National Youth Strategy[1]. Recognising that young people's needs have never been more complex, their strategy plans to improve the understanding of young people's priorities as well as run an ambitious and wide consultation. The strategy aims to better coordinate youth services and policy with participation of young people at the heart of the strategy.

4. Report

Haringey Youth Strategy 2025 – 2030

4.1 Haringey's Youth Strategy aims to address the gaps within our strategic context and decision-making, rather than developing a comprehensive strategy to address all the possible needs for young people today. This is in recognition of the fact that several of our existing strategies have interdependencies and include outcomes specifically for young people, actions and progress, which are already underway.

4.2 The National Youth Agency provided a self-assessment document that supported local authorities to respond to the new statutory guidance that was issued by Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) which outlines best practices for Local Authorities to deliver their statutory youth duty and advocated nine 'essentials' of a local youth offer. The findings from this assessment identified that in most areas, the council was partially meeting its statutory duty and has provided a crucial foundation for the development of our Youth Strategy to meet these duties fully. Refer to Appendix A: Haringey Youth Strategy 2025 -2030 (pages 12 – 13)

Key Issues for Young People in Haringey

4.3 While the Haringey Youth Strategy is focused on the provision of youth services and enabling youth participation in local decision-making, it is essential to recognise the broader context in which these services operate. Young people in Haringey face a range of challenges that extend beyond the immediate remit of this strategy. Understanding these key issues is crucial for developing a comprehensive approach to supporting the wellbeing and development of our young people and have informed the strategy and action plan.

4.4 These issues encompass various aspects of health, safety, education and socioeconomic conditions, and they highlight the complex and interconnected nature of the factors affecting young people's lives. By acknowledging and addressing these broader challenges, we can better tailor our interventions and support services to meet the diverse needs of Haringey's young people.

Coordination of the Local Youth Offer

4.5 In order to support and coordinate the offer, the council has developed a detailed directory of youth services and activities which operate throughout Haringey, including those provided by the VCS. Using the Commonplace digital engagement platform, this directory has been translated into an interactive map of the borough which showcases the services and activities on offer. Refer to Appendix A: Haringey Youth Strategy 2025 – 2030 (page 23- 24).

Range of Youth Offer

4.6 Haringey Council is committed to providing a comprehensive and inclusive youth offer that caters to the diverse needs and interests of all young people in the borough. The youth offer aims to ensure that every young person has access to a wide range of high-quality services and activities that promote their personal, social and educational development.

4.7 The range of the offer includes centre based youth provision, providing safe and welcoming spaces for young people to relax and socialise, outreach services taking the youth offer to locations across the borough, youth mental health, arts, culture, music, sports and careers and skills development. There is also a focus on providing targeted youth support services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), young carers, faith based, care leavers and those involved in or at risk of serious youth violence. Underpinning this offer is the engagement of young people in civic participation and influencing decision making and delivery of services.

Analysis of Provision

4.8 Youth work is a skilled profession with its own code of practice, and it is important that youth workers have the right qualifications and training to help them support young people to the best of their ability. Youth workers build voluntary, trusted relationships with young people, away from many of the other pressures they may be facing in their lives. They usually work with young people aged between 11 and 19 but may support young adults up to the age of 25 depending on their needs.

4.9 The provision of youth services can be categorised into formal and informal provision, with formal services typically delivered by professionally qualified youth workers following

a structured curriculum, such as PHSE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education. Informal youth provision, on the other hand, may include targeted projects and sessions which may not be delivered by professionally qualified youth workers and play a crucial role in engaging young people. It is important to recognise the value each type of provision brings to the overall youth offer.

4.10 One of the major strengths of Haringey's local youth offer is the diverse range of services and activities available, allowing for the different needs and interests of young people to be met. Key headlines include:

a) Sport and recreation were identified as the primary purpose of 40.4% of mapped activities, with an additional 15.2% for the provision of safe spaces and social activities.
b) There is also a clear understanding of the importance of support for vulnerable groups, with 10.1% of identified services dedicated to supporting young with SEND. This provision of support and resources is crucial for creating an inclusive and equitable environment for all young people in the borough.
c) Of the 99 services and activities included in the mapping, 87 have a clearly identifiable fixed location which allowed for mapping analysis to be conducted on a ward-level basis, highlighting 45% located in the east, 32% in the centre, 11% in the west and 12% flexing across the borough. The higher concentration of services in the more socioeconomically deprived east suggests that provision is directed to where need is greatest, which can help to address inequalities and provide support to disadvantaged young people. The east of the borough also has a disproportionately young population relative to the west.
d) Almost 70% of services and activities are open access, ensuring the majority of what is on offer is available to all young people.
e) Over 30% of the local youth offer being targeted provision ensures that vulnerable or marginalised communities received the tailored support they need.
f) Of the services and activities identified during the mapping, almost 40% are free of cost. This is not an exhaustive figure because a further 49.5% of activities lacked clear, publicly accessible information on whether there was a cost involved. Most services offer free or subsidised rates for families where there is a low income and all council-run youth services are free of charge, demonstrating the strong commitment from the council to support youth development.

Areas for improvement

4.11 Although there is a wide variety of services and activities available, some types of provision are noticeably underrepresented relative to others. The proportion of services or activities whose primary purpose is civic participation is 2%, while for environmental initiatives and volunteering opportunities this is as low as 1%. Previous engagement has indicated that these are areas that young people in Haringey are interested in, demonstrating a potential gap in provision.

4.12 While the concentration of services in more disadvantaged areas with higher numbers of young people is a strength, just 11.1% of those identified by the mapping are in the west of the borough. This could mean that young people in these areas are not as easily able to access local services, leading to disparities in participation.

4.13 The fact that 49.5% of youth activities have no clear publicly accessible information on costs is a significant disadvantage. This lack of transparency can create uncertainty and deter potential users from approaching providers. Clear information on costs is essential for ensuring young people and their families can make informed decisions, and VCS organisations should be encouraged to improve communication and update online resources.

Opportunities

4.14 Haringey's designation as the London Borough of Culture (LBOC) for 2027 presents a unique opportunity for young people to engage in cultural activities, develop new skills and showcase their talents. Programmes and events tailored to youth interests could inspire creativity, promote social interaction and provide valuable learning experiences.

4.15 There may also be additional national funding to support local authorities to build back lost capability and improve youth offers. While it is unclear as of yet how this funding will be distributed, it is possible that having a dedicated Youth Strategy and an up-to-date local offer will put Haringey in the best position possible to make use of this opportunity.

4.16 The current youth offer delivers across a range of settings within the community, this strategy will support the opportunities to deliver youth services from wider community settings such as libraries.

Risks

4.17 The local funding climate could deteriorate further, given the unprecedented demands being placed on statutory services such as social care and temporary accommodation. This could force difficult decisions such as reducing spending on youth services, which the council wants to avoid if at all possible.

4.18 Given the extensive role that the VCS has in providing youth activities in Haringey, a reduction in provision could result if VCS groups experience financial difficulties. This threat is exacerbated by the rising operational costs associated with employer national insurance contributions and the increase in the minimum wage, which could threaten VCS organisations with paid employees and lead to closures or reduced capacity.

4.19 The limited available funding from national sources could also make it challenging for Haringey to secure the necessary resources to maintain and expand its youth services. Likewise, any changes in national policy, funding priorities or regulatory requirements could impact the capacity of Haringey Council to deliver youth services. Staying adaptable and responsive to policy changes will help to mitigate this threat.

Engagement

4.20 Over the past few years, Haringey Council has actively engaged with young people across the borough to understand their needs, aspirations and challenges. Through a series of consultations, surveys, focus groups, and workshops, we have gathered valuable insights that have shaped the development of our youth strategy. Approximately 450 young people have taken part in recent reengagement events and bespoke workshops designed specifically with Haringey Youth Panel for this strategy.

4.21 Key themes and feedback we have received from young people include:

a) identifying priorities for safer streets, good quality and affordable activities, reducing youth violence and safe travel across the borough and reducing social isolation,
b) improving access to information through social media and updated websites. They also expressed engagement fatigue, with a perception that their responses to consultations are not acted upon with the council should act as a facilitator for information sharing, potentially through a centralised directory of services/activities,
c) young people should be involved in shaping change and designing places for them,
d) young people are interested in making the area greener and safer, with an emphasis on introducing more play and exercise opportunities,
e) through the development of the action plan to suport the delivery of the ‘ Young People at Risk Strategy, young people felt strongly about the need for appropriate forums to convene, identify issues and collaborate on actions, the importance of youth services and having youth workers from the local area, a focus on the impact and influence of social media and having a neighbourhood to be proud of is important.
f) during the development of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2024-2028, young people consulted, stated that they wanted more affordable and accessible cultural opportunities, more youth clubs and cultural clubs and support where there are barriers faced by young people wanting to enter the arts and creative profession.

4.22 Youth Panel survey ambassadors were recruited to promote the survey within schools and communities. The survey remained open for eight weeks until the 10th of March 2025 and received a total of 138 responses. Young people accounted for 83% of responses, with parents and carers making up 17% and VCS groups making up 5%. Key Headlines are outlined below; the full response can be found within the strategy. Refer to Appendix A: Haringey Youth Strategy 2025 – 2030 (pages 27 -29)

a) young people who responded to the survey reported high levels of satisfaction with the current youth services provided in Haringey. A majority (61%) said that they were either very satisfied compared to 31% who said they were neither satisfied not dissatisfied, 8% who said they were fairly or very dissatisfied. Satisfaction with the local youth offer was significantly lower amongst parents than amongst young people, 23% responded that they were satisfied, 33% said neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 39% said dissatisfied,
b) young people who self-identified as having SEND were asked if they believe that youth services in Haringey adequately. Of the 13% of young people who identified as having SEND, 32% answered yes, 22% answered no and 45% said they were unsure,
c) barriers to engagement in provision included lack of time (24%), lack of interest (19%) and cost (18%). Of the activities that they do participate in, the most popular types were sports and physical activity (39%), arts and culture (12%) and educational support (11%),
d) types of services and activities they would like to see more of, include sports and physical activity (28%), arts and culture (17%), spaces to socialise (12%), educational support (11%) and mental health services (10%). This was similar to the views of parents and carers,

e) preferred ways to engage young people in decision making are school visits and presentations (29%), email (15%), online surveys (15%), Instagram (11%) and community events and workshops (10%),
f) barriers to engagement with decision making included topics not being of interest, conflicts with school, work or other commitments and lack of information in how to get involved or a lack of confidence in expressing opinions,
g) parents reported that the main reasons for non-engagement had differing results to the survey of young people. Parents and carers identified an insufficient range of options (26%), travel distance (13%) and lack of information (13%).

Engagement with partners

h) responses from the VCS (5.2%) identified that the main gap within youth service provision is an insufficient range of options (22%), lack of information (19%), affordability (13%) and a lack of quality (13%), while responses from parents represented just 12% of the total respondents, they provide an indication of parents' perspectives. Satisfaction with the local offer was significantly lower amongst parents than amongst young people, 23% responded that they satisfied, 33% said neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 39% said dissatisfied,
i) better collaboration includes support with promoting and signposting to services, improving skills to access funding opportunities,
j) expand shared activities across the borough and strengthen community links through initiatives like football tournaments,
k) addressing diverse needs, improving mobility and accessibility, and establishing a structured digital information sharing system were also key points,
l) emphasised the importance of engaging parents and improving inclusion for underrepresented groups of young people, such as those with SEND and those from socioeconomically deprived backgrounds,
m) a shift from reactive to proactive youth work and better internal mapping to avoid service silos were recommended.

Engaging young people in decision making

4.23 When discussing current trends in youth engagement, it was noted that young people have a strong awareness of wider societal issues such as housing, the cost of living, gentrification and mental health. However, they also feel disengaged from current systems and institutions such as the council which are meant to work on these wider issues, partially as a result of consultation fatigue and not seeing the impact of previous engagements.

4.24 Building strong relationships and trust was emphasised, along with creating focus groups for youth input and valuing their knowledge by compensating their contributions. Participants encouraged a shift from a top-down approach to shared decision-making and involving young people in local governance and recruitment. Training young people in public speaking, debate and conflict resolution were also recommended. There was a preference for hands-on community action rather than passive discussions, and it was suggested to break down engagement into incremental steps. Combining activities with discussions, such as running a basketball session before a conversation, was also recommended.

4.25 Participants highlighted several strategies for reaching seldom-heard groups. It was suggested to use digital outreach methods, such as podcasts and social media, to connect with young people. Meeting young people where they are, including in their communities and online, was emphasised. Involving schools, which are currently not well engaged, was noted as crucial for broadening reach. Gaining the trust of parents to improve participation and encouraging peer networking and information sharing were also recommended as effective ways to engage seldom-heard voices.

4.26 The council's Children and Young People's Participation Framework is integral to the success of this strategy as it sets out the approach of Haringey Council to involving young people in planning, service delivery and decision-making. The framework is designed to support council officers in engaging young people effectively and meaningfully, ensuring their voices are heard and acted upon.

Measuring and Tracking Impact

4.27 Setting clear aims, objectives and conducting regular evaluations were highlighted as essential steps to evaluating the effectiveness of youth work. Participants suggested using a balance of qualitative and quantitative data, as well using peer research and storytelling to track personal progress. It was also suggested that the council could facilitate the formulation of a standardised impact tracking form which partner organisations could use to monitor long-term progress. When asking young people for feedback on the impact of council activities or services, the importance of using accessible language and being clear on the scope of the topic was noted.

Action Plan

4.28 This strategy makes a series of recommendations for how the council can meet the priorities outlined within the strategy as outlined below detailing specific actions, timelines and responsibilities. The action plan will outline how the council will implement these recommendations, measure progress and ensure accountability, reporting progress to Children and Young People's Scrutiny. Refer to Appendix B: Haringey Youth Strategy Action Plan, please note this is currently draft.

5. Contribution to Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 - 2026

5.1 The objectives of the youth justice service are aligned with the priorities within Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan' specifically:

Theme 3: Children and young people

- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods - All children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities.
- Outcome 3 Successful Futures - Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future

Theme 7: A Safer Borough

- Outcome 1: A borough where all residents and visitors feel safe and are safe.

6. Carbon and Climate Change

6.1 In March 2019, Haringey Council declared a climate emergency, with the bold ambition of becoming a net-zero council by 2027 and a net-zero borough by 2041. The Haringey Youth Strategy will provide opportunity to embed environmental sustainability throughout our delivery and planning.

7. **Statutory Officers comments**

Finance

9.1 The report introduces Haringey's first Youth Strategy for 2025 - 2030 in line with Government's announcement to develop and co-production of National Youth Strategy.

9.2 It is not anticipated that any costs will arise from implementing Haringey's Youth Strategy and the action plan that underpins the strategy, should any costs occur, they will be contained within existing budget resources.

Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

9.4 The Director of Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.5 Pursuant to section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Education and Inspections Act 2006) a local authority must, so far as reasonably practicable, secure in the authority's area, access to sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of young people's well-being, personal and social development and sufficient recreational activities for young people aged 13 – 19, (or up to 25 for young people with additional needs).

9.6 Statutory Guidance for 'Local Authorities on Services to Improve Young People's Wellbeing' published in September 2023 pursuant to s507B Education Act 1996, requires local authorities to have regard to this guidance when exercising their statutory duties under s507B. The activities can include sport and informal physical activities, cultural activities, outdoor residential or weekend or holiday time activities, special interest clubs and volunteering activities. The guidance sets out the practical and reasonable steps local authorities must take, so far as reasonably practicable, to meet the duty whether they are directly providing, funding, commissioning, coordinating, or maintaining oversight of the local youth offer.

9.7 Local Authorities are required to consider designating a lead official, with suitable seniority, who is responsible for compliance with the duty and can coordinate engagement with young people, youth providers and other partners. Primary responsibility for meeting the duty is likely to fall within the remit of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services.

9.8 Scrutiny review panels are appointed to examine designated council services and will refer their findings or recommendations in the form of a written report, with the approval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Cabinet and or the council as appropriate.

Equalities

9.9 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard the need to:

a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act,
b) advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not,

c) foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

9.10 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

9.11 The strategy is underpinned by guiding principles of access, equity, and representation: to provide all young people with the opportunity to benefit and participate in a local youth offer. It is therefore anticipated that the strategy will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics, by fostering good relations through youth service provision and advancing equality of opportunity for those who share a protected characteristic and who do not, through more collaborative ways of working and transparent commissioning. In particular, it is anticipated that young people from diverse and ethnic minority backgrounds, and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds will be positively impacted. The strategy shares the vision for youth services in Haringey, supported by an action plan that will be delivered with young people and the wider youth sector.

9.12 A comprehensive EQIA of the strategy identified positive impacts across all protected characteristics, with the exception of marriage and civil partnership for which a neutral impact was recorded. The EQIA can be found as an appendix to this report.

10 Use of Appendices

10.1 Appendix A: Haringey Youth Strategy 2025 -2030
10.2 Appendix B: Haringey Youth Strategy Action Plan

11. Background Papers

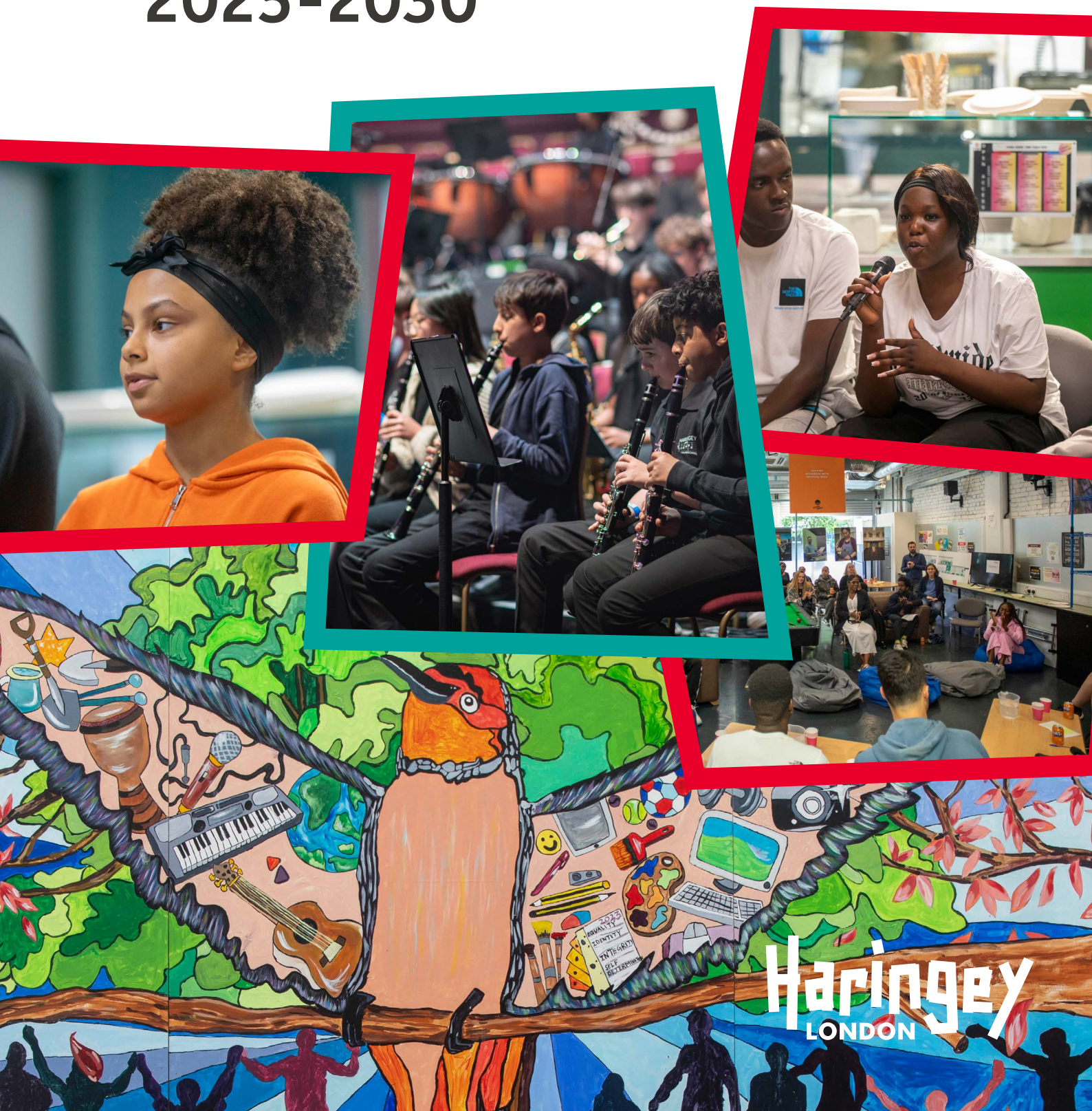
Cabinet Report 17 June 2025 Haringey Youth Strategy Item 9

11 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Not applicable.

DRAFT

Haringey Youth Strategy

2025-2030



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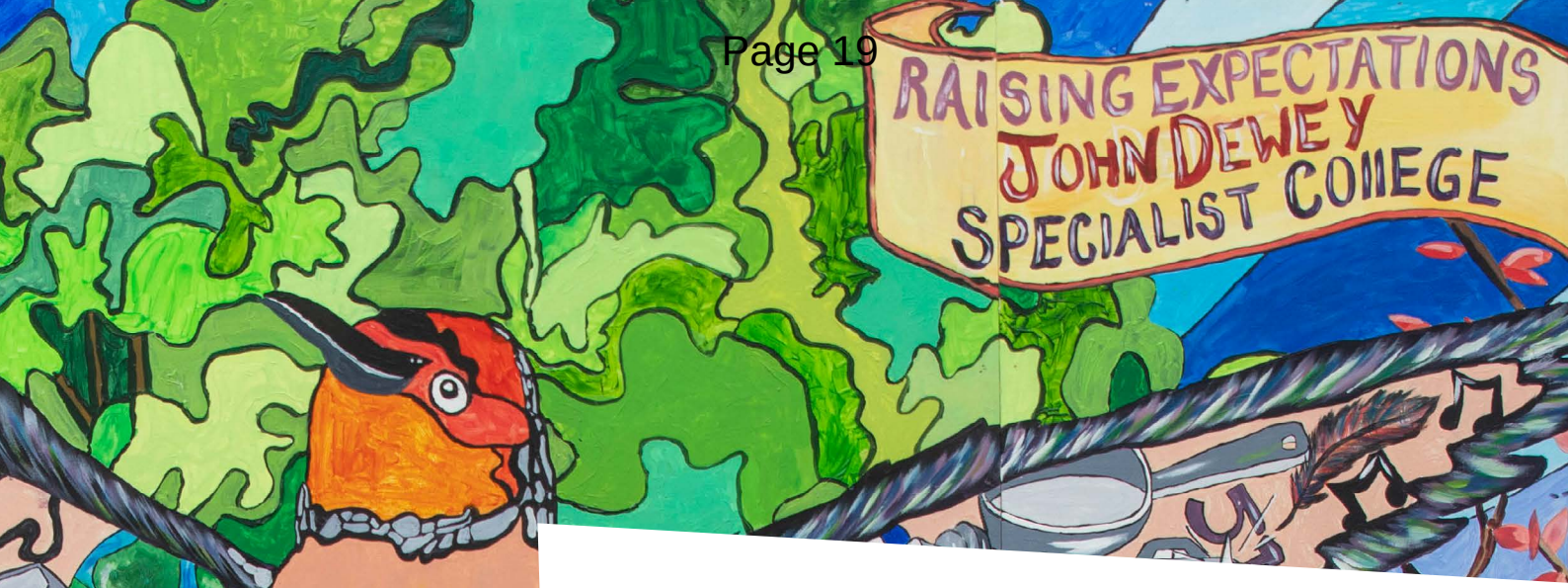


Foreword

Welcome to the Haringey's first Youth Strategy for 2025 – 2030. I would like to thank all of our stakeholders and partners and most of all young people who have been actively involved in shaping the priorities for our youth strategy and look forward to seeing all that can be achieved in the coming years.

Haringey's Youth Strategy recognises that the delivery of a youth offer is not the responsibility of a single agency but is owned by all partners that work with young people in our borough. Our approach is underpinned by a strong vision that collaboration and partnership are at the heart of what we do to ensure our young people will receive the support they need to succeed and improve outcomes.

Our strategy focuses on ensuring that there is a local youth offer that is needs led, inclusive, diverse and supports young people to feel safe, learn new skills, and actively supported and engaged in influencing decision making on topics that are important to them.

A key priority of our strategy is to develop a borough wide approach across the youth sector to ensure that there is a co-ordinated, accessible youth offer that provides high quality spaces and activities for young people, providing opportunities that will benefit them in their lives as they transition to adulthood.

Councillor Zena Brabazon Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families

Executive Summary

The Youth Strategy 2025-2030 outlines Haringey Council's commitment to implementing the Borough Vision Call to Action to support young people by focusing on two initial key priorities:

- Facilitate high-quality activities and spaces for young people: To meet the diverse range of interests, needs and experiences that our young people have.
- Hearing young people's voices: Encouraging young people's participation in decision making, civic and democratic life in the borough.

This strategy was developed in alignment with other local strategies focused on young people and in anticipation of the forthcoming National Youth Strategy, set to be published in 2026.

The strategy consolidates findings from recent engagement with young people, integrating various council initiatives in areas such as placemaking, culture and youth participation. It includes the publication of the Haringey Local Youth Offer, which encompasses both universal and targeted council services, as well as activities provided by the voluntary and community sector (VCS). An analysis of youth services and activities in the borough provides a comprehensive overview of current provisions, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to inform planning, commissioning and delivery of services. This strategy reflects the current landscape of youth services in Haringey as of 2025, acknowledging that the provision and needs of these services may evolve over the coming years.

Furthermore, the strategy emphasises the importance of effective engagement with young people and outlines how their involvement in local decision-making will be enhanced. A series of recommendations are made to achieve the strategic outcomes detailed in the Borough Vision, accompanied by indicators to monitor progress and ensure the strategy remains responsive to the evolving needs of young people in Haringey.

Background

Rationale for a Local Youth Offer

Over 85% of a young person's waking hours are spent outside of school and formal education[1]. Recreational and educational leisure-time activities provided during those hours can have a significant effect on young people's development and well-being. These activities can support young people to build their skills, improve trust and tolerance and help young people to become active members of society and champion their voice.

Not securing such leisure-time activities can mean young people miss out on opportunities to reach their full potential. Those activities can act as a supportive measure that can prevent costly interventions later on. This is true for all young people but is particularly important for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people who might need specific, additional, or early support.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport issues periodic guidance [2]on the statutory requirements for local authorities to develop and publish their youth offer. The guidance outlines the following key requirements below. Throughout the strategy, progress is reported on these.

→ **Assessing needs and current provision:** Local authorities must determine what should be available to young people in their area through a collaborative needs assessment process. This includes considering additional activities required

1 Statutory guidance for local authorities on services and activities to improve young people's well-being - Department for Culture, Media and Sport

2 Statutory guidance for local authorities on services to improve young people's well-being - GOV.UK

and addressing barriers to participation, especially for young people with disabilities.

- **Determining a sufficient local offer:** Based on the needs assessment, local authorities must secure access to sufficient services. This can be achieved through direct organisation, funding, provision or coordination. Authorities need to prioritise resources to have the greatest effect and ensure inclusivity.
- **Providing the offer:** Local authorities must ensure access to sufficient services that improve social and personal development, run by qualified adults. Facilities must be safe, welcoming and attractive, with robust safeguarding measures in place.
- **Publicising the offer:** Information about the local youth offer must be comprehensive, accurate and accessible. Authorities must keep this information up to date and ensure young people can easily contact them about the offer.
- **Reviewing the offer:** Authorities should periodically review and update their assessment to ensure the offer remains responsive to young people's changing needs. This includes evaluating the impact of services and making necessary improvements.

National Strategic Context

In November 2024, the government announced the development and co-production of the National Youth Strategy[3]. Recognising that young people's needs have never been more complex, their strategy plans to improve the understanding of young people's priorities as well as run an ambitious and wide consultation. The strategy aims to better coordinate youth services and policy, as well as move away from one-size-fits all approaches from government – bringing power back to young people and their communities and rebuilding a thriving and sustainable sector. The participation of young people is at the heart of the strategy, potentially including the establishment of a youth advisory board.

The process will involve the consultation feeding into a report, 'Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Nation', detailing young people's priorities to inform the national government's new approach[4]
. The National Youth Strategy will be published in 2026.

In terms of funding, the national government has announced that, in 2025/26, it will increase the total funding for other Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) youth programmes to ensure young people can continue to access opportunities, no matter where they are from. This includes funding for the Local Youth Transformation pilot to support local authorities to build back lost capability and improve youth offers. They pledge to allocate over £85 million of capital funding in 2025/26, including launching the

3 New National Youth Strategy to break down barriers to opportunity for young people - GOV.UK

4 Government partners with young people to help develop new national youth strategy - GOV.UK

£26 million Better Youth Spaces fund and completing the Youth Investment Fund projects. In addition to this government funding, £100 million of Dormant Assets funding will be dedicated to youth outcomes over 2024 to 2028.

As of March 2025, it is unclear how the funding would be distributed among local authorities (i.e. based on needs vs. equally distributed). Within Haringey, this funding is necessary and crucial in ensuring the sustainability of our local authority youth hubs, which are key community assets for young people across the borough.

In their pre-election manifesto, the current government promoted 'Young Futures' as a new programme for teenagers based on the Sure Start model. The manifesto stated that the government will prioritise early intervention, creating a network of hubs reaching every community which have youth workers, mental health support workers and career advisers on hand to support young people and stop them being drawn into crime. In August 2024, the Home Secretary described the programme as a 10-year vision, and in February 2025 the government confirmed that it will start by establishing early adaptor hubs to inform the longer-term of the programme, including how quickly the number of hubs is increased.

National policy from organisations such as the National Youth Agency and London Youth also plays a significant role in shaping the strategic context. The National Youth Agency's five-year strategy – 'Enabling Great Youth Work to Happen' – aims to build the capacity and sustainability of the youth work sector, evidencing the value of youth work and attracting new entrants to the profession. Their key objectives include opening more opportunities for youth work, youth workers being able to meet young people in spaces where they already are and delivering innovative routes into youth work (including apprenticeships) to attract 10,000 qualified full time youth workers into the profession. The vision for youth workers is to work alongside other professionals to deliver structured interventions in mental health, substance misuse prevention and sexual health education. Youth work is advocated as a vital force for personal growth, skill acquisition and community engagement, equipping young people for challenges ahead.

London Youth is committed to improving the lives of young Londoners through initiatives that empower young people and their communities, such as social action projects and personal development programmes. Both organisations influence national policy and contribute to the development of a resilient and dynamic youth sector.

Local Strategic Context

Haringey's Youth Strategy aims to address the gaps within our strategic context and decision-making, rather than developing a comprehensive strategy to address all the possible needs for young people today. This is in recognition of the fact that several of our existing strategies have interdependencies and include outcomes specifically for young people, actions and progress, which are already underway. In order to fully consider Haringey Council's strategic objectives for young people, these strategies should be read in conjunction with each other. This section provides a brief background and relevant outcomes summary for these strategies.

Early Help Strategy 2024-2027

Haringey's second Early Help Strategy was developed in 2024, setting out our strategic approach to prevention, early help and intervention for children, young people and families. 'Early Help' means providing help for children, young people and families as soon as difficulties start to emerge or where it is likely that the issues will impact negatively on children's outcomes. Early Help services can also provide help for families when they are already involved with statutory and specialist services to support them to no longer require this level of involvement. At the heart of this strategic approach is the principle of supporting communities and families to prevent and reduce escalating needs at the earliest stage, acting as soon as possible to tackle emerging issues, where there is a risk of a person developing problems.

The strategic aims of Early Help include the following:

- **Best start in life:** The first few years of every child's life will give them the long-term foundations to thrive.
- **Happy childhood:** All children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family and in our community.
- **Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future.**

The Early Help Strategy also sets out the approach and interventions that will support families to achieve ten family outcomes:

- Getting a good education
- Good early years development

- Improving mental and physical health
- Promoting recovery and reducing harm from substance use
- Improved family relationships
- Children safe from abuse and exploitation
- Crime prevention and tackling crime
- Safe from domestic violence
- Secure housing
- Financial stability

These family outcomes are part of the Supporting Families Programme, which aims to provide targeted support to families facing multiple challenges. The programme focuses on improving outcomes across these ten areas to ensure families receive comprehensive support tailored to their needs. Whilst the national Supporting Families Programme has ended in its current format, the principles are embedded within the newly launched Families First for Children agenda with the reporting requirements remaining and underpinned by Haringey's Early Help Strategy.

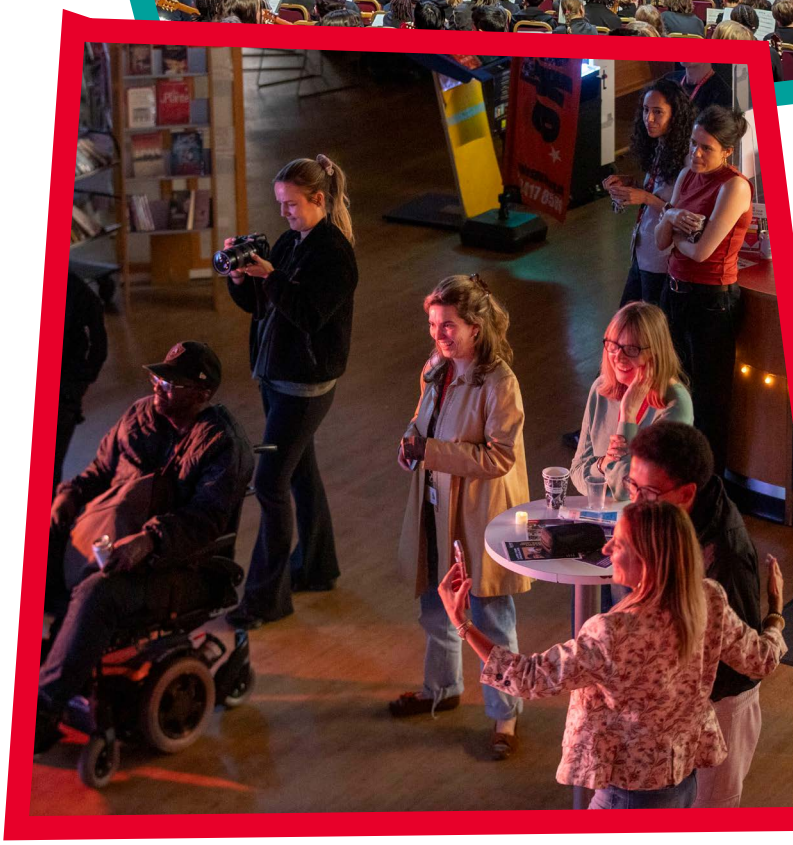
The provision of the Family Hubs programme is a national programme and a key initiative within this strategy. Family hubs offer a range of support services for families from pregnancy, through childhood, and up to age 19 (or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities). These hubs provide a central point for families to access various services, including health, education and social care, ensuring coordinated and effective support.

Young People at Risk Strategy 2019-2029

Serious youth violence has devastating consequences for too many young people in Haringey. The Young People at Risk Strategy is our 10-year plan to address the complex root causes of youth violence in the borough. It adopts a public health approach, with public sector agencies, voluntary sector groups, communities, and young people themselves working collectively to reduce young people's vulnerabilities and build their resilience.

The following are the key outcomes desired through the interventions:

- Safe communities with positive things for young people to do, where there are strong role models and trust in institutions.
- Positive family environments, low levels of family stress, good parenting, and young people able to develop strong, healthy relationships with peers and trusted adults.
- Confident, happy and resilient young people who are able to cope with negative experiences, setbacks, and stress.
- Young people thriving in school, with positive aspirations for the future and access to employment and training opportunities to get there.



- Young people are protected from exploitation and from experience of serious youth violence.

This strategy has particularly strong links to the design and availability of our youth offer in Haringey and therefore naturally involves a coordinated approach. For example, this strategy commits to developing a stronger more coordinated universal youth offer, alongside provision targeted at specific locations, times and groups of young people, including those most at risk, girls and for particular communities such as the Somali community. We know that incident of serious youth violence tend to occur between 3-6pm, and so safe spaces for young people to go after school is a priority under this strategy.

Whilst Bruce Grove Youth Space was commended in recent regulated inspections as "excellent provision for young people in Haringey [that] offers a wide range of effective universal and targeted support, facilitated by highly motivated and skilled workers", there is a lack of youth provision across the borough, as highlighted through the Godwin Lawson research and our wider engagement with young people.

The council has committed to a series of actions which result from this strategy, outlined in the Young People at Risk Action Plan 2023-2026. Progress and performance is tracked through annual impact reports, the most recent of which was published in December 2024.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2029

Haringey Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2029 is a comprehensive plan designed to enhance the health and wellbeing of all residents. This strategy focuses on four pivotal themes:

Housing and health: ensure that every resident has access to safe, affordable, and healthy housing.

Mental health and wellbeing: create a supportive environment that promotes mental health and wellbeing for all.

Healthy place shaping: improving access to green spaces, promoting active travel, and ensuring that our public spaces are safe and welcoming for everyone.

Preventative health and care services: provide early intervention and proactive care, so we will help residents lead healthier lives and reduce the burden on our healthcare system.

Key actions and outcomes to note in the strategy include:

- Improving access to preventative mental health services for children.
- Developing the role of children's centres, family hubs and early years settings in promoting perinatal mental health and emotional wellbeing in young children and their families.
- Increasing opportunities for participation in community activities for children and adults and reducing isolation e.g. leisure and physical activity, culture.

Arts and Culture Strategy 2024-2028

Haringey's Arts and Culture Strategy has four core themes: accessibility, cultural diversity, community engagement, and sustainability.

The key aims of the strategy are:

- **Accessibility:** removing barriers and creating inclusive spaces, we strive to ensure that everyone can participate in and enjoy cultural activities.
- **Cultural diversity:** support a wide range of cultural expressions and ensure that our cultural offerings reflect the diverse heritage of our community.
- **Community engagement:** encouraging local participation and collaboration and building a sense of belonging and pride in our cultural identity.
- **Sustainability:** supporting environmentally sustainable practices in the arts and culture sector and ensure that our cultural initiatives contribute to the long-term wellbeing of our community.

It recognises the cultural assets and opportunities we have, like Haringey Music Service, and how we need to build on these to support young people to shape their future, creating more opportunities for residents and young people in the creative sector and education. The strategy outcomes are:

- **Increased cultural participation:** By making arts and culture more accessible, we aim to increase participation and engagement across all segments of our community.
- **Celebration of diversity:** Through diverse cultural programming, we will celebrate the unique cultural heritage of Haringey and promote mutual understanding and respect.
- **Stronger community bonds:** Our focus on community engagement will result in stronger social connections and a more cohesive community.
- **Sustainable cultural practices:** By prioritising sustainability, we will ensure that our cultural initiatives are environmentally responsible and contribute to the overall sustainability of Haringey.

Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027

The Haringey Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027 outlines several key outcomes and initiatives focused on young people and youth:

- **Youth violence reduction:** The strategy emphasises reducing youth violence through targeted interventions and support programs. This includes working with schools, youth services, and community organizations to provide positive activities and mentorship opportunities
- **Early intervention:** There is a strong focus on early intervention to prevent young people from becoming involved in criminal activities. This involves identifying at-risk youth and providing them with tailored support to address underlying issues such as family problems, mental health, and substance abuse
- **Youth engagement:** The strategy highlights the importance of engaging young people in the decision-making process. This includes involving them in community safety initiatives and ensuring their voices are heard in the development and implementation of policies
- **Education and awareness:** Raising awareness about the consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour among young people is a key priority. The strategy includes educational programs in schools and community centres to inform youth about the risks and encourage positive behaviour
- **Support for victims:** Providing support for young victims of crime is also a crucial aspect of the strategy. This includes offering counselling services, legal assistance, and other resources to help them recover and rebuild their lives

These initiatives aim to create a safer environment for young people in Haringey and help them lead positive, fulfilling lives.

SEND Strategy 2022-2025

SEND and Alternative Provision Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2026

Both strategies emphasise the importance of early intervention and local provision to support young people with SEND. The Haringey SEND Strategy 2022-2025 focuses on providing choices, co-production with families, and preparing children for adulthood. The SEND and Alternative Provision Sufficiency Strategy aims to increase local school places, expand special school provisions, and ensure holistic support across various services. Together, these strategies aim to create an inclusive and supportive environment for young people with SEND in Haringey, helping them achieve their full potential.

Our new Education Strategy will be published in Autumn 2025 which has a key focus on attainment, transitions, pathways to success and wellbeing, providing a roadmap to ensure that every child and young person in our borough has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Needs Assessment

In July 2024, Haringey Council conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the current landscape of youth services and identify areas for improvement.

The National Youth Agency provided a self-assessment document that supported local authorities to respond to the new statutory guidance that was issued by Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Stat Duty Toolkit - National Youth Agency (nya.org.uk) which outlines best practices for Local Authorities to deliver their statutory youth duty and advocated nine 'essentials' of a local youth offer. The findings from this assessment provide a crucial foundation for the development of our Youth Strategy and are outlined below: A summary of the full needs assessment that was completed for Haringey are outlined below.

Summary of Initial Assessment for delivery of Statutory Youth Duty

Area	Findings	Duty met
Needs Assessment	We are partially meeting this requirement but need to develop more of an evidence base around civic engagement and participation.	Partially
Youth Engagement	We need to develop clearer purpose and outcomes for work in this area. Some good examples and evidence but a more systematic approach required. Processes, accountability, collaboration and recognition all need development.	No
VCFS Engagement	We have commissioned a VCS partner to provide dedicated support in this area. There is good work evidenced through the VCS delivering serious youth violence projects. More formal mechanisms needed to support the development of a youth strategy.	Partially
Local Youth Offer Plan	Some good examples of programmes developed to meet need but require clearer evidence of continuous monitoring, evaluation and improvement.	Partially
Quality of Youth Work Practice	Formal processes to assess quality need to be developed building on strong partnerships. More consideration is required about how we would quality assure wider youth services delivery, including that delivered in the VCS. Better processes for capturing and assessing voice of those using services are required.	Partially
Workforce Planning	Good development as part of an early help offer with some evaluation. Strong supervision and appraisal arrangements. Need clear development opportunities within the youth work workforce sector.	Partially
National Youth Work Curriculum	A framework needs to be developed and the delivery model should reflect the goals and objectives within this.	Partially
Safeguarding	There are clear processes in place for universal services relating to safeguarding. Work to progress with local safeguarding board arrangements to understand the position for the wider sector.	Yes
Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact	An area for development both internally and externally within the youth work sector. Information is required to understand the position across the system, evaluate impact and plan services accordingly.	Partially

- The assessment revealed that while there are good examples of youth engagement, a clearer purpose and outcomes are necessary to ensure accountability, collaboration and recognition. Civic engagement and participation emerged as areas needing more evidence and systematic approaches.
- Engagement with the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) showed positive results, particularly through serious youth violence projects. However, formal mechanisms are needed to enhance collaboration and ensure diverse representation.
- The local youth offer lacked clear evidence of continuous monitoring, evaluation and improvement. There is a need for a comprehensive picture of youth services across the borough to ensure that the offer meets the needs of all young people.
- Quality of youth work practice requires formal processes to assess and capture the voice of service users. While there are strong partnerships, better processes for quality assurance and evaluation are essential to ensure high standards of practice.
- Workforce planning is strong, with good supervision and appraisal arrangements. However, clear development opportunities in the youth work field are needed.
- The National Youth Work Curriculum framework needs development, and the deliver model should accurately reflect goals and objectives.
- Safeguarding processes are in place but further progress with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) is necessary to understand the wider sector's position.
- Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment are areas for development, requiring comprehensive information to evaluate the system's position and plan services accordingly. There is a need for systematic processes to collect and analyse data, measure the impact of services and inform decision-making.

Key Issues for Young People in Haringey

While the Haringey Youth Strategy is focused on the provision of youth services and enabling youth participation in local decision-making, it is essential to recognise the broader context in which these services operate. Young people in Haringey face a range of challenges that extend beyond the immediate remit of this strategy. Understanding these key issues is crucial for developing a comprehensive approach to supporting the wellbeing and development of our young people.

These issues encompass various aspects of health, safety, education and socioeconomic conditions, and they highlight the complex and interconnected nature of the factors affecting young people's lives. By acknowledging and addressing these broader challenges, we can better tailor our interventions and support services to meet the diverse needs of Haringey's young people.

Health Related Behaviour Survey (2023/2024)

The Haringey Health & Wellbeing Survey[5] was developed by the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) in partnership with Haringey Council. The purpose of the survey was to obtain secondary school aged pupils' views on aspects of health and wellbeing including healthy eating; safety; emotional wellbeing and leisure time. A summary of the findings are outlined below:

5 Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Children and Young People in Haringey: A summary of the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2023/24

Table 1: Key headlines from the Public Health-Related Behaviour Survey 2023-2024

Healthy eating	→ 33% of secondary pupils reported having nothing to eat or drink for breakfast on the day of the survey. → 35% of primary pupils had 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables the day before the survey, compared to 18% of secondary pupils.
Physical activity	→ 42% of primary pupils and 25% of secondary pupils do the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day. → Only 8% of secondary pupils spend free time outdoors every day.
Substance use	→ 14% of secondary pupils are 'fairly sure' or 'certain' that they know someone who takes drugs to get high. → 5% of secondary pupils drink alcohol occasionally or regularly → 94% of secondary pupils have never smoked, but 11% have tried vaping.
Emotional wellbeing	→ 62% of secondary pupils reported being 'quite' or 'very' satisfied with their life. → 30% of secondary pupils had high self-esteem scores. → 60% of pupils said that they 'always' have a trusted adult they can talk to if they were worried. 12% said they had no one they could talk to.
Safety	→ 18% of secondary pupils reported feeling afraid of going to school because of bullying at least 'sometimes'. → 57% of secondary pupils said that safety at school is 'good' or 'very good'. → 8% of secondary pupils rate the safety of their area when going out after dark as 'poor' or 'very poor'.
Education	→ 67% of secondary pupils want to stay on in full-time education at the end of Year 11. → 51% of secondary pupils worry about tests.
Inequalities	→ Pupils from ethnic minority groups are more likely to worry about gangs and have less access to outdoor space. → Pupils living in homes that are too hot or too cold are more likely to miss meals and have lower life satisfaction. → 12% of secondary pupils look after someone at home who couldn't look after themselves.

Young People at Risk Strategy Evidence Base (2019)

This evidence base[6] presents the known risk factors for involvement in serious youth violence, the prevalence of those risk factors in Haringey, and their impacts on Haringey's young people.

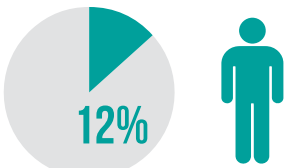
Serious youth violence (SYV)	→ Exposure to violence makes an individual more likely to commit violent acts themselves. → 36% of SYV victims are Black African and Black Caribbean, despite making up 25% of the 10-19 year-old population. Three quarters of victims are male and the largest proportion of victims are aged 17. → Young black people in Haringey are significantly overrepresented in the youth justice cohort. → High volumes of incidents occur in areas like Wood Green High Road, Bruce Grove, and Tottenham Hale.
Exploitation	→ Young people are exploited to carry and sell drugs across borough or county boundaries. This exploitation imposes high levels of violence and harm. → Young people from ethnic minority backgrounds are overrepresented among child sexual exploitation victims.
Risk factors	→ Adverse childhood experiences, including abuse, neglect and household dysfunction. → Mental health conditions, specifically PTSD and emotional disorders → Underachievement at school is linked to higher vulnerability to serious youth violence. → School exclusion is strongly associated with offending → Poverty is a root cause of youth violence, with high levels of deprivation in the east of the borough.
Community	Witnessing violence in the community can lead to emotional, social and cognitive problems. Low trust in public institutions can jeopardise young people's safety.

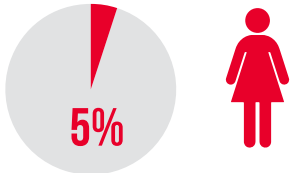
6 Young People at Risk Strategy Evidence Base

10-17 year-olds were cautioned or sentenced in Haringey in 2022

83% MALE

50% OF BLACK ETHNICITY





Reported victims of crime or violence in the area they live in the past 12 months.

Family and relationships	Neglect can lead to maladaptive coping mechanisms and emotional disorders. Exposure to domestic violence can establish norms relating to the use of violence in personal relationships. Parental substance use is a significant risk factor for children's involvement in youth violence. Some children and young people whose parents have mental health problems may be at heightened risk of developing mental health difficulties themselves, may become victims of bullying, may be at heightened risk of developing behavioural problems such as physical aggression, or may develop maladaptive coping mechanisms.
Education	A lack of qualifications can cause individuals to perceive crime as their only route to prosperity. Absenteeism from school can lead to lower educational attainment and increased vulnerability to exploitation.

Family Hubs Needs Assessment (2023)

This needs assessment[7] was developed to inform the development of Haringey's Family Hub Programme.

Family	→ Domestic abuse, severe mental illness and alcohol or drug problems in the household can profoundly impact children and young people's outcomes, including mental health, emotional and behavioural difficulties and poor academic achievement. → 5100 children are affected by domestic abuse. → 9600 children are affected by parental severe mental health problems. → 2400 children are affected by parental alcohol and/or substance misuse. → 700 children are in households with all the three issues.
Deprivation	→ 9769 children in Haringey are living in absolute poverty. → 11,894 children in Haringey are in relative low income families. → Haringey is the 10th most deprived out of 33 London Local Authorities based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). → Higher deprivation is observed in east of the borough.
Housing	→ In 2020/21, 609 households owed a prevention or relief duty had dependent children in Haringey. → 25% of youth homeless are LGBTQ+.

7 Haringey Family Hub Needs Assessment – March 2023

Education and employment	→ Haringey ranks 25th in London (out of 32 local authorities) for GCSE attainment (% pupils achieving strong 9-5 pass in English and Maths). The eastern half of the borough has particularly low attainment. → The proportion of students going onto post-KS4 apprenticeships was significantly lower in Haringey (0.3%) compared to London (0.7%). → The percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Haringey (4.7%) was significantly higher than in London (3.4%). → In 2022, 38% of care leavers were NEET. This is improving from previous years.
Crime	→ In 2022, 137 10-17 year-olds were cautioned or sentenced in Haringey. A disproportionate level of those cautioned/sentenced were male (83%) or black (50%). → 12% of male pupils and 5% of female pupils in Haringey reported being a victim of crime or violence in the area they live in the past 12 months.

Local Youth Offer

Scope of the Statutory Duty

The statutory duty for local authorities to provide youth services is outlined under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996. This duty mandates that local authorities must secure, so far as reasonably practicable, access to sufficient leisure-time activities and facilities for young people aged 13 to 19, and for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) aged 20 to 24. The primary aim is to improve the wellbeing of young people through educational and recreational activities.

Over 85% of a young person's waking hours are spent outside of school and formal education[8]. During these hours, recreational and educational leisure-time activities play a crucial role in their personal and social development. These activities help young people build essential skills, foster trust and tolerance and encourage active citizenship. They are particularly vital for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people who may require additional support to reach their full potential.

Both educational and recreational activities should improve young people's wellbeing, which encompasses physical and mental health, protection from harm, education, training, recreation, and social and economic wellbeing.

Coordination of the Local Youth Offer

Local authorities are uniquely positioned to coordinate a comprehensive local youth offer and ensuring that the available provision of services and activities meet young people's needs. By engaging with young people, parents and carers, providers and practitioners, strategic partners, educational settings and local communities, local authorities can identify valuable links and opportunities to improve the local youth offer.

By adhering to these responsibilities, the council can provide a sufficient and effective local youth offer that supports the wellbeing and development of all young people in our communities.

In order to support and coordinate the offer, the council has developed a detailed **directory** of youth services and activities which operate throughout Haringey, including those provided by the voluntary and community sector (VCS). Using the Commonplace

8 Statutory guidance for local authorities on services and activities to improve young people's well-being - DCMS

digital engagement platform, this directory has been translated into an **interactive map** of the borough which showcases the services and activities on offer. Residents can use the map to find activities in their local area and are able to drop map pins to highlight any additional services which have not already been identified. Young people can also view council-run programmes and activities on the **Youth Service website**, as well as some VCS-run **support for young people** and **youth services** on the Bridge Renewal Trust .

Universal Offer

Haringey Council is committed to providing a comprehensive and inclusive universal youth offer that caters to the diverse needs and interests of all young people in the borough. The universal offer aims to ensure that every young person has access to a wide range of high quality services and activities that promote their personal, social and educational development.

Youth Hubs

Haringey Council operates several youth hubs across the borough, providing safe and welcoming spaces for young people to relax and socialise. These hubs offer a variety of programmes and activities designed to support young people's development, including arts and crafts, sports, personal development, music and digital media projects.

- Rising Green Youth Hub (with the Family Hub incorporated within this) in Wood Green.
- Bruce Grove Youth Space in Tottenham.
- Project 2020 in Northumberland Park.
- Mobile Youth Hub, based in Wood Green but operating borough wide.

Health Services

The NHS operates two services in Haringey which are specifically targeted at young people. Barnet, Enfield and Haringey CAMHS (based near Green Lanes) acts as the central referral process for youth mental health services across the three boroughs, offering specialist triage, advice and guidance. Lordship Lane Health Centre (based in Bruce Grove) also offers a weekly walk-in clinic for young people below the age of 18.

Arts and Culture

Haringey Council is dedicated to fostering a vibrant arts and culture scene for young people in the borough. The universal offer includes various initiatives and services that provide opportunities for creative expression and skills development.

- Haringey Music Service is a council-run initiative that offers a wide range of music education opportunities for young people. This service provides music lessons, group sessions and performance opportunities, helping young people develop their musical skills and express their creativity.
- Haringey Creates Youth Voice is a dynamic partnership involving schools, artists and creative organisations based or working in Haringey. This initiative aims to increase access to high-quality arts and creative education for all children and young people across the borough. By collaborating with local schools and creative professionals, the service ensures that young people have the opportunity to engage in diverse artistic activities, develop their creative skills and explore potential career pathways in the arts.
- Haringey Libraries also host artistic and cultural activities which are targeted specifically at young people.

Career and Skills Development

Haringey Council aims to support young people in their journey towards sustainable employment and skills development. The council's universal offer includes a range of services and initiatives designed to help young people gain the skills and experience needed to succeed in the job market.

- Haringey Works helps residents find sustainable employment by providing a comprehensive range of support services, including careers advice, CV and interview preparation, apprenticeships, sector-specific training and personal employment advisers.
- Haringey Learns offers educational and training programmes aimed at improving employability.

These programmes are designed to equip young people with the skills needed to thrive in the workforce. The service includes job search assistance, career advice and information, financial and practical support and collaboration with local employers.

- Supported Internships is a work-based learning programme for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 16 to 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Young people complete three work rotations throughout an academic year with support from a job coach, who will then support their transition into paid employment.
- Raising Participation Age (RPA) team supports young people who are not in education/ employment or training into positive routes. This includes supporting young people with college, training and employment applications. The RPA service provides advice and guidance for post 16 options. The service is based on a one-to-one provision providing bespoke support for each individual young person. The RPA service works with all young people in the borough including SEND, experience of care, mainstream students, young people new to the UK and elective home educated. The team is also responsible for tracking and reporting on the education, training and employment destinations of young people.

Civic Participation

Haringey Council is committed to empowering young people and ensuring their voices are heard in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. The Haringey Youth Panel empowers young people to share their voices, gain leadership experience and influence change within the borough. The panel provides opportunities for young people to connect, receive mentoring and make friends while actively participating in shaping local services and policies. The panel participates in various community activities, including visits to the Houses of Parliament to learn about UK democracy and sessions with political and local leaders.

In addition to the Haringey Youth Panel, school councils play a vital role in civic participation. These are panels of young people which focus on issues relevant to their own school communities. School councils provide a platform for students to voice their opinions, propose changes and work collaboratively with school staff to improve their educational environment. By participating, young people develop leadership skills, learn about democratic processes, and contribute to the betterment of their schools.

Aspire is the Haringey Children in Care and Young Care Leavers council. It is a platform that gives children and young people a voice to express how they feel about their care experience. It allows them to be included in the decision-making processes that shape their lives. Aspire gives the opportunity to meet other young people and join in a range of social activities and events

Targeted Support

Targeted youth support is provided for young people who may face additional challenges and barriers in accessing universal services or have a particular area of focus. The targeted offer aims to ensure that young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable, receive the support they need to thrive. Examples of this include specific projects for young carers, girls, employability, addressing disproportionality.

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Haringey Council offers a range of services and activities specifically designed to support young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These services aim to provide tailored support, promote independence and ensure that young people with SEND can fully participate in their communities.

- #ActuallyHaringey is a specialist autism-specific service designed to deliver early help provision to address the needs of autistic adults and those approaching adulthood, as well as their support networks. This service provides digital, online, and telephone support across Haringey within a safe online community space. The service is co-produced with autistic residents and community groups, ensuring that they actively participate in the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of the service.
- Elevated Youth Haringey is a youth council for young people aged 12 to 25 with SEND. This council works closely with the wider Youth Panel, participating in joint activities and sessions with political and local leaders. Elevated Youth empowers young people to share their voices, gain leadership experience and influence change in Haringey, while also providing opportunities for connection, mentoring and making friends.
- Get Out Get Active Haringey is a programme supporting disabled and non-disabled people to be active together. It aims to strengthen community spirit, increase confidence and improve mental health through signposting approved providers who can offer safe environments.
- Haringey Works has a specialist employment adviser who supports residents with disabilities and autism in finding high-quality jobs that align with their individual goals. The service uses partnerships to enable people with disabilities to achieve sustainable long-term employment and businesses to employ valuable and talented workers.
- The full SEND Local Offer is outlined in a directory of services, published on **the council website**. It includes services which relate to housing support, transport, finances and mentoring opportunities.

Care Leavers

Haringey Council offers support for young people who are care leavers through the Young Adults Service. This service is designed to help young people transition from care to independent living, providing them with the necessary skills, resources and guidance to succeed. Care leavers are assigned personal advisers, provided with financial assistance and housing support, given access to education and employment opportunities, and offered life skills training to help them live independently. Young people are also supported by 'Aspire' who provide recreational and residential opportunities for them to come together.

Young Carers

Haringey Council recognises the unique challenges faced by young carers and offers support through the Young Carers Project. This project is designed to help young carers balance their caring responsibilities

with their own personal development and wellbeing. Regular group activities include sports, cooking and music, as well as educational workshops on topics like career planning, budgeting and exploring the role of a young carer. These sessions enable young carers to have fun and learn new skills within a safe environment, while also providing an opportunity for them to meet and socialise with other young carers who may share similar experiences. The council's Carers Strategy is being refreshed and will include a dedicated section on support for young carers.

Young People at Risk

Haringey Council delivers support for young people at risk through multi-agency collaboration, early intervention and community engagement. Examples of interventions include:

- The Youth Justice Service is a multi-agency service designed to support young people who have been involved in, or are at risk of, offending behaviour. The team includes youth justice social workers, police, health professionals, probation officers and education staff, all working together to prevent reoffending and support young people in making positive changes in their lives.
- The Haringey Learning Partnership provides support for students at risk of exclusion, respite and reintegration for students who may benefit from time away from mainstream provision, tuition in the community for those unable to attend school locations, and specialist support for students in developing their social skills and managing their emotions and mental health.
- Project Futures is a coproduced holistic well-being and mental health service that is community-based and works with young people and families who have experience in the criminal justice system. Clinical psychologists, specialist youth workers, education/employment specialists and local young people employed as community consultants work together to implement tailored interventions and provide support during crisis points.

Free School Meals

Haringey Council offers targeted support for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. This initiative is funded by the Department for Education and is designed to provide enriching activities and healthy meals to children who might otherwise miss out on such opportunities during the school holidays. The programme is delivered through working with local partners such as schools, VCS organisations and childcare providers. It aims to support the physical and mental wellbeing of children, reduce holiday hunger and provide a safe and engaging environment for them to learn and play.

Voluntary and Community Sector Offer (VCS)

Haringey is home to a vibrant and active VCS which plays a crucial role in supporting young people across the borough. Our VCS community is diverse and dynamic, with numerous grassroots organisations, charities and community groups dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing of young people through a wide range of activities and services.

In recent years, Haringey Council has faced significant financial challenges, including reductions in central

government grants and increasing demand for statutory services such as adult social care and temporary accommodation. These financial pressures mean that the council cannot address the needs of the community on its own. As a result, the work of VCS groups has become even more vital. These organisations bring valuable expertise, resources and community connections which complement the council's efforts and help fill gaps in service provision.

The **directory** of youth services and activities which operate throughout the borough includes VCS-run provision in:

- Sports and recreation, including basketball, rugby, football, American football, athletics, cricket, boxing, dance, martial arts, swimming, squash, tennis and gymnastics.
- Arts and culture activities which foster creativity, cultural engagement and personal development.
- Social activities and safe places which provide opportunities for young people to build friendships, develop social skills and engage with their community in meaningful ways. These include youth hubs and community centres such as **YMCA Harringay** and the **Asian Action Group**.
- Educational support, with programmes and services designed to enhance learning and improve academic performance.
- Career and skills opportunities, which are designed to equip young people with the skills, knowledge and experience needed to succeed in the job market and achieve their career aspirations.
- Targeted activities and support for specific groups, such as young people with SEND, ethnic minority or religious communities, and those at risk of offending or social exclusion.

As a means of supporting the borough's VCS and its ability to meet the needs of young people, the council leverages its position as a corporate landlord to provide spaces from which VCS organisations can operate. Leisure centres, libraries and youth hubs are all used as spaces for activities specifically targeting young people to be delivered, even if the service or activity is not council-run.

Analysis of Provision

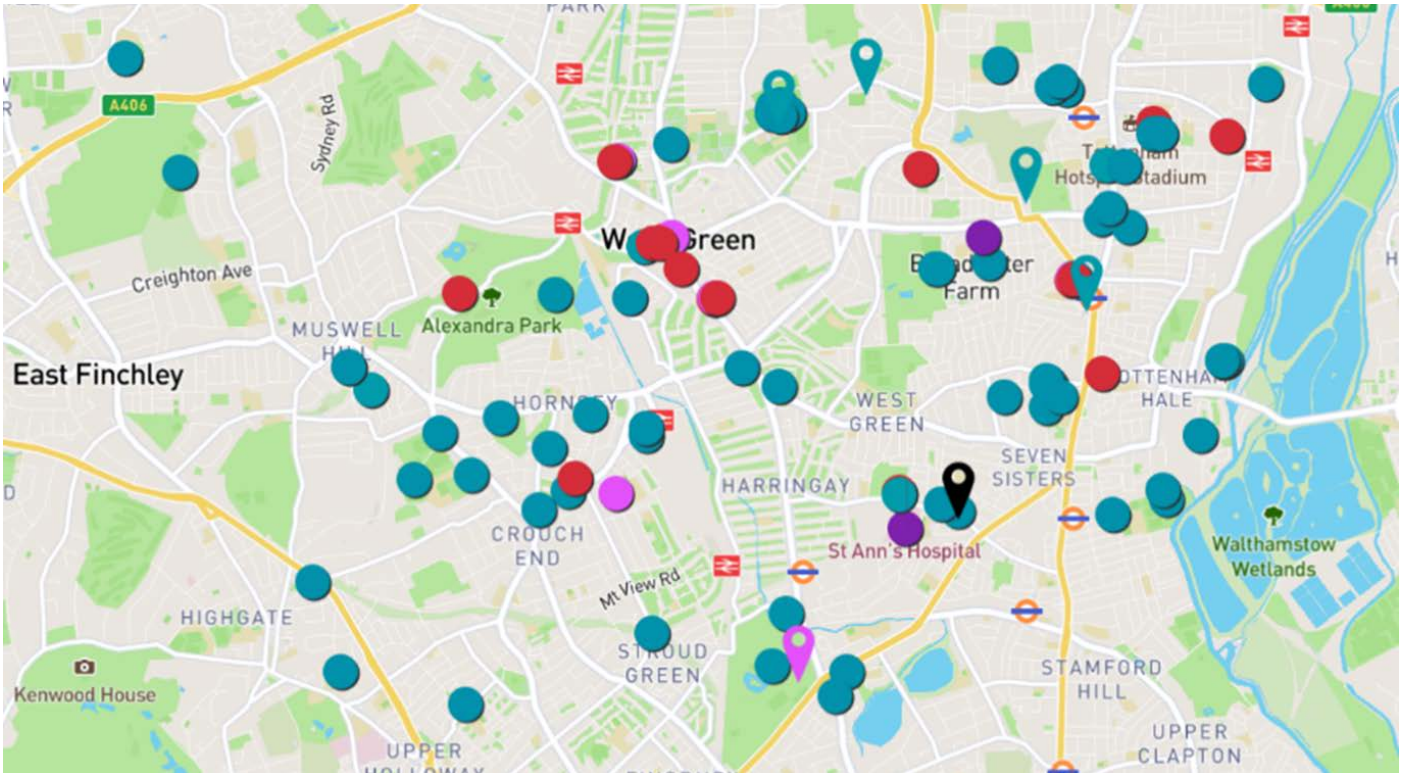
Youth work is a skilled profession with its own code of practice and it is important that youth workers have the right qualifications and training to help them support young people to the best of their ability. Youth workers build voluntary, trusted relationships with young people, away from many of the other pressures they may be facing in their lives. They usually work with young people aged between 11 and 19 but may support young adults up to the age of 25 depending on their needs.

The provision of youth services can be categorised into formal and informal provision, with formal services typically delivered by professionally qualified youth workers following a structured curriculum, such as PHSE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education. Informal youth provision, on the other hand, may include targeted projects and sessions which may not be delivered by professionally qualified youth workers and play a crucial role in engaging young people. It is important to recognise the value each type of provision brings to the overall youth offer.

In order to provide a comprehensive overview of the provision of youth services within the borough (both formal and informal), council officers conducted a mapping exercise to identify and document what is available for young people in Haringey. This directory of services and activities was then categorised on the basis of service type, target groups, age range eligibility, financial cost and geographical distribution.

A total of 99 services and activities for young people were identified by the mapping exercise. As well as forming the basis for a directory of services and activities, the Commonplace platform was used to visualise the data on a map of the borough which is demonstrated below. Red points denote council-run services (14 in total), blue points denote VCS-run activities (78), pink points denote partnership-run activities (5) and purple points denote NHS-run services (2).

Mapped provision of youth services and activities in Haringey



Strengths

One of the major strengths of Haringey's local youth offer is the diverse range of services and activities available, allowing for the different needs and interests of young people to be met. The mapping exercise identified the primary purpose of each service and activity, with the following categories all being provided:

- Sport and recreation
- Safe spaces and social activities
- Support for young people with SEND
- Arts and culture
- Educational support
- Career and skills development
- Mental health support
- Civic participation
- Environmental initiatives
- Volunteering

Sport and recreation were identified as the primary purpose of 40.4% of mapped activities, with an additional 15.2% for the provision of safe spaces and social activities. This indicates that there is a strong emphasis within the Haringey youth offer on promoting health and wellbeing, physical activity, social interaction and community building. These activities can help foster a sense of belonging and improve young people's mental health.

There is also a clear understanding of the importance of support for vulnerable groups, with 10.1% of identified services dedicated to supporting young with SEND. This provision of support and resources is crucial for creating an inclusive and equitable environment for all young people in the borough.

Of the 99 services and activities included in the mapping, 87 have a clearly identifiable fixed location which allowed for mapping analysis to be conducted on a ward-level basis. This showed that 44.4% of mapped activities are located in the east of the borough, 32.3% in the centre and 11.1% in the west, alongside the 12.1% of activities with no clear fixed location. The higher concentration of services in the more socioeconomically deprived east suggests that provision is directed to where need is greatest, which can help to address inequalities and provide support to disadvantaged young people. The east of the borough also has a disproportionately young population relative to the west.

A further strength of Haringey's local youth offer relates to eligibility – 66.6% of services and activities are open access, ensuring the majority of what is on offer is available to all young people. Open access services can also help to create a more cohesive community by allowing diverse groups of young people to interact and benefit from the same services. At the same time, there is a strong focus on addressing the specific needs of

certain groups, and so having 33.3% of the local youth offer being targeted provision ensures that vulnerable or marginalised communities received the tailored support they need.

Of the services and activities identified during the mapping, 37.4% are free of cost. This is not an exhaustive figure because a further 49.5% of activities lacked clear, publicly accessible information on whether there was a cost involved. That a substantial proportion of youth services in Haringey are free of charge will encourage higher participation rates and ensure that financial barriers do not prevent young people from accessing valuable resources. In addition, all council-run services are free of charge, demonstrating the strong commitment from the council to support youth development. The only exception to this is the Haringey Music Service, where there is a cost involved, but children in receipt of free school meals can still access this service for free. This secures cultural and educational enrichment for young people from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Areas for improvement

Although there is a wide variety of services and activities available, some types of provision are noticeably underrepresented relative to others. The proportion of services or activities whose primary purpose is civic participation is 2%, while for environmental initiatives and volunteering opportunities this is as low as 1%. Previous engagement has indicated that these are areas that young people in Haringey are interested in, demonstrating a potential gap in provision.

While the concentration of services in more disadvantaged areas with higher numbers of young people is a strength, just 11.1% of those identified by the mapping are in the west of the borough. This could mean that young people in these areas are not as easily able to access local services, leading to disparities in participation.

The fact that 49.5% of youth activities have no clear publicly accessible information on costs is a significant disadvantage. This lack of transparency can create uncertainty and deter potential users from approaching providers. Clear information on costs is essential for ensuring young people and their families can make informed decisions, and VCS organisations should be encouraged to improve communication and update online resources.

Opportunities

Haringey's designation as the London Borough of Culture (LBOC) for 2027 presents a unique opportunity for young people to engage in cultural activities, develop new skills and showcase their talents. Programmes and events tailored to youth interests could inspire creativity, promote social interaction and provide valuable learning experiences.

LBOC could also provide an opportunity for young people to engage in meaningful environmental and volunteering activities and address the gap in the local offer provision. Environmental sustainability will be a crosscutting theme throughout the duration of the LBOC, and collaboration with cultural groups working on climate change issues in innovative ways will create exciting opportunities for young people to participate in projects that address environmental challenges. Wider cultural celebrations may offer further volunteering opportunities, such as event support or youth ambassador roles.

As noted in the National Strategic Context section, there may also be additional national funding to support local authorities to build back lost capability and improve youth offers. While it is unclear as of yet how this funding will be distributed, it is possible that having a dedicated Youth Strategy and an up-to-date local offer will put Haringey in the best position possible to make use of this opportunity.

Risks

The local funding climate could deteriorate further, given the unprecedented demands being placed on statutory services such as social care and temporary accommodation. This could force difficult decisions such as reducing spending on youth services, which the council wants to avoid if at all possible.

Given the extensive role that the VCS has in providing youth activities in Haringey, a reduction in provision could result if VCS groups experience financial difficulties. This threat is exacerbated by the rising operational costs associated with employer national insurance contributions and the increase in the minimum wage, which could threaten VCS organisations with paid employees and lead to closures or reduced capacity.

The limited available funding from national sources could also make it challenging for Haringey to secure the necessary resources to maintain and expand its youth services. Likewise, any changes in national policy, funding priorities or regulatory requirements could impact the capacity of Haringey Council to deliver youth services. Staying adaptable and responsive to policy changes will help to mitigate this threat.

Engagement

Summary of Previous Engagement

Over the past few years, Haringey Council has actively engaged with young people across the borough to understand their needs, aspirations and challenges. Through a series of consultations, surveys, focus groups, and workshops, we have gathered valuable insights that have shaped the development of our youth strategy. This section highlights the key themes and feedback we have received from young people, ensuring that their voices are at the heart of our strategic planning.

Borough Vision

A total of 41 young people took place in consultation events with the Haringey Learning Partnership, Haringey Sixth Form and the Youth Advisory Board. The engagement identified their main priority areas:

- **Safe streets:** young people are scared to go around the borough and socialise due to fear of trouble on the streets.
- **Good quality and affordable activities in the borough**, including more availability of football pitches.
- **Violence against women and girls** and anti-social behaviour.
- Issues related to the **cost of living and housing**, with the challenges associated with this making it hard to focus on school work and their social lives.
- **Social isolation** as a result of not having good quality activities available that they are interested in. Activities which they reported as being of interest include sport, photography, social media training and professional skills development (e.g. public speaking).

Other feedback highlighted that young people want the council to have updated websites and easily accessible information. They prefer social media as a means to provide feedback, rather than through 'cold calling' engagement. They also expressed engagement fatigue, with a perception that their responses to consultations are not acted upon.

Tottenham Voices

As part of the council's placemaking agenda, Tottenham Voices sought input from young people via a series of workshops in St. Francis De Sales Junior School, Mulberry Primary School and Crowland Primary School. Council officers also attended events at RISE Projects, Homecooked, Tottenham Boxing Club, High Road West DJ Academy and Project 2020. Feedback from young people included:

- Concerns over safety prevent travel across the borough.
- The council should act as a facilitator for information sharing, potentially through a centralised directory of services/activities.
- Young people need an affordable range of activities to be active, socialise and learn new skills in safe places.

Wood Green Voices

This engagement programme included the use of workshops of young people, with a total of 48 participants from the Rising Green Youth Hub, the Haringey Learning Partnership and Noel Park Primary School. Feedback from young people included:

- Safety concerns around crime and gang activity.
- Facilities with activities for young people are under-promoted and too little-known.
- Young people want more things to do than just shopping, such as sports facilities and cultural venues.
- Young people should be involved in shaping change and designing places for them.

Your Bruce Grove

As part of the first engagement stage for Your Bruce Grove, 12 young people aged 12-16 participated in a focus group at Bruce Grove Youth Space and a series of primary school workshops heard from 72 children in Year 6. Feedback included:

- Young people are interested in making the area greener and safer, with an emphasis on introducing more play and exercise opportunities.

- The cost of living crisis means there is a need for free or affordable activities.

Young People at Risk Strategy

In the development of the Haringey Young People at Risk Strategy 2019-2029, young people noted the following:

- The need for appropriate forums to convene, identify issues and collaborate on actions.
- The importance of youth services and having youth workers from the local area.
- The impact and influence of social media.
- A neighbourhood to be proud of is important.

Arts and Culture Strategy

During the development of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2024-2028, the council engaged with over 100 young people through Haringey Shed and primary and secondary schools across the borough. This engagement showed that young people want:

- Affordable and accessible cultural opportunities.
- More youth clubs and cultural clubs in Haringey.
- Their voices to be heard, for example through the Youth Panel.
- Easy access to information and what is available.
- Support where there are barriers faces by young people wanting to enter arts and creative profession.

Views on the Local Offer and Youth Participation

The council launched a survey with tailored questions for young people, parents (plus carers/guardians) and VCS groups on the 13th of January 2025 to better understand the views of residents on the provision of youth services and activities as well as on youth participation and engagement. The design of the survey questions was informed by engagement with Youth Panel members.

Youth Panel survey ambassadors were recruited to promote the survey within their schools and communities, and council officers contacted schools and teachers directly to encourage them to share the survey with their students. The survey was also promoted in the Haringey Community Collaborative newsletter, on council social media feeds and in Haringey People Extra.

The survey remained open for eight weeks until the 10th of March 2025 and received a total of 138 responses. Young people accounted for 83.2% of responses, with parents (or guardians/carers) making up 11.6% and VCS groups making up 5.2%.

Young People

Young people who responded to the survey reported high levels of satisfaction with the current youth services provided in Haringey. A majority said that they were either very satisfied (20.4%) or fairly satisfied (40.4%), compared to 31.7% who said they were neither satisfied not dissatisfied, 3.8% who said they were fairly dissatisfied and 3.8% who said they were very dissatisfied.

Young people who self-identified as having SEND were asked if they believe that youth services in Haringey adequately. Of the 12.8% of young people who identified as having SEND, 32.3% answered yes, 22.6% answered no and 45.2% said they were unsure.

The council asked young people what prevents them from participating in youth services and activities, and the most popular reasons selected by young people were lack of time (24.1%), lack of interest (19.1%) and cost (13.7%). Of the activities that they do

participate in, the most popular types were sports and physical activity (38.7%), arts and culture (11.9%) and educational support (11.2%).

When asked which types of services and activities they would like to see more of, the most popular options were sports and physical activity (27.7%), arts and culture (16.5%), spaces to socialise (12.4%), educational support (10.5%) and mental health services (10.3%). Similarly, respondents were asked what their personal priorities for youth services and activities are. The most popular options were sports (17.5%), educational support (13.1%), social activities (11.8%), career and skills development (11.1%), safe spaces (10.9%), mental health services (10%) and arts and culture (9.7%).

The survey also consulted on how the council should engage with young people. When asked what the best way for the council to connect with young people and hear their ideas, the most popular options were school visits and presentations (29.4%), email (14.5%), online surveys (14.5%), Instagram (10.9%) and community events and workshops (10.1%).

Young people were asked what challenges they face when trying to get involved in council activities or participate in local decision-making. The most popular options were time conflicts with school, work or other commitments (20.5%), lack of information about council activities and opportunities (20.5%), not knowing where to look for information or how to start (13.4%), lack of confidence in expressing their opinions (13.1%) and the topics or activities are not interesting to them (12.8%).

Parents, Guardians and Carers

While responses from parents represented just 11.6% of the total respondents, they provide an indication of parents' perspectives. Satisfaction with the local

offer was significantly lower amongst parents than amongst young people. 7.7% responded that they were very satisfied, 15.4% said fairly satisfied, 33.3% said neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 15.4% said fairly dissatisfied and 28.2% said very dissatisfied.

Parents were asked what the main reasons their children do not participate in youth services and activities, with differing results to the survey of young people. Parents identified an insufficient range of options (25.6%), travel distance (13.3%) and lack of information (13.3%) as the top reasons.

When asked what they would like to see more of, the top five options were identical to the most popular options amongst young people – sports and physical activity (18.8%), arts and culture (18.1%), spaces to socialise (15.2%), educational support (13.8%) and mental health services (10.1%).

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Groups

As with the parents' survey, the small proportion of responses from the VCS (5.2% of the total) means that the results cannot be considered statistically significant nor representative. However, given that respondents were participating on behalf of their organisation rather than as individuals, the results provide an indication of wider sentiment within the VCS.

When asked if there is a gap or deficiency in youth services which their organisation has encountered through its work, the most popular options were that there is an insufficient range of options for young people (21.9%), a lack of information about the range of youth services in Haringey (18.8%), the cost of youth services (12.5%) and a lack of quality facilities in the borough (12.5%).

Respondents were asked to describe how the council could better collaborate with their organisation. Several identified the issue of publicising their offer, including signposting to their activities within council-run facilities. The topic of grant funding applications was also raised, with some respondents requesting support from the council in completing these. Linked to this, it was suggested that the council should inform VCS groups when submitting council funding applications, as success for the council can result in VCS funding applications failing due to geographical overlap with the council's activities, resulting in wasted capacity for the VCS. This has been fed back to the Councils VCS delivery partner as a key priority for them to address.

Views of Partners

In January 2025, Haringey Council hosted a workshop which consisted of a range of external partners who work with young people such as the NHS, Haringey Learning Partnership, Bridge Renewal Trust and SEND Power, as well as officers from a range of relevant council services which included Early Help and Prevention, Culture and Creativity, and Active Wellbeing and Climate, The purpose of the workshop was to gather qualitative insights from our partners on the provision of youth services in Haringey, and to hear their views on how best to engage young people and evaluate the impact of youth work.

Youth Service Provision

Participants emphasised the need to expand shared activities across the borough and strengthen community links through initiatives like football tournaments. Improving youth hubs and enhancing collaboration with services such as the Haringey Music Service were highlighted. Addressing diverse needs, improving mobility and accessibility, and establishing a structured digital information sharing system were also key points. The session emphasised the importance of engaging parents and improving inclusion for underrepresented groups of young people, such as those with SEND and

those from socioeconomically deprived backgrounds. A shift from reactive to proactive youth work and better internal mapping to avoid service silos were recommended.

Engaging Young People

When discussing current trends in youth engagement, it was noted that young people have a strong awareness of wider societal issues such as housing, the cost of living, gentrification and mental health. However, they also feel disengaged from current systems and institutions such as the council which are meant to work on these wider issues, partially as a result of consultation fatigue and not seeing the impact of previous engagements.

Building strong relationships and trust was emphasised, along with creating focus groups for youth input and valuing their knowledge by compensating their contributions. Participants encouraged a shift from a top-down approach to shared decision-making and involving young people in local governance and recruitment. Training young people in public speaking, debate and conflict resolution were also recommended. There was a preference for hands-on community action rather than passive discussions, and it was suggested to break down engagement into incremental steps. Combining activities with discussions, such as running a basketball session before a conversation, was also recommended.

Participants highlighted several strategies for reaching seldom-heard groups. It was suggested to use digital outreach methods, such as podcasts and social media, to connect with young people. Meeting young people where they are, including in their communities and online, was emphasised. Involving schools, which are currently not well engaged, was noted as crucial for broadening reach. Gaining the trust of parents to improve participation and encouraging peer networking and information sharing were also recommended as effective ways to engage seldom-heard voices.

Measuring and Tracking Impact

Participants were asked to discuss how they measure and track the impact of their work with young people. Setting clear aims, objectives and conducting regular evaluations were highlighted as essential steps to evaluating the effectiveness of youth work. Participants suggested using a balance of qualitative and quantitative data, as well using peer research and storytelling to track personal progress. It was also suggested that the council could facilitate the formulation of a standardised impact tracking form which partner organisations could use to monitor long-term progress. When asking young people for feedback on the impact of council activities or services, the importance of using accessible language and being clear on the scope of the topic was noted.

Youth Participation

Children and Young People's Participation Framework

The council's Children and Young People's Participation Framework (Appendix 2) sets out the approach of Haringey Council to involving young people in planning, service delivery and decision-making. The framework is designed to support council officers in engaging young people effectively and meaningfully, ensuring their voices are heard and acted upon.

The framework emphasises creating an environment that fosters active involvement, respect and empowerment for young people. It aligns with Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which asserts every child's right to express their views and have them taken seriously. This right is delivered through the four 'Lundy Model'[9] principles of Voice, Space, Audience, Influence and the framework sets out how to meet those principles in practice when engaging with children and young people. The framework also supports the Haringey Deal commitments to listen, share power and work harder to hear often overlooked voices.

Enabling and resourcing children's and young people's participation is integral to the successful implementation of this Youth Strategy to support positive outcomes for children and young people in Haringey.

Engagement Methods

Engaging young people in decision-making offers benefits to both the council and children and young people:

- **For services** – it improves decision-making, strengthen policy legitimacy and fosters a sense of ownership and civic engagement among young people.
- **For young people** – it instils a sense of belonging, develops critical skills and enhances understanding of democratic processes, fostering lifelong civic responsibility.

In order to hear from young people, the council needs to meet them where they are. Young people are managing competing demands for their time, including schoolwork, paid employment, volunteering, extracurricular activities and caring responsibilities. Therefore, the council must recognise that young people may not have the time or capacity to regularly participate in engagement opportunities which occur outside of school hours. While digital engagement methods can address this somewhat, it is important to recognise the constraints facing young people can also apply to these forms of engagement.

The survey of young people conducted as part of the council's engagement for this strategy asked what the best way for the council to connect with young people and hear their ideas is. The most popular option was through school visits and presentations (29.4%), followed by online surveys (14.5%) and emails (14.5%). For young people with SEND, the same three options were the most popular – school visits and presentations (23.7%), email (20.3%) and online surveys (16.9%).

The council recognises that school visits and presentations are likely to be the most effective and impactful engagement method for young people. By conducting these activities within classrooms or assemblies, the council can ensure that the engagement is more representative, capturing the voices of all young people rather than only those who choose to attend in-person events or complete online surveys. This approach allows for a broader and more inclusive understanding of young people's perspectives and needs. However, it is important to acknowledge that schools have constraints on their time and curriculum requirements that must be accommodated. The council will strive to work collaboratively with schools to integrate these engagement activities into the school schedule wherever possible in a way that complements educational objectives and minimises disruption to the learning environment.

9 Participation People – Lundy Model Explained

Youth Democracy

There are dedicated panels which are coordinated by Haringey Council to provide avenues for young people to engage in democratic decision-making. The Youth Panel and Elevated Youth are platforms where young people can voice their opinions, gain leadership experience and influence local policies. Both groups meet regularly to discuss and shape services, with Elevated Youth specifically for young people with SEND to ensure that their unique perspectives are included. There is also the Aspire Children in Care Council, which is a youth-led group dedicated to representing the voices of young people in care and leaving care, and some schools in Haringey have their own dedicated youth panels to ensure their voice is heard within their own educational environment. There may also be additional youth democracy groups within the borough that we are not yet aware of, reflecting the ever-changing landscape of youth work.

These groups participate in activities such as visits to the Houses of Parliament and sessions with local political leaders, offering valuable insights into the democratic system. Events such as Youth Takeover Week allow young people to shadow key council figures, gaining firsthand experience of the roles and responsibilities involved in local governance. Additionally, young people are invited to address council meetings presenting their priorities and creatively expressing their ideas.

These initiatives aim to involve young people in the decision-making process and ensure their voices are heard. Going forward, the Early Help and Prevention service plans to further develop this model of youth participation by transitioning to a fully elected Youth Council, with representatives chosen by their school peers. This will widen participation in and awareness of the panel's work and allow young people to gain experience of exercising democratic rights ahead of the government's plans to reduce the voting age to 16.

Recommendations

The Haringey Youth Strategy 2025-2030 aims to empower young people through enhancing their voice in decision-making and ensuring access to diverse and enriching activities. This aim is also a reflection of alignment with the third Call to Action in the Borough Vision , which was developed through extensive engagement with young people in Haringey. The Call to Action prioritises supporting children and young people's experiences and skills. Therefore, through delivering this strategy and accompanying action plan, we hope to unlock the full potential of our children and young people by ensuring that they have the environment and the skills necessary to succeed. Over the next decade, it is our hope that Haringey becomes an even better place for our children and young people to thrive and feel that they belong here.

The Borough Vision Call to Action for young people outlines two initial priorities which are in the scope of this strategy:

- Facilitate high-quality activities and spaces for young people: To meet the diverse range of interests, needs and experiences that our young people have.
- Hearing young people's voices: Encouraging young people's participation in decision making, civic and democratic life in the borough.

This strategy makes a series of recommendations for how the council can meet these priorities. These recommendations will be responded to with an accompanying action plan detailing specific actions, timelines and responsibilities. The action plan will outline how the council will implement these recommendations, measure progress and ensure accountability. By working collaboratively with young people, their families and the wider community and borough partners, Haringey Council will support an empowering environment where all young people can thrive.

Priority: Facilitate High Quality Activities and Spaces for Young People

Recommendation 1: Promote local youth provision and opportunities for young people living in Haringey

Actions

- Promote the local youth offer to young people across the borough following a comprehensive mapping and analysis of youth service provision.
- Develop and implement a robust communication plan to ensure the local youth offer is widely publicised, including the use of social media.

Recommendation 2: Review the Local Youth Offer to ensure that it is sufficient to respond to young people's needs.

Actions

- Conduct an annual review of the local youth offer to ensure the directory of youth services and activities remains updated and accurate.
- Identify emerging needs, gaps in provision (eg. location and affordability) and service delivery improvements through a thorough review process, focusing on key areas such as provision for SEND, music, sports, health and wellbeing.
- Introduce a formal mechanism in the review process which includes social media through which young people and the voluntary and community sector can provide input and feedback on the offer.

Recommendation 3: Develop an impact framework to measure the impact of youth work.

Actions

- Establish an impact framework to evidence the impact of youth work on outcomes for children and young people.
- Utilise the National Youth Agency impact framework and the neuro-person model as foundational tools to assess and understand the impact of youth work.
- Use the impact data to inform planning, commissioning and delivery of youth services.

Recommendation 4: Professionalise the youth sector workforce through training and development opportunities.

Actions

- Provide training and development opportunities for the workforce to ensure consistent delivery of high quality youth work.
- Promote the Level 2 youth work practice qualification as a stepping stone to further training and other youth work roles, building confidence and skills in our professionals.
- Implement a tutor-led qualification program to ensure all youth workers have the essential skills and knowledge for safe and effective youth work practice.

Recommendation 5: Develop plans for involving young people in the London Borough of Culture 2027 programme of activities and events.

Actions

- Engage young people in cultural activities, fostering creativity, community involvement and personal development through the LBOC programme of activities.
- Involve young people in the planning and delivery of cultural events thereby providing opportunities for connecting young people with professionals in the culture sector.
- Utilise existing services to promote the programme to young people to maximise participation.

Priority: Hearing Young People's Voices

Recommendation 6: Increase engagement of young people to influence decision making and delivery of services.

Actions

- Implement the council's Children and Young People's Participation Framework
- Work with schools and colleges to effectively engage a broad and representative range of young people, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes and in assessing service performance.
- Collaborate with schools wherever possible to integrate engagement activities into the delivery of the youth participation curriculum. This will complement educational objectives and minimise disruption to young people's learning environment.

Recommendation 7: Establish an elected Youth Council with UK Youth Parliament representation

Actions

- Conduct regular meetings with Youth Council members to maintain engagement, provide ongoing support, and ensure their voices are continuously heard in decision-making processes.
- Integrate the Youth Council into governance processes across Haringey Council wherever appropriate, including in allied service areas which significantly impact young people.
- Promote civic participation opportunities to all young people in the borough, including representation to the UK Youth Parliament.

Glossary of Key Terms

Borough Vision: A 10-year strategic plan developed by Haringey Council in partnership with residents, communities and partners, outlining long-term goals and priorities.

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, providing mental health support to young people.

Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire (HRBQ): A structured set of questions designed to gather information about the health-related habits and behaviours of individuals, often used in school health surveys to assess aspects such as diet, physical activity, substance use and emotional wellbeing.

Impact Framework: A tool to measure the impact of youth work on outcomes for children and young people.

Local Authority: A government organisation responsible for providing a range of public services and facilities within a specific geographic area, including education, housing, social services, transport, planning and waste management.

Local Youth Offer: The range of services and activities available to young people in Haringey, provided by the council and voluntary and community sector (VCS).

Lundy Model: A framework for children and young people's participation based on the principles of voice, space, audience and influence.

National Youth Agency (NYA): The Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) for youth work in England, committed to enabling high-quality youth work to benefit young people and strengthen local communities.

Needs Assessment: A comprehensive evaluation of the current landscape of youth services to identify areas for improvement.

Open Access: A youth service that is freely accessible to all young people without specific eligibility criteria.

SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, referring to the support and services provided to children and young people who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education compared to their peer.

Statutory Duty: Legal obligations of local authorities to provide youth services under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

Targeted: A youth service designed to meet the specific needs of particular groups of young people through tailored support and interventions.

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS): A diverse range of organisations and groups, including charities, community groups and social enterprises, that operate independently from the government and private sector to provide services, support and advocacy for the benefit of society, often relying on volunteers and donations.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Health Related Behaviours Questionnaire 2023-24.pptx

Appendix 2. London Borough of Haringey Children and Young Peoples Participation Framework.pdf

References

Statutory guidance for local authorities on services to improve young people's well-being - GOV.UK

New National Youth Strategy to break down barriers to opportunity for young people - GOV.UK

Government partners with young people to help develop new national youth strategy - GOV.UK

Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Children and Young People in Haringey: A summary of the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2023/24

Young People at Risk Strategy Evidence Base

Haringey Family Hub Needs Assessment – March 2023

Participation People – Lundy Model Explained

market
hall
BARBER

SHAPING
WOOD GREEN
Rising Green
Empowering our young people
LFA

EXPECTATIONS
DEWEY
COMEGE

Haringey LONDON

Haringey Youth Strategy Action Plan

2025 - 2030

Haringey LONDON

Intro section to be added and governance

Priority 1: Facilitate High Quality Activities and Spaces for Young People

Why is this a priority?

- Ensuring that we have appropriate and high quality spaced is an investment in the development, wellbeing, and future potential of young people in the borough.
- Access provides developmental opportunities including building teamwork and resilience, as well as building confidence. Safe spaces with structured activities increase participation and reduces the risk of involvement in youth violence.
- Youth centres and the activities they provide deliver hubs of positivity and creativity, reducing anti-social behaviour and promoting civic engagement.

What has already been done?

- Mapping exercise of provision in the borough to act as a baseline.
- Included leisure offer as part of the work to ensure a holistic approach to the approach.

What impact will this strategy have over the next 3 years?

To be added

DRAFT

Haringey LONDON

Priority 2: Hearing Young People's Voices

Why is this a priority?

- The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** (Article 12) affirms that children and young people have the right to express their views in all matters affecting them and this strategy looks to enable young people to be at the heart of decision making.
- Young people report that they are underrepresented in decision making in their communities and giving them a platform that encourages and enables their voice to be heard shows **respect**, builds trust, and affirms their value in society.
- With the planned introduction of lowering the voting age, this encourages young people to become engaged citizens and increases understanding of how local government works. Delivering UK youth parliament elections will enable the voice of young people in Haringey to be heard at a national level.

What has already been done?

- Engaged young people in a youth panel and enabled their representation at council and cabinet meetings
- Developed a timescale for elections to establish a formal youth council.

To be added to the heading below

What impact will this strategy have over the next 3 years?

DRAFT

PRIORITY ONE: Facilitate High Quality Activities and Spaces for Young People												
ACTION REFERENCE	FOCUS FOR ACTION	HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS	TIMESCALES								
				Q1 2025/2026	Q2 2025/2026	Q3 2025/2026	Q4 2025/2026	Q1 2026/2027	Q2 2026/2027	Q3 2026/2027	Q4 2026/2027
P1A1 Promote local youth provision and opportunities for young people living in Haringey	Promote the local youth offer to young people across the borough	Number of hits on the youth offer website	Digital and Comms team				●				
	Develop and implement a robust communication plan to ensure the local youth offer is widely publicised, including the use of social media	Young people and their families tell us that the information is easy to access and useful	Early Help Data & Performance Team			●					
		Professionals are aware of the offer and able to signpost appropriately									

ACTION REFERENCE	FOCUS FOR ACTION	HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS	TIMESCALES							
				Q1 2025/2026	Q2 2025/2026	Q3 2025/2026	Q4 2025/2026	Q1 2026/2027	Q2 2026/2027	Q3 2026/2027	Q4 2026/2027
P1A2 Review the Local Youth Offer to ensure that it is sufficient to respond to young people's needs. Action	Conduct an annual review of the local youth offer to ensure the directory of youth services and activities remains updated and accurate	Increase in website traffic to the youth directory	Early Help Data & Performance Team						●		
		Number of new services added each year	Youth Service Manager						●		
	Identify emerging needs, gaps in provision (e.g. location and affordability) and service delivery improvements through a thorough review process, focusing on key areas such as provision for SEND, music, sports, health and wellbeing.	Increase in targeted interventions	xx							●	
		Percentage of existing services modified or expanded to meet newly identified needs.	xx							●	
	Introduce a formal mechanism in the review process which includes social media	Positive feedback from users	xx							●	

	through which young people and the voluntary and community sector can provide input and feedback on the offer										
		Increased participation from local providers in the review process	xx							●	
		Annual review of youth strategy	Youth Participation Lead					●			
			Head of Service, Early Help & Prevention					●			

ACTION REFERENCE	FOCUS FOR ACTION	HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS	TIMESCALES							
				Q1 2025/2026	Q2 2025/2026	Q3 2025/2026	Q4 2025/2026	Q1 2026/2027	Q2 2026/2027	Q3 2026/2027	Q4 2026/2027
P1A3 **Develop an impact framework to measure the impact of youth work**	Establish an impact framework to evidence the impact of youth work on outcomes for children and young people.	young people in designing the framework.	Youth Participation Lead				●				
	Utilise the National Youth Agency impact framework and the neuro-person model as foundational tools to assess and understand the impact of youth work	qualitative and quantitative measures show impact of delivery	Early Help Data & Performance Team				●				
	Use the impact data to inform planning, commissioning and delivery of youth services	quality services deliver impactful youthwork	Early Help Data & Performance Team Youth Service Manager								●

ACTION REFERENCE	FOCUS FOR ACTION	HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS	TIMESCALES							
				Q1 2025/2026	Q2 2025/2026	Q3 2025/2026	Q4 2025/2026	Q1 2026/2027	Q2 2026/2027	Q3 2026/2027	Q4 2026/2027
Establish an elected Youth Council with UK Youth Parliament representation	Conduct regular meetings with Youth Council members to maintain engagement, provide ongoing support, and ensure their voices are continuously heard in decision-making processes	Number of decisions influenced by youth input	Youth Participation Lead			●					
	Integrate the Youth Council into governance processes across Haringey Council wherever appropriate, including in allied service areas which significantly impact young people.	Case studies of policy/service changes driven by youth feedback					●				
		Young people are elected to Haringey Youth Parliament through elections					●				
	Promote civic participation opportunities to all young people in the borough, including representation to the UK Youth Parliament	Haringey has elected representation on the UK Youth Parliament						●			

Agenda Item 10

Report for: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Item number:

Title: Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2027 – Year 1 review

Report authorised by: Ann Graham, Corporate Director: Children's Services
Lead Officers: Jackie Difolco, Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND

Ward (s) affected: All

Report for Key/Non-Key Decision: Not applicable

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1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel of the first annual review of the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2024-2027 which provides insight into the key strategic priorities, progress and activities undertaken over the past year.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny panel note the contents of the report and plan, directing any comments and observations to the Director for Early Help, Prevention and SEND.

3. Report

Background information

3.1 In England only, statutory youth justice plans must be signed off by full council. In advance of full council approval, the plan can be submitted with the approval of the Chair of the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board with confirmation of full sign off submitted at a later date. This partnership board has strategic responsibility to ensure youth justice services are delivered within its statutory remit. The 'sign off' by the Chair is an indication that the wider management board have approved the submitted plan which must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published annually by 30th June 2025. This plan was approved by the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board on the 18th June 25 with the annual review submitted to the YJB prior to the deadline.

3.2 It is the duty of each local authority after consultation with partners to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:
a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
b) how the Youth Justice Service will be composed and funded; how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

3.3 The document is the youth justice partnership's main statement of purpose and sets out its proposals to prevent offending by children and young people. The plan shows not only what the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will deliver as a service, but what progress had been made on the strategic priorities and how strategic links with other supporting initiatives will be developed and maintained.

3.4 This plan supports a range of associated partnership strategies including:
a) The Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 - 2026
b) Haringey Early Help Strategy 2024-2027

c) Haringey Young People at Risk Strategy 2019 – 2029
d) Haringey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2024
e) Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027
f) SEND and Alternative Provision Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2026
g) Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Plan 2022-2025.

3.5 The youth justice plan is supported by a more detailed operational delivery plan overseen by the Head of Service for Youth Justice and Youth at Risk Strategy, who reports progress to the Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board (YJSPB).

3.6 As a statutory regulated service, youth justice services are inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The most recent single inspection took place in November 2024, the report was published in March 2025 where the YJS and partnership received an overall rating as 'good' with outstanding features. This is a true reflection of where we are as a partnership in supporting some of our most vulnerable children and young people within the youth justice system. Haringey Youth Justice Inspection report can be accessed here: An Inspection of Haringey Youth Justice Service.

3.7 The YJS has an action plan to address the six recommendations within the inspection report which will be monitored at the YJSPB. The Head of Service for YJS has oversight of the plan to ensure that progress is regularly reviewed with objective delivered.

3.8 The Youth Justice Plan is required to address the areas of performance, structure and governance, resources, value for money, partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery. The plan considers local and national performance, lessons from inspections, together with learning from any serious incidents and regular quality assurance. The Youth Justice Plan can be accessed here: Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2027

Summary of progress against Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2025

3.7 Between November 2024 – January 2025 the Management Board engaged directly in key focus groups throughout the inspection in which they also represented their agencies.

3.8 There has been a specific focus to merge strategic partners and practitioners within the Youth Justice Service to strengthen the link and ensure meaningful connection for strategic decision making and practice development. Following this, the board members are invited to service initiatives in particular the Dusty Knuckle programme celebration events. There have also been joint focus visits arranged which included Oak Hill Secure Training Centre.

3.9 The partnership board has continued to have a thematic approach, enabling partners to have a targeted deep dive into the different parts of the youth justice system and partnership response. This is already proving to having a better impact, coupled by the board meetings being hybrid as opposed to being held virtually. The key thematic areas have been, Disproportionality, Re-offending cohort, and Out of Court Disposals.

Our Key Achievements in 2024-2025 are:

a) YJSPB thematic approach within our governance arrangements has enabled a deeper understanding of trends and areas of focus to target on to improve outcomes for children.
b) YJS Health team CAMHS nurse, Speech and Language Therapist and Schools Nurse has started to have the desired objective to improve the health outcomes for children which more children being screened, assessed with interventions liked to meeting childrens needs and improving their health outcomes.

c) Continued development of a bespoke training programme of the 'Dusty Knuckle' 5-week Bakery programme for children that are not in education, training and or employment.
d) Wood Green custody suite developments completed resulting in the first child friendly custody suite in London.
e) The YJS has completed thematic audits on children in custody which has resulted in some changes being made to how children are supported, increased number of in person visits and a more standardised custody planning template embedded.
f) Stop and Search data is now shared at each YJSPB and used to inform discussion and action.
g) The YJS led on an audit which focused on children arrested and outcomes which is leading to changes in practices across the system (YJS, Safeguarding, Police and Early Help).
h) Development of the Safer and Stronger communities project in partnership with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and Youth Service, extending the the Mobile Youth Hub to the east of the borough with additional prevention support from the Turnaround team within YJS.
i) Through regular exit questionnaires surveys completed by the children, the findings were generally very positive. It is apparent that the "best part" of working with YJS is "working with their case manager" (69%). 97% said "we helped them to stop offending".
j) There is a continued focus and commitment on workshops that meet the children and parents/carers needs and preferred topics.
k) Only one child was sentenced to youth detention accommodation (YDA in 24/25. The custody rate in Haringey is the 5th best in London and joint 1st in our Youth Justice family of statistical neighbours.
l) National indictors around our re-offending rate are the 4th lowest in London at 2.45. This is significantly lower than the London average (3.31) and the England average (4.3).
m) None of the children that had a 'youth caution' with and without conditions re-offended in 24/25.
n) Over 65% of children supported by the YJS were in full-time education training and employment by the end of their intervention (83% for school age and 70% for post 16+).
o) The Young Haringey Achievement Centre (as named) continues to recognise the commitment and hard work of our children for their contribution to their local community with educational qualifications via the 'assessment qualifications alliance (AQA) Scheme. AQA offer wide range of units which makes achievement accessible to every child and young people regardless of their age, ability or interests. From April 24 to March 25, 34 children and young people received an accreditation, totalling 92 AQA units.

<u>Performance against national indicators</u>

3.10 There is a new requirement for all YJS's to report on ten additional key performance indicators (KPIs). The table in Appendix A provides 13 different indicators which are divided into three different sub areas comprising of the current and new indicators. (Refer to Appendix A: Haringey Youth National and Local Indicators 2024-2025).

<u>First time entrants (FTE)</u>

3.11 Between April 2024 and March 2025, Haringey recorded 67 first-time entrants into the youth justice system, equating to a rate of 277 per 100,000 children in the borough. This represents a 14% increase compared to the same period in 2023/24, corresponding to an additional 8 children. Notably, this also reflects a 52% rise over the past three years. In comparative terms, Haringey ranks 8th out of 11 within our family group, and 27th out of 31 across London. The borough's FTE rate is worse than both the family group and London-wide averages. While fluctuations in these figures are not uncommon, a comprehensive analysis is being undertaken to gain deeper insight into the characteristics and circumstances of this cohort.

Reoffending

3.12 The annual Haringey re-offending rate has reduced to 26%. It now stands at the joint lowest rate since we started tracking re-offending. The family rate is 29.9% and the London rate is 30.4%. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future according to our live re-offending toolkit projections.

3.13 The re-offences rate is the 4th lowest in London at 2.45. This is significantly lower than the London average (3.31) and the England average (4.3).

Use of custody

3.14 Only one child was sentenced to custody in 24/25, which is the lowest Haringey has had. The number of children sentenced to custody has decreased by 83% or by 5 custodial sentences since last year. This represents a decrease of 80% compared to three years ago. The current figure is the 5th best in London and joint 1st in our youth justice family.

Priorities within Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2027

3.15 Haringey's Young People at Risk Strategy reviewed and refreshed its partnership action plan 2023-26 which aligns with the work of the Youth Justice Service and our long-term approach to reducing youth violence in the borough. The action plan can be accessed here: Haringey Young People at Risk Action Plan 2024 - 2027

3.16 The Youth Justice Strategic Priorities over the next two years are set out in the graphic below:

Table Two: Youth Justice Partnership Strategic Priorities

Priority 1: Child First: For the YJSPB and YJS to continue our commitment to child first approach which should be incorporated in all aspects of service delivery, governance and quality assurance.

Priority 2: Restorative Justice: Increase the number of victims that engage in Restorative Justice processes and improve their outcomes.

Priority 3: YJS Health Offer: To increase the uptake of the health offer and improve health outcomes, particularly in relation to EMH, SLT and substance misuse using trauma informed approaches.

Priority 4: Disproportionality: Increase the focus of disproportionality within the context of remands/sentenced into custody, education, health and stop and search.

Priority 5: Children in Care: To improve entry to ETE, Health and Wellbeing outcomes for those children in care, CP, CIN and SEND cohort.

Priority 6: Serious Youth Violence: Strengthen and expand our evidence-based approaches to reduce levels of Serious Youth Violence in particular Robbery and Knife crime.

Priority 7: Prevention and Diversion: Increase the number of children and families supported by our prevention offer.

3.17 The Youth Justice Service Strategic Partnership have agreed and committed to a three-year strategic plan with seven key priorities and will be reviewed on an annual basis with the plan refreshed.

4. Contribution to Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 – 2026 and strategic outcomes

4.1 The objectives of the youth justice service are aligned with the priorities within Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan' specifically:

Theme 3: Children and young people

- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods - All children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities.
- Outcome 3 Successful Futures - Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future

Theme 7: A Safer Borough

- Outcome 1: A borough where all residents and visitors feel safe and are safe.

4.2 This work contributes to the Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Strategy, Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan, the Haringey Community Safety and Early Help Strategy. It will also help to deliver on the Young People at Risk strategy, as well as the North Area Violence Reduction Group (NAVRG).

4.3 Officers and partners work strategically across related work areas and boards such as Youth Justice, Safeguarding Children and Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Regeneration, Community Gold, Early Help and the Community Safety Strategy.

5. Statutory Officers comments

Finance

5.1 The cost of the Youth Justice service is met from a combination of Local Authority funding, specific grants and contributions from other agencies. In 2025/26 the total expenditure is expected to be £1.859m, of which £1.129m is from the general fund, grant funding from the Youth Justice Board Good Practice of £0.650m, and £0.080m from other sources.

Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

5.2 The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5.3 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities, after consultation with relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan setting out how Youth Justice Services in their area are will be provided, funded and operate. The plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by the 30th June 2025.

5.4 Youth Justice Plans: Guidance for youth justice services updated in March 2023 states that in England, the plans must be signed off by Full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. Where local authorities are unable to obtain sign off by Full Council, the plan can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board with the approval of the Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board Chair, with confirmation of Full Council sign off at a later date. The Board Chair sign off is taken as an indication that the wider management board approves the plan.

5.5 The council's constitution, at Part 3 Section B, sets out the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which includes scrutinising decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible partner authorities of their crime and disorder functions. Scrutiny Panels are appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to examine designated council services. Areas covered by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny panel includes Youth Services and Youth Offending.

Equalities

5.6 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard the need to:

a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act,
b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not,
c) Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

5.7 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

5.8 This report is to inform members of the CYP and Schools Scrutiny of the objectives for the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2024-2027. This plan takes into account learning from partnership working, as well as serious incidents and safeguarding to ensure our children and young people are given specialist support to cater to their needs. Cross-cutting and partnership work with CAHMS, Social Care and other teams/organisations supports us in catering to the needs of vulnerable groups, specifically with regard to mental health, sex and sexual orientation, disability and gender reassignment. As well as this, a focus on disproportionate exclusion rates, custody and other negative outcomes will be focused on as part of the new plan to further protect those with the previously mentioned protected characteristics.

5.9 Equalities impact has been monitored as part of annual refresh of the plan and used to inform the priorities for action over the next year.

6. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Haringey Youth National and Local Indicators 2024-2027
Appendix B: Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

Appendix A: Haringey Youth National and Local Indicators 2024-2025

No	Key Indicators	YJB National Indicators	23/24 Output	24/25 Target	24/25 Output	25/26 Target
1	National Indicators	1.1 Reduce the Use of Custody 1.2 Reduce the rate of Re-offending. 1.3 Reduce the number of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System	9 sentences 32.3% 51 children	6 sentences 30% 45 children	1 sentence 26% 67 children	1 sentence 25% 50 children
		YJB New Key Performance Indicators	**23/24 Output**	**24/25 Target**	**24/25 Output**	**25/26 Target**
2	Suitable Accommodation	Increase the % of children in suitable accommodation by the end of their intervention	91%	96%	92%	95%
3	Education Training and Employment Suitability	Increase the % of children in suitable Education, training and employment by the end of their intervention	72%	80%	73%	80%
4	Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (number of children with an order ending in the period)	Increase the % of children attending intervention from those that have an identified Emotional/Mental Health need.	42%	80%	65%	80%
5	Substance Misuse (number of children with an order ending in the period)	Increase the % of children attending intervention from those that have an identified Substance Misuse need	41%	80%	46%	80%
6	SEN/EHCP	% with an identified SND/EHCP need that have a formal plan in place	100%	100%	100%	100%
7	Out of court disposals	% of Out of Court Disposals (OOCDs) completed successfully	43%	60%	56%	65%
8	Links to Wider Services	During the intervention:-				
		% of children that are a Child in Care	19%	N/A	16%	N/a
		% of children that are on a Child Protection Plan	5%	N/A	8%	N/a
		% of children that are Children in Need	14%	N/A	15%	N/a
		% of children on an Early Intervention Plan	8%	N/A	22%	N/a
9	Management Board Attendance	% of the statutory senior board members (Children's Services, Education, Probation, Police, Health) that attended the partnership board (can be delegated)	90%	100%	80%	100%
10	Serious Youth Violence	Reduce the number of serious youth violence offences (Drugs, Violence and Robbery with a gravity of 5 and above)	34	30	15	15
11	Victims	Increase the % of victims engaging with RJ opportunities (of those consented)	79%	90%	100%	100%
		YJS Performance Indicators	**23/24 Output**	**24/25 Target**	**24/25 Output**	**25/26 Target**
12	Case Management (Personal Performance Reports PPR)	Increase the % of children with an ASSET+ completed within timescale (within 20 working days of start of intervention and every 3 months thereon)	72%	80%	72%	80%
	There is now an expectation that records are obtained where those CiC children that are placed in another authority	Increase the % of children with Home Visit undertaken within timescales (within 15 working days of start and every 2 months thereon)	76%	80%	78%	80%
		Increase the % of children with an Intervention Plan completed within timescale (20 working days from start and every 3 months)	77%	80%	77%	80%
13	Links to Wider Services	To support our CIC with robust risk plans to reduce the number of CIC who get assessed as High Risk across at the end of YJS Intervention:-				
		*Serious Harm	25%	20%	26%	20%
		*Safety and Wellbeing	64%	50%	61%	50%

Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Plan

2024-2027

Year 1 Review

Service: Haringey Youth Justice Service

Date: Refreshed June 2025

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Haringey Youth Justice Service

National Probation Service

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey NHS
Mental Health NHS Trust

Haringey LONDON

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1. Introduction, vision and strategy

1.1 Introduction

This document provides an overview of Haringey's Youth Justice Service (YJS) performance and developments over the last 12 months and reviews the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board (YJSPB) priorities, one year into the three year strategic plan (2024-2027).

Our partnership approach is underpinned by a strong vision 'All of Haringey's children and young people achieve their potential' and that collaboration and partnership are at the heart of what we do to ensure our children will receive the support they need to succeed and improve outcomes.

As per the strategic plan published last year, we continue to support children and young people to have high aspirations, working together across all related youth justice services and our wider partnership which reaffirms or commitment to being child centred in our ethos, delivery and decision making.

We are committed in addressing, challenging and understanding how we as a partnership can effect change for our children who are disproportionally marginalised. We will continue to strive as a partnership to be creative and innovative in our approach and practice in supporting our children in a holistic and constructive way.

This was evident in the most recent inspection last year with the report published in March 2025 where the YJS and partnership received an overall rating as 'good' with outstanding features, which is excellent and a true reflection of where we are as a partnership in supporting some of our most vulnerable children and young people within the youth justice system. A link to the report is here: **An Inspection of Haringey Youth Justice Service.**

An extract from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation stated: "Haringey YJS can be rightfully proud of the work it is delivering. The service works alongside multiple vibrant and diverse community-based organisations which provide extensive services for children and their families."

The report praises the partnership focus on education, training, and employment focus at Haringey YJS, where inclusive provisions such as the Haringey Learning Partnership and the in-house Dusty Knuckles programme are having tangible impacts for children, including lowering school exclusion rates which can divert children from the youth justice system.

The report further added "while improvements are needed in assessing practice to keep others safe, the service is a strong one – with a committed partnership board and highly skilled staff team who are authentic in their care for youth justice children and families."

The Inspectorate's report makes six recommendations. Five of these are for the Haringey YJS, including to strengthen assessing practice and management oversight to keep others safe. One recommendation is for the Metropolitan Police to review the use of Outcome 22 or other deferred prosecution options in Haringey.

The service has an improvement plan in place which will be monitored by the YJSPB. For those children and parents/carers your honest opinions and thoughts of the service and to all the front line staff within the service for their continued commitment and authentic care they show to the children and families within the service.

Councillor Zena Brabazon
Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families

Councillor Ajda Ovat
Cabinet Member for Communities

Ann Graham
Corporate Director: Childrens Services
Chair of Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board

2. Strategy and key priorities

Accountability for the Youth Justice Partnership Plan is overseen by our local strategic partnership board to ensure regular and robust, positive scrutiny and challenge with an annual report on progress reviewed and considered. In addition, the Youth Justice Service Plan underpins an operational delivery plan for the Youth Justice Service which is accountable to the Head of Service for Youth Justice and Youth at Risk Strategy.

See **Appendix 3 - Strategic Partnership Plan**

The Youth Justice Strategic Priorities over the next three years are set out below:

Priority 1: Child First: For the YJSPB and YJS to continue our commitment to child first approach which should be incorporated in all aspects of service delivery, governance and quality assurance.

Priority 2: Restorative Justice: Increase the number of victims that engage in Restorative Justice processes and improve their outcomes.

Priority 3: YJS Health Offer: To increase the uptake of the health offer and improve health outcomes, particularly in relation to EMH, SLT and substance misuse using trauma informed approaches.

Priority 4: Disproportionality: Increase the focus of disproportionality within the context of remands/sentenced into custody, education, health and stop and search.

Priority 5: Children in Care: To improve entry to employment, education and training (ETE), Health and Wellbeing outcomes for those children in care, those with a child protection plan (CP), children in need (CIN) and children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

Priority 6: Serious Youth Violence: Strengthen and expand our evidence-based approaches to reduce levels of Serious Youth Violence in particular Robbery and Knife crime.

3. Progress on previous plan and key achievements

The Youth Justice Service has been committed to building the 'infrastructure' for the service, in order to provide high quality interventions with children and young people and their families. The following information is a summary highlight of our achievements thus far against each priority area.

Priorities	Progress
Priority 1: Child First: For the YJSPB and YJS to continue our commitment to child first approach which should be incorporated in all aspects of service delivery, governance and quality assurance.	➔ Continued to have thematic reviews at the YJSP board which are child focused. ➔ Continued children first approach to reports for court and court feedback ➔ The development of the YJS Practice Model and Participation is integral to ensure there is joined up approaches and responses which include providing opportunities for co-production and consultation. ➔ Wood Green custody suite developments completed resulting in the first child friendly custody suite in London ➔ YJS has established a stronger connection with the Youth Council and created pathways for children within the YJS to share their views.
Priority 2: Restorative Justice: Increase the number of victims that engage in Restorative Justice processes and improve their outcomes.	➔ Restorative Justice thematic at the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership board ➔ The Restorative Justice Action Plan has been reviewed and continues to be monitored quarterly with some improvements made in specific areas. ➔ Victim data is embedded in the YJS Dashboard so the data can be monitored ➔ The Met have now changed their process, as the YJS is now being fully recognised as part of the judicial process. Victim of crimes contact details will be shared with the YJS at the point of charge so they can have more control of the first contact, and anticipate that this should improve the numbers of victims engaged going forward
Priority 3: YJS Health Offer: To increase the uptake of the health offer and improve health outcomes, particularly in relation to EMH, SLT and substance misuse using trauma informed approaches.	➔ The YJSP Board has supported the service in ensuring that the relevant health roles are filled. ➔ Health and Well-being team fully embedded with a Speech and Language Therapist as part of the team. ➔ The new key performance indicators are embedded to support in capturing the health needs and outcomes for children ➔ The most recent data analysis of our internal 6-week checks shows 92% of children between Jan- March 25 were referred to emotional and mental health services and speech and language therapy. ➔ Improvements for Substance Misuse referrals is still ongoing – A substance misuse education group workshop was created to support this. Quarterly referrals are in place using data from the Asset Plus to target appropriate referrals as well as the 'our conversation' screening tool which we are embedding into the induction process.

Priorities	Progress
Priority 4: Disproportionality: Increase the focus of disproportionality within the context of remands/sentenced into custody, education, health and stop and search.	➔ YJS commissioned a three-day intensive reflective training programme for front line staff on the intentionality of disproportionality, adultification and health inequalities. ➔ The YJS has completed thematic audits on children in custody which has resulted in some changes being made to how children are supported, increased number of face to face contacts and a more standardised custody planning template embedded. ➔ The custody data linked to disproportionality is shared at every YJSP board and used to inform discussion and action. ➔ The children in care cohort are a specific focus for Children and Young People services, so we can review the support and improve outcomes for children who are in custody. ➔ The Children and Young People's service's audit tool has been amended to include the journey of the child through the YJS system and any experience of Youth Detention Accommodation to inform a holistic view of the child and learning. ➔ The YJSPB had an away day that focussed on disproportionality and inequalities across the systems. ➔ Stop and Search data is now shared at each YJSPB and used to inform discussion and action. ➔ Specific girls' programme pathway agreed with Sister Systems This new referral pathway has been embedded since March 25. ➔ The Ether programme focusing on the children and young people from Black and Global Majority backgrounds delivered by the commissioned organisation Wipers CIC has been further committed to over the next year. ➔ The continued commitment to the London Accommodation Pathfinder as a preventative measure to remands.
Priority 5: Children in Care: To improve entry to ETE, Health and Wellbeing outcomes for those children in care, CP, CIN and SEND cohort.	➔ The YJS lead on a task and finish group about the YJS children in care cohort with a focus on better outcomes. One of the examples being that all children in care had an up to date Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where required. ➔ The YJS produce biannual reports to our corporate parenting board about the outcomes and challenges with the children in care cohort. This was used to inform future planning and delivery of targeted services to improve outcomes for this cohort of children. ➔ The YJS has led on the review in 2024 of the joint protocol for operational practice between the YJS and the rest of Children Services. ➔ The children in care cohort data are presented at every YJSPB and used to inform discussion and action. ➔ YJS send the Children in Care cohort within YJS to all relevant children services and SEND to ensure there is a holistic view of the child, robust sharing of information and oversight.

Priorities	Progress
Priority 6: Serious Youth Violence: Strengthen and expand our evidence-based approaches to reduce levels of Serious Youth Violence in particular Robbery and Knife crime.	➔ The variation of the serious youth violence group work workshops such as Street Doctors and Old Bailey 'no knives better lives' programme provides a targeted response to service delivery. ➔ The 'Venturous' 6-week programme focusing on serious youth violence delivered by the commissioned organisation Wipers CIC has been further commissioned for a further year. An evaluation report was completed by Wipers to demonstrate some of the outcomes. The programme covered Identity; Toxic masculinity; Gangs & exploitation; Emotional Intelligence; Conflict management; Domestic abuse; Healthy relationships; Sexual health; The law around weapons; Consequential thinking skills; Staying safe in the community. The end of course evaluation focused on four key themes that ran throughout the programme which were: individuals' sense of self-worth; emotional intelligence; conflict resolution when feeling disrespected; and strategies for managing negative emotions. The young people that attended the last session and completed the evaluation also spoke in the session and verbally shared their takeaways and learning. All the participants acknowledged that they had enhanced their ability to explore other methods and strategies to manage difficult emotions. ➔ YJS is a key partner on the North Area Violence Reduction group which is focused on serious youth violence across the borough commend unit (Haringey and Enfield) ➔ YJS has undertaken thematic audits on Serious Youth Violence which has informed learning and changes practice. ➔ The Young People at Risk Strategy's key focus is on reducing serious youth violence and the first progress report on the impact of the action plan has been published . **young_people_at_risk_action_plan_2023-26.pdf** ➔ Community Safety held a scrutiny panel that had a dedicated focus on serious youth violence and youth justice. This has influenced the review of the community safety strategy. ➔ Forming better relationships with the Violence Reduction Unit with funding secured for targeted work within the YJS. ➔ The Young people at Risk Strategy network group planning for the Anti Knife Crime Campaign week of action in May 2025 ➔ The YJS led on a multi-agency audit that focused on the risk factors for children who were our top 20 most prolific offenders. This has been shared across a range of partners and services to inform learning and action. ➔ Development of the new Youth Integrated Offenders Management offer and role. ➔ Development of the local knife programme via Wood Green Crown Court. ➔ Review and redevelopment of our risk management panel changing to to weekly to avoid delays in hearing cases and provide extra time to discuss support for children where there are additional vulnerabilities.

Priorities	Progress
Priority 7: Prevention and Diversion: Increase the number of children and families supported by our prevention offer.	➔ Continued focus of team around the family approach is a cultural shift within traditional youth justice and embedded into practice. This includes how we have embedded the social prescribing model within our practice. ➔ Exploring and expanding the offer of support to children through the wider early help and voluntary community sector offer. ➔ The continued focus of the Functional Family Therapy for children within the YJS which is based on systemic approaches. ➔ YJS led on an audit which focused on children arrested and outcomes which is leading to changes in practices across the system (YJS, MASH, Police and Early Help) ➔ Additional funding for the Turnaround programme has been agreed ➔ Arrested Dip Sample Report of children arrested completed and shared with key partners to drive changes to practices ➔ Stocktake of the Turnaround programme and action plan developed to improve referral and engagement rates for children to benefit from the programme. ➔ Continued focus to support the ongoing 'Preventing school exclusions work' ➔ Prevention and Diversion was a thematic at the YJSPB which informed discussion and action. ➔ Development of the Safer and Stronger communities project in Partnership work with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and Youth Service agreed to extend the Mobile Youth Hub to the east of the borough.

3.1 Voice of the child and parents/carers feedback – exit questionnaires

Children's voices have been integral in providing feedback which has influenced service design and decision making, this was reflected in the inspection report which said

The YJS and Partnership Board were committed to understanding and using the experiences of children, parents or carers to shape delivery, engaging them in the co-development of services. This approach was embedded in strategic and operational practice."

When asked what they liked most about the YJS, children and parents said:

"The opportunity to have a voice and be listened to."

"Good workers who help people." "They never just leave you to do it yourself ... they understand what you are going through and just want to help."

"They treated me well, with respect, and I think they have helped me to change."

They felt they were seen in safe places that were easy to get to, but advised on possible improvements:

"I feel safe in the YJS building and I like the colours at the front of it as it's inviting."

The inspectorate interviewed nine children and talked to two parents in the focus groups. Respondents felt practitioners were skilled in supporting children, advising:

"My workers know how to work with young people especially when I got kicked out of school. They helped me get a new school and helped my mum know what to do in meetings with the school."

"My worker is amazing; she listens and does not judge me."

Most stated they could access the right services and support. Children said:

"The YJS supported me to get a work placement before I was remanded and when I was released, they helped me get accommodation." "I worked with the ETE worker to get into college where I did sports at first then construction. I also got a part time job at Dusty Knuckles through the YJS. I now do eight hours a week."

We undertake exit questionnaires completed by children and young people in the last six weeks of their intervention. Over the last 12 months we have analysed the exit questionnaires which relate to 39 completed from a wide range of disposals.

The findings of the exit questionnaires were generally very positive. It is apparent that the "best part" of working with us is "working with their case manager" (69%). 97% said "we helped them to stop offending". When asked to reflect on their experiences with the YJS, the majority of children used positive descriptors, including 'motivational' (11 children), 'inspiring' (5), and 'life-changing' (5).

From 39 exit questionnaires:

95% said they felt involved in the plan

69% said that the best part of working with YJS was working with your case manager and

82% said that their worker always listened to them

50% said there was no "worst part" of working with YJS

97% said the service helped them stop offending

67% said they were always asked for views and opinions

16% said that "going to jail" would help them stop offending

90% said that the service does not need any improvements

How have people found their time in YJS?

useful

helpful

motivational

interesting

inspiring

4. Groupwork

4.1 Groupwork activity

The group work and interventions offer has continued to be implemented within the service with a wide range of key topics that links to the needs of the children and service. Last year the service has focused on education and innovative projects to try and have more of an impact on children and their parents /carers.

Groups workshops/sessions this year have included:

- Ether Project – The continuation of the Ether Programme, a group-based intervention specifically for Black and Global Majority boys and focus on self identity
- Venturous Project – Specifically focusing on Robbery and Knife Crime cohort but key objectives are self development and aspirations.
- Street Doctors – First Aid which focuses on how to deal with unconsciousness, stabbings and gunshot wounds
- Stop and Search workshops - Facilitated by the YJS police who provide advice and guidance covering the law and procedures around stop and search.
- Old Bailey (No Lives/Better Lives) – Weapons awareness workshop based at the old bailey court.
- Social Prescribing – Key focus on emotional and health wellbeing activities
- Health is Your Wealth – Gym Induction and access to free gym sessions at Fusion Lifestyle Gym
- Real Direction Platform – Real Direction Education Platform for Haringey Learning Provision, Haringey Youth Justice, and Haringey Young People at risk service
- Dusty Knuckle Programme – 5 week pizza making and hospitality course
- Virtual Reality Programme - The Virtual Reality (VR) project in Haringey aimed to leverage new technologies and apply them within the field of children's social work, Youth Justice and Early Help. The goal is to put the child in the lens of others and focus on consequential thinking.
- Safe Steps Programme – educational, harm reduction workshops for all children coming to the YJS
- In-house groupwork - development focused on emotional wellbeing and self care to include hairdressing, mindfulness and relaxation, and cooking.

5. Resources and services

5.1 2024/25 BUDGET

Agency	Payment in Kind	Delegated funds	Total
Police and Crime Commissioner	£190,750		£190,750
Probation	£35,208	£5,000	£45,208
Health (Integrated Commissioning Board)	£40,000	£25,000	£65,000
Local Authority		£964,571	£964,571
YJB		£641,272	£641,272
Other (NHS England L&D post)			
Public Health School Nurse Substance misuse	Series of commissioned contracts		
MOJ Turnaround Fund		£152,480.50	£152,480.50
Total	£	£1,763,190	£

*The YJB have not yet confirmed what our grant will be for 2025/26.

The YJB Grant specifically supports and ensures our court ordered interventions, and our preventative and restorative interventions are reflective of the cohort and that the service has the right resources to deliver. The YJB grant continues to be used to fund such activities, training, and interventions.

The YJS has continued to match fund the Integrated Care Board (ICB) contribution for a CAMHS post to both undertake direct work and support the workforce to support children and young people to improve their mental health and wellbeing outcomes. In addition, the YJS provides a small contribution to the new Speech and Language Therapist.

The Turnaround Funding has allowed the service to build on the opportunity to strengthen the bespoke prevention arm to the Youth Justice Service, being able to utilise existing specialised skills and knowledge to address a clear need for youth crime prevention work within the borough, in due course, take the leading role for delivering against the priorities within the Youth at Risk Strategy, and further align with the Family Hubs Programme and our Early Help Strategy.

6. Performance and national key performance indicators

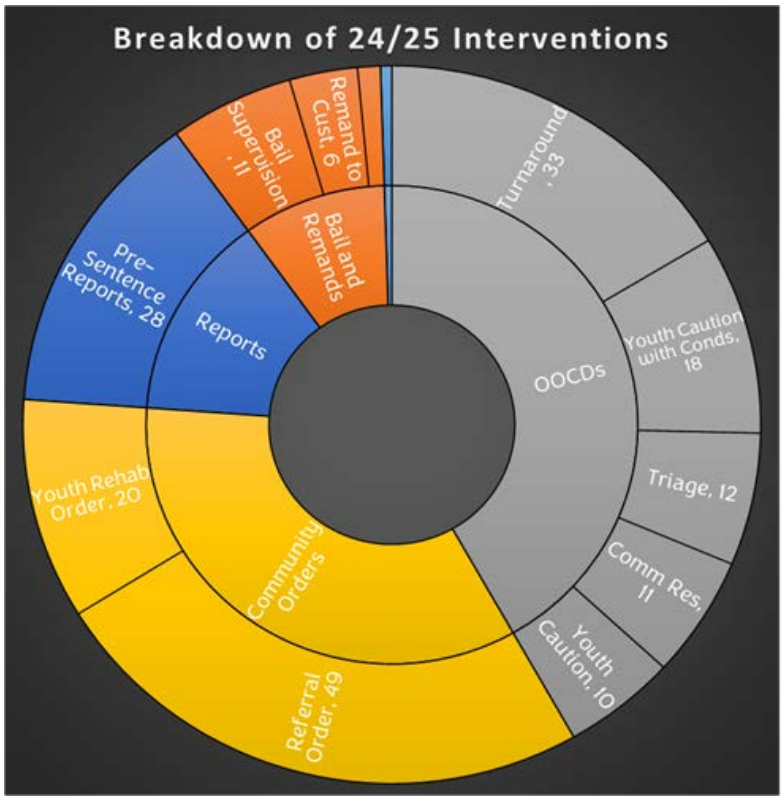
Haringey Youth Justice Service are measured by 13 national indicators. National Indicator data is available at a base level, is not always available in a timely fashion and can also vary from local data, therefore we undertake more thorough and meaningful analysis for our stakeholders at a local level to complement the data provision. This analysis is also provided in this chapter.

The characteristics below demonstrate that the children that we work with are an increasingly complex cohort who are likely to have experienced trauma and extra familial harm within their lived experiences. The most identified characteristics of the children that we work with can be amalgamated into concerns relating to their mental health, substance misuse and speech and language difficulties. In addition, their offending behaviour relates to violence against the persons which include weapons related offences, robbery and drug related offences.

6.1 Annual Haringey data 24/25

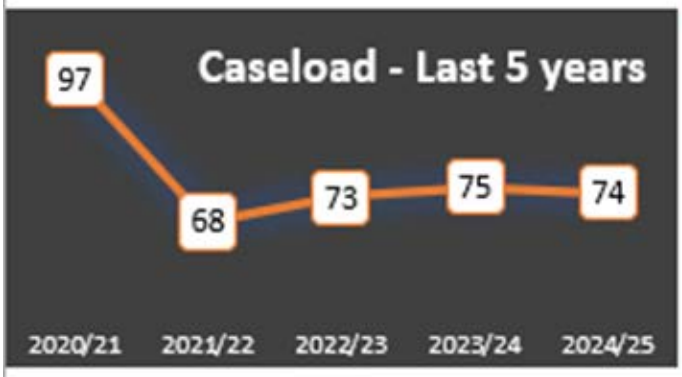
Summary of Key Highlights from the annual data:

- Community Resolutions have almost halved since 23/24, reducing from 20 to 11 programmes. Turnaround numbers decreased from 48 to 33 however still constitute 39% of all Out of Court Disposal/ prevention work.
- The proportion of community orders increased slightly from 27% to 34%
- Only 1 child has been sentenced to custody in 24/25
- The % of children with an identified EMH need is increasing annually and now stands at 66% of our 24/25 caseload.
- The % of children with an identified SLT need has increased substantially from 39% last year to 51% this year.
- The caseload average in 24/25 is 74 children, which is in line with the previous two years. This remains lower than the pre-pandemic level.

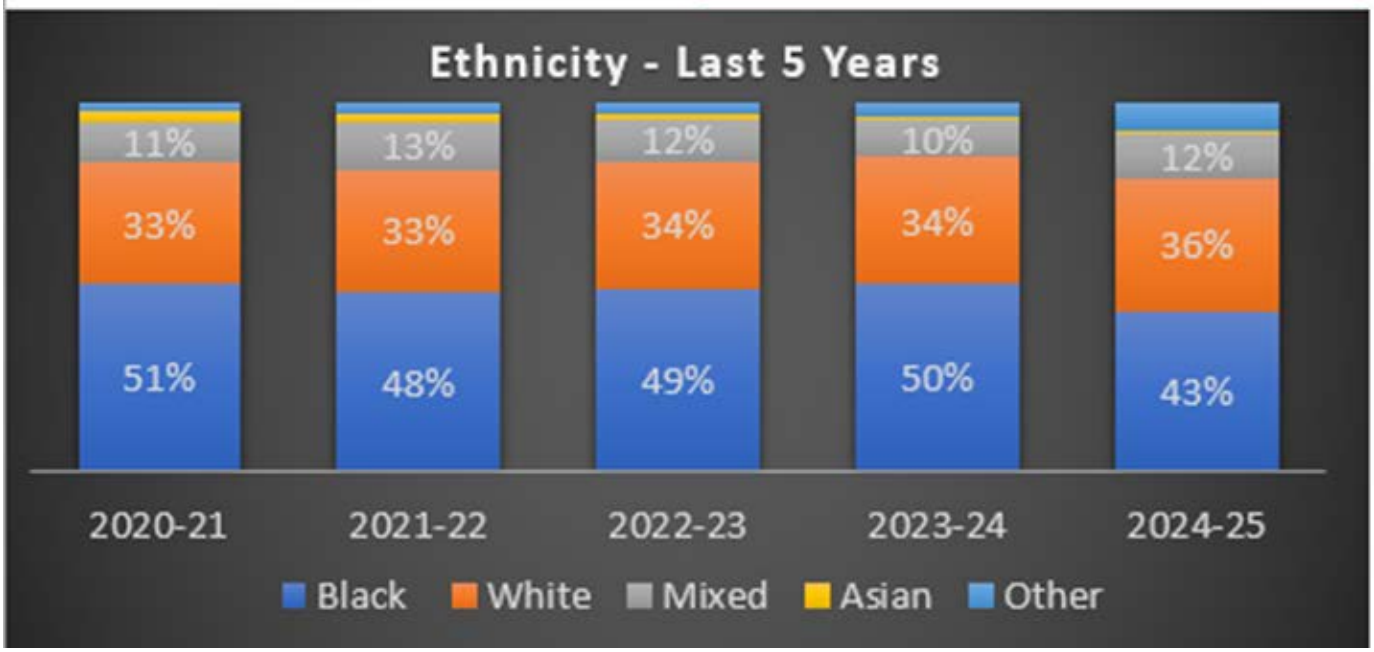


- Black children have been disproportionally represented by between 25% and 30% for the last 5 years, however there are recent signs that this is shifting. The latest % of black children on our caseload is 43% which whilst remaining disproportionately high compared to the resident population, is lower than it has been for over 10 years.
- The number of offences have reduced by 9% since the previous year. Violence, Robbery and Drugs have all reduced.

Annual Health Need
Evidence Sub Misuse
Concerns EMH
Concerns SLT
Concerns Physical Health
59%
60%
60%
66%
65%
54%
56%
45%
51%
39%
33%
35%
35%
10%
12%
17%
16%
19%
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

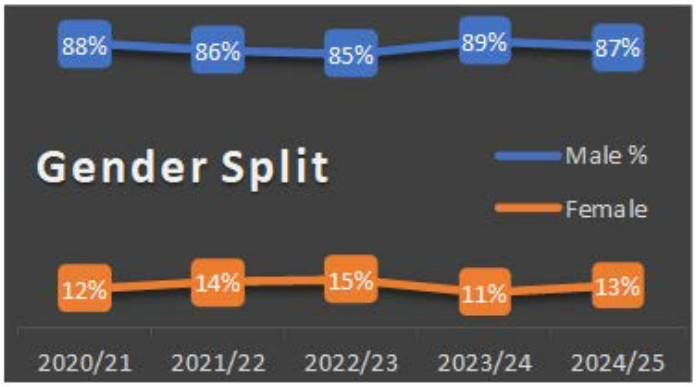

Caseload - Last 5 years
97
68
73
75
74
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

Throughput - Last 5 years
398
311
304
243
303
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25


Ethnicity - Last 5 Years
11%
33%
51%
13%
33%
48%
12%
34%
49%
10%
34%
50%
12%
36%
43%
2020-21
2021-22
2022-23
2023-24
2024-25
Black
White
Mixed
Asian
Other

Offending trends 24/25

All Offences Down 9% (21 offences)
Violence Down 34% (27 offs)
Robbery Down 53% (20 offs)
Drugs Down 14% (6 offs)



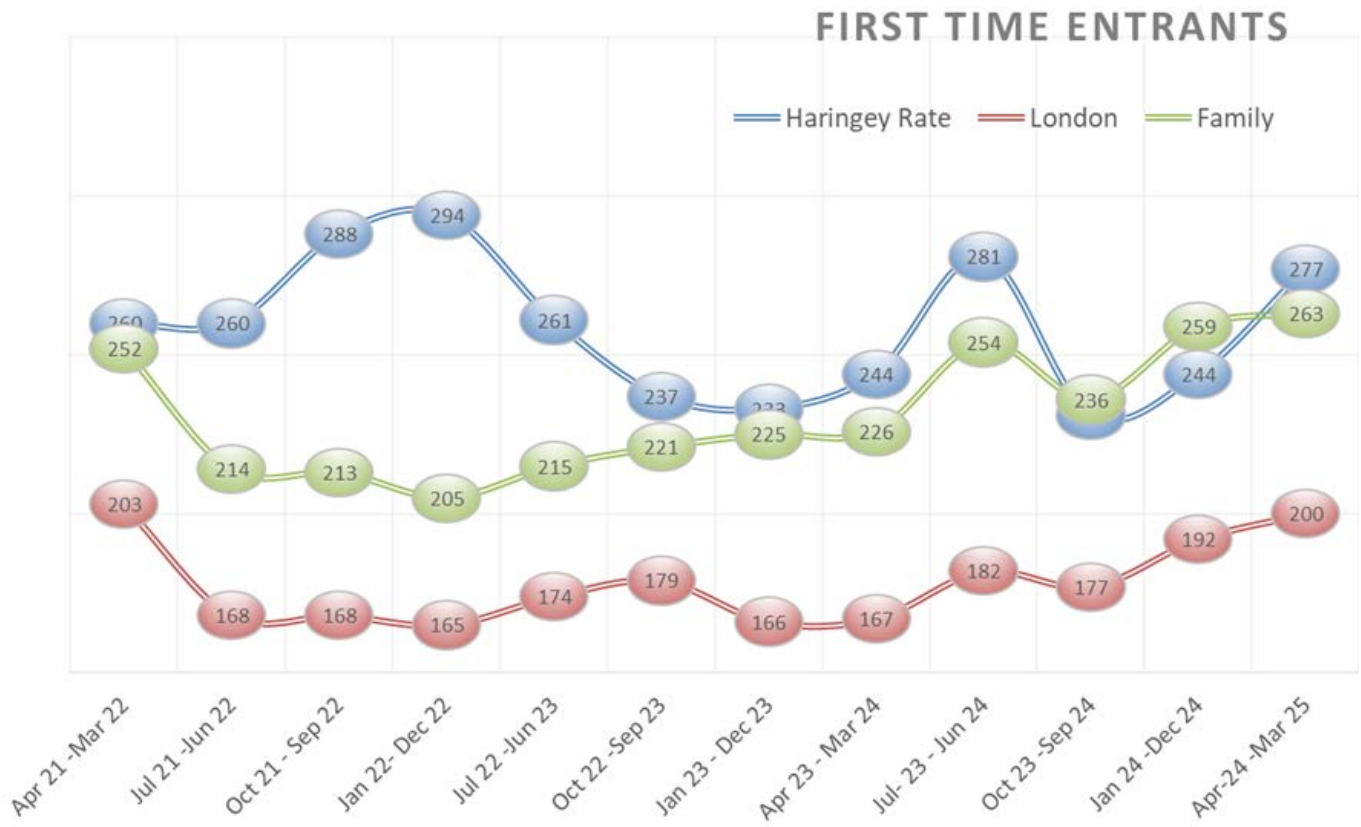
Offence Category	23/24	24/25	Variation	% Variation
Breach of Statutory Order	10	20	10	95%
Criminal Damage	5	5	0	2%
Drugs	44	38	-6	-14%
Fraud and Forgery	1	8	7	650%
Motoring	23	38	15	63%
Robbery	38	18	-20	-53%
Theft and Handling	22	17	-5	-22%
Violence	79	53	-27	-34%
Overall	239	218	-21	-9%

6.2 First time entrants

Between April 2024 and March 2025, Haringey recorded 67 first-time entrants into the youth justice system, equating to a rate of 277 per 100,000 children in the borough. This represents a 14% increase compared to the same period in 2023/24, corresponding to an additional eight children. Notably, this also reflects a 52% rise over the past three years.

In comparative terms, Haringey ranks 8th out of 11 within our family group, and 27th out of 31 across London. The borough's FTE rate is worse than both the family group and London-wide averages.

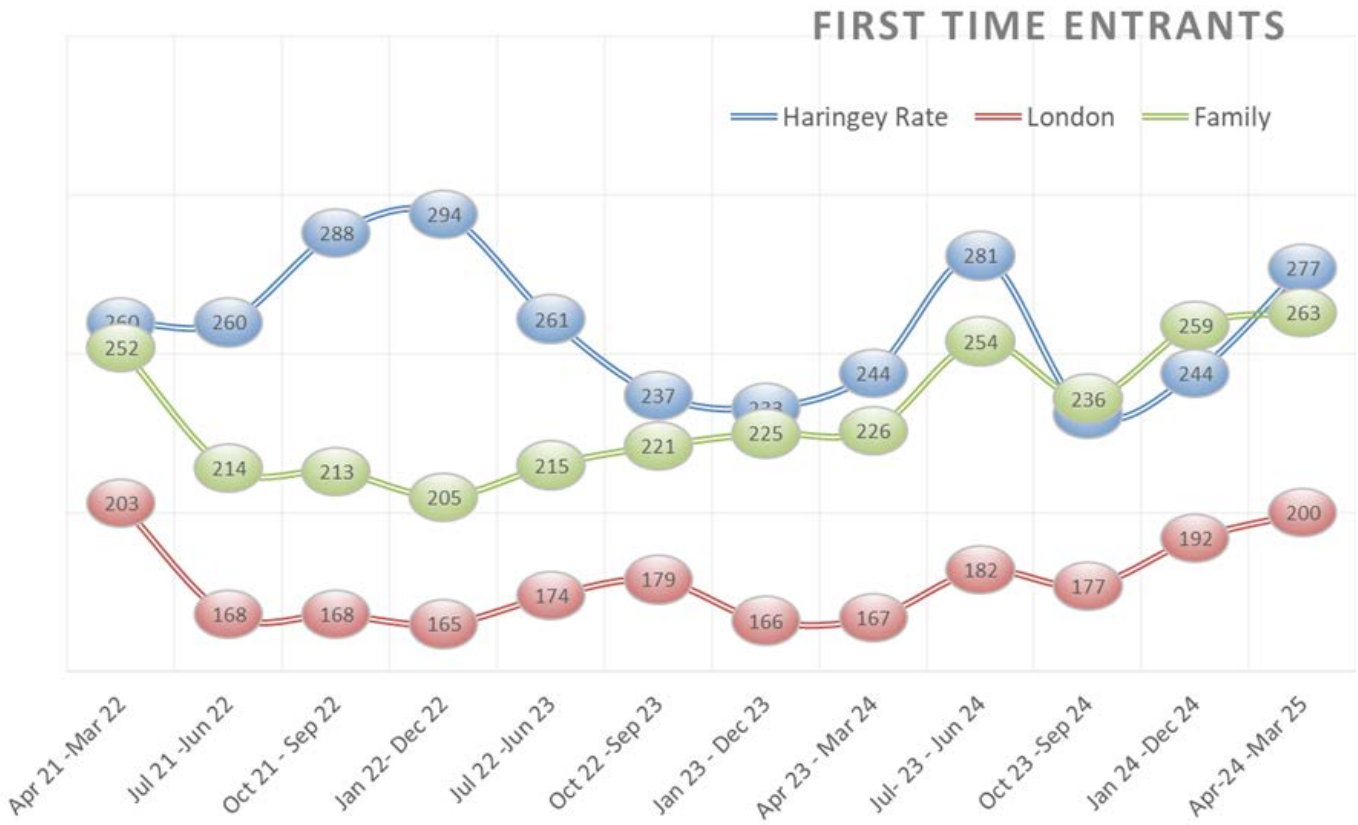
While fluctuations in these figures are not uncommon, a comprehensive analysis is being undertaken to gain deeper insight into the characteristics and circumstances of this cohort.



6.3 Use of custody

NATIONAL INDICATOR

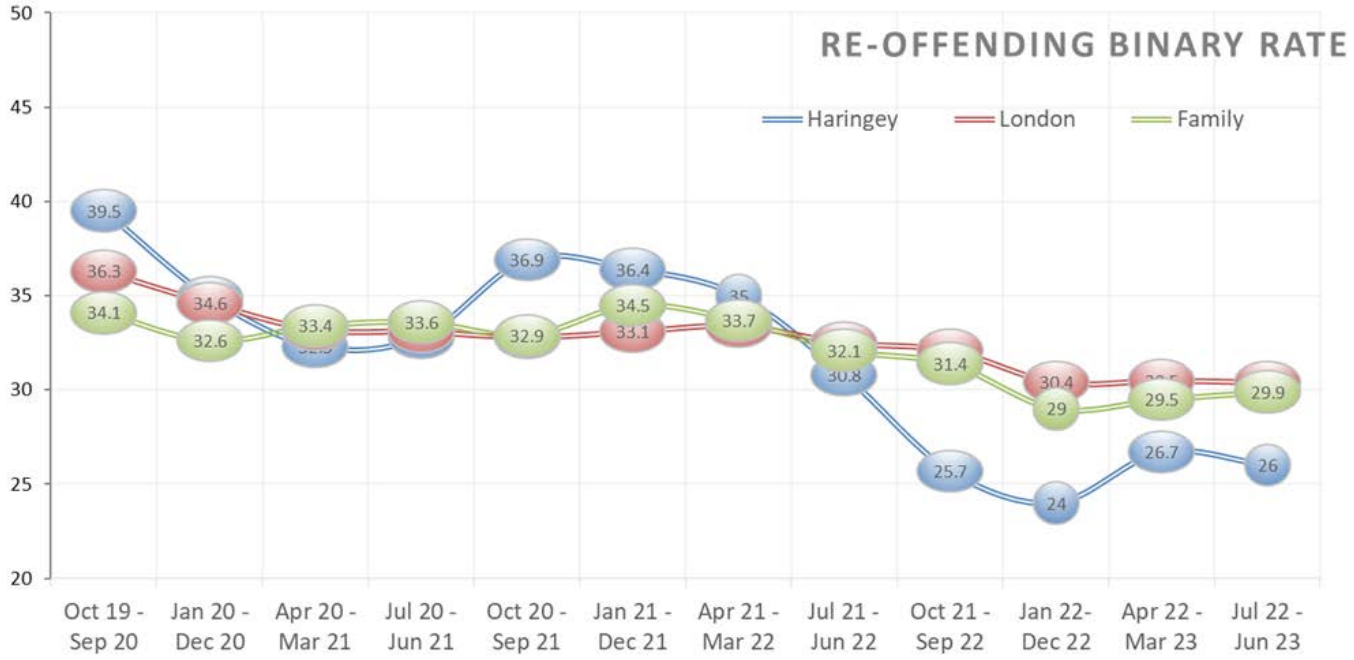
Only one child was sentenced to custody in 24/25, which is the lowest the service has had. The number of children sentenced to custody has decreased by 83% or by 5 custodial sentences since last year. This represents a decrease of 80% compared to three years ago. The current figure is the 5th best in London and joint 1st in our family.



6.4 Re-offending rate

The annual Haringey re-offending rate has reduced to 26%. It now stands at the joint lowest rate since we started tracking re-offending. The family rate is 29.9% and the London rate is 30.4%. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future according to our live re-offending toolkit projections. The re-offending rate last year was 30.8% and 41.3% three years ago. Our rate is the 9th best in London.

The re-offences rate is the 4th lowest in London at 2.45. This is significantly lower than the London average (3.31) and the England average (4.3).



6.5 Re-offending live tracker

We employ the use of the YJB live tracker tool to maintain a current depiction of the re-offending profile and identify trends and patterns much earlier than in the KPI (Key Performance Indicators). By identifying trends and patterns we are able to tailor delivery, for instance offence related interventions and having a key focus on our children in care who unfortunately disproportionately reoffend.

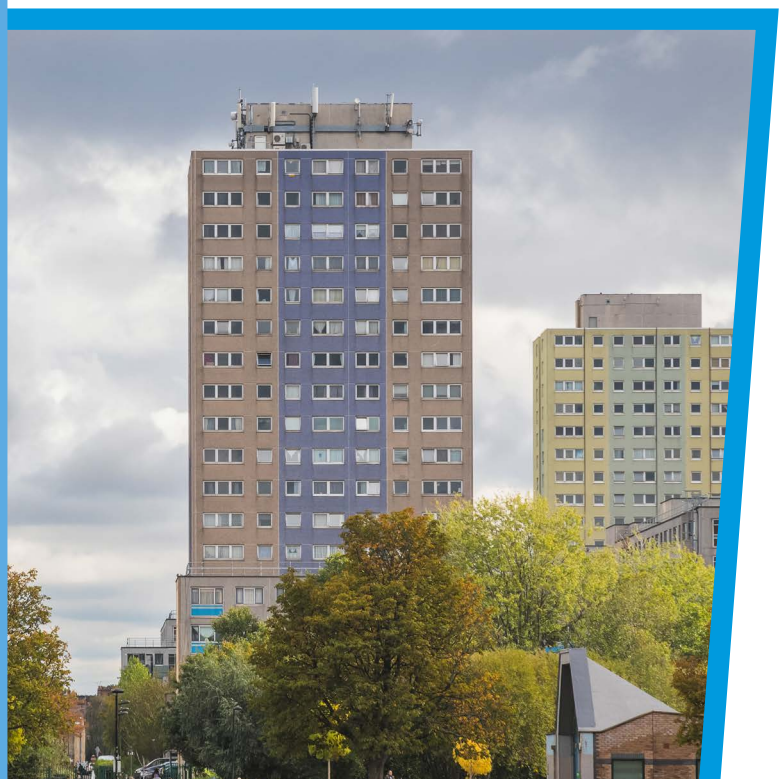
All children who were sentenced or received an OOCD between 1st April 2023, and 31st March 2024, are tracked for one year to determine the overall re-offending rate. Out of 78 children in the cohort, 19 have re-offended, resulting in a re-offending rate of 24%. This suggests that the YJB re-offending rate will likely remain in the mid-twenties for the foreseeable future. The identified trends indicate that the re-offending rate increases with age, is higher among males, is more likely among those in care, and tends to occur within the first month of sentencing.

78 children in cohort

19 Children re-offended	The re-offending rate for 23/24 cohort will be 24%	19 children have re-committed 55 offences

Number of re-offenders

The development of the Youth Integrated Offender Manager (IOM) project which will be funded via the Violence Reduction Unit for three years will have a targeted approach to those children that are habitual knife carriers, convicted of robberies and those that are subject to the Youth Justice Service Re-offending Tracker. The YIOM co-ordinator will work closely with the IOM police officer and the Youth Justice Service case managers to ensure that robust support and additional monitoring and surveillance takes place. This will also include supporting children through diversionary creative activities as well. In addition, the YIOM co-ordinator will also work with the parents/carers of the cohort to ensure that they participate in the local parenting workshops and parenting programmes.



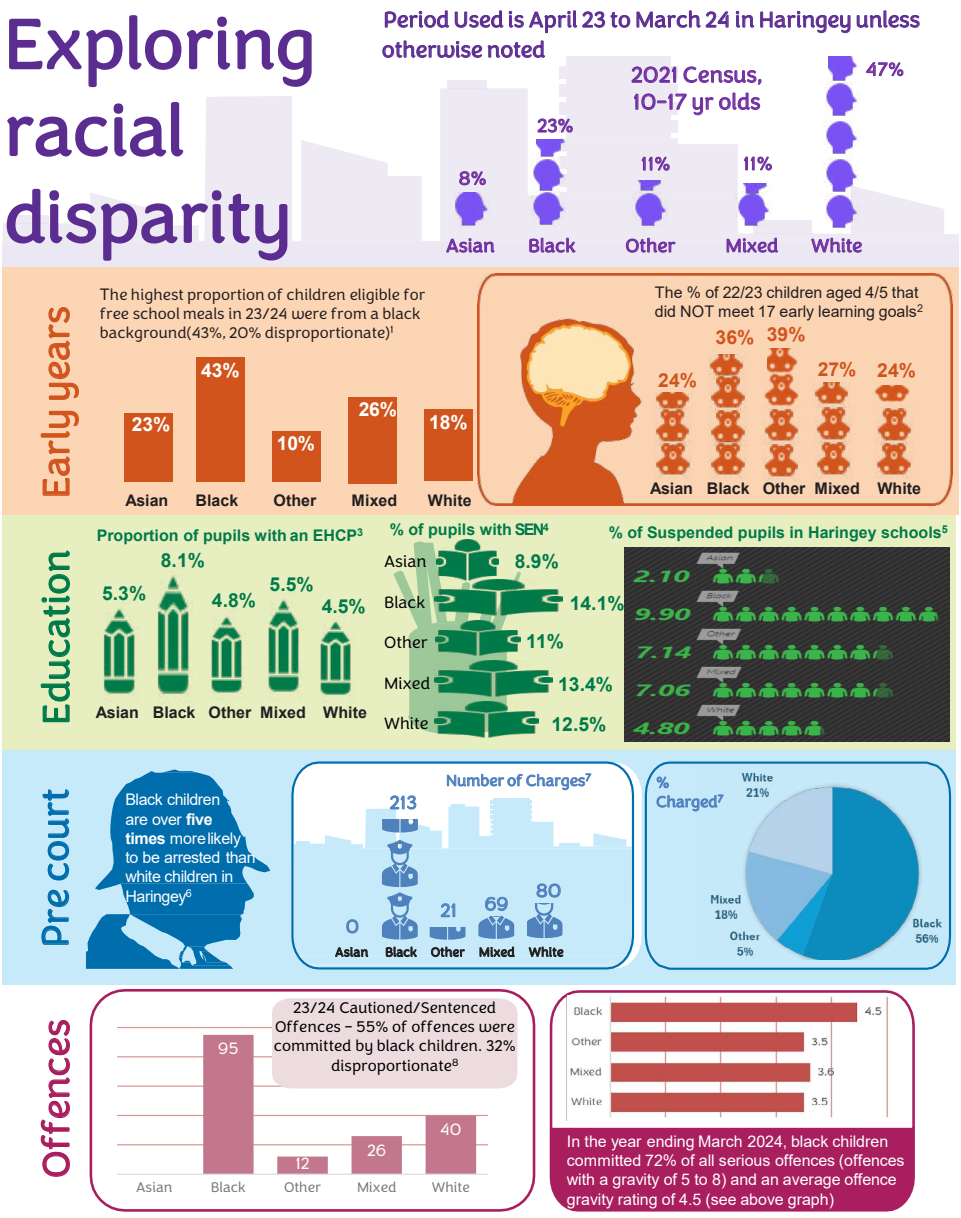
7. Children from groups which are over-represented

7.1 Ethnic disparity

This dataset pertains to the most recent disproportionality analysis conducted for the period from April 2023 to March 2024. It examines ethnic disparities by ethnicity across various datasets covering different life stages, from early years to appearances at court. The full report can be viewed by clicking the file image on the right. The key findings were: -

Black disproportionality has remained a significant challenge for the service for a considerable time. The 2021 census findings were that 23% of 10-17 Haringey population were black. Anything above this % can be considered disproportionate.

- 43% of black children were eligible for free school meals
- 36% of black children aged 4/5 did not meet 17 early learning goals
- Black children had the highest % of those with an EHCP
- Black children had the highest % with Special Educational Needs
- Black children had the highest % of school suspensions
- Black children were five times more likely to be arrested than white children
- 55% of offences committed in 23/24 were by black children



Sources:

1. *Free School Meals Data 23/24 - Chi Tsang*
2. *Gov.uk Website - https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/*
3. *EHCP Education Data at Jan 24 - Chi Tsang*
4. *SEN Data at Jan 24 - Chi Tsang*
5. *School Exclusion Data 23/24 - Chi Tsang*
6. *Using YJB Relative Rate Index calculation*
7. *Haringey Offence Analysis 23/24*
8. *YJB Disparity Toolkit 23/24*

- Black children committed 72% of serious offences in 23/24
- Black children are seven times more likely to receive a custodial outcome

7.2 Other areas of disproportionality

The following areas of disproportionality have been identified within the 24/25 caseload:

- **Gender Representation:** Boys account for 87% of the current caseload. While this trend is not unique to Haringey, the gender disparity has widened over the past decade.
- **Emotional Wellbeing:** 66% of young people have been identified as having emotional wellbeing concerns, based on their most recent assessments.
- **Substance Misuse:** 65% present with concerns related to substance misuse.
- **Speech and Language Needs:** 51% have identified speech and language difficulties.
- **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs):** 24% of the caseload have an EHCP in place.
- **Risk to Safety and Wellbeing:** 38% are assessed as being at high risk in terms of safety and wellbeing.
- **Children in Care:** This group continues to present with significantly higher levels of vulnerability. They are more likely to begin offending at a younger age, have higher rates of reoffending and breaches, and are disproportionately affected by mental health and substance misuse issues. They are also more susceptible to exploitation and other complex risks, making this a persistently challenging area of practice.

7.3 YJS response to disproportionality data

- Haringey YJS continue to commission our partners from Wipers to deliver the Ether project, this is an identity lead programme aimed at young people from the global majority
- Haringey YJS has partnered with Sister Systems to work specifically with girls within the service. This referral pathway has been set up to ensure that every girl within the service that lives locally will get to access the self-development programme
- The continued focus and development of the Child first custody, training & Research Pilot (ChiRP) is the next stage in moving towards a Child First approach being adopted in all London custody suites. The interim evaluation report will be published in the summer 2025.

8. Prevention and diversion

We regularly monitor and analyse the OOCD cohort for its effectiveness and to inform future planning of services. The caseload reduced by 10% from 105 in 23/24 to 94 in 24/25. Voluntary programmes constituted 68% of all OOCDs. No children that had a Youth Caution with and without conditions re-offended in 24/25. There remains a challenge in children engaging with voluntary programmes. Only 20% successfully completed their programme. This challenge has allowed the service and Out of Court Disposal team to reflect on the processes and approaches that are taken the voluntary programmes and make some adjustments to practices.

There were 94 OOCDs in 24/25
37 Turnaround
13 Community Resolutions
14 Triage
10 Youth Cautions
20 Youth Conditional Cautions

There was 10% decrease in OOCDs (105 to 94) compared to 23/24 and 13% increase (prev 81) since 20/21.

Overall, 10% re-offended within 1 year
Turnaround 5% offended
Community Res 15%
Triage 18%
Youth Caution 0%
Youth Caution with Conditions 19%

85% were male, 30% were Black, 47% we White, the average was 15.6 years old, 79% were Drugs or Violent offences. We had more violence (33) than drugs offences (17).

6% were CiC
5% were on CP Plan
7% were in CIN Plan

One in four children engaged with their Turnaround programme. Only 1 in 13 (8%) children completed their Community Resolution.

Of 94 cases, 28 (30%) were successfully completed
35 (37%) refused the programme
12 (13%) partially completed
The remaining 18 children either did not start, were referred elsewhere or the main outcome was not recorded

The number of OOCD cases peaked in 2015/16 (201) an they decreased annually until 23/24.

24/25 had the lowest number of Community Resolution programmes (35% reduction from previous year)

24/25 OOCDs	24/25 Interventions	Offending/ ReOffending Rate %	No Successfully Completed	% Successfully Completed
Prevention/ Turnaround	37	9%	9	24%
Community Resolutions	13	15%	1	8%
Triage	14	18%	3	21%
Youth Caution	10	0%	5	50%
Youth Conditional Caution	20	0%	10	50%
23/24	94	10%	28	30%

Out of Court Disposals (OOCD)

The OOCD panel is co-chaired on a weekly basis by the Metropolitan Police (YJS Police Sergeant) and YJS (Team Manager). There is a wide range of partners who attend including representatives from CAMHS, Children's Social Care, Youth Services, Early Help Family Support and Health, including Speech and Language and Liaison and Diversion. The allocated case manager presents their screening assessment to the panel. Additional information is presented by case specific guests, such as social workers and schools. Following the discussion each member of the panel provides their view on the most appropriate disposal (No Further Action, Triage, YC, YCC, Return to Court). The final decision is made by the co-chairs. If there is disagreement between the Police and YJS there is a process of resolution in place which involves escalating concerns first the YJS Head of Service, and ultimately to the YJS Partnership Board where both the police and local authority are represented at a senior level.

Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panels

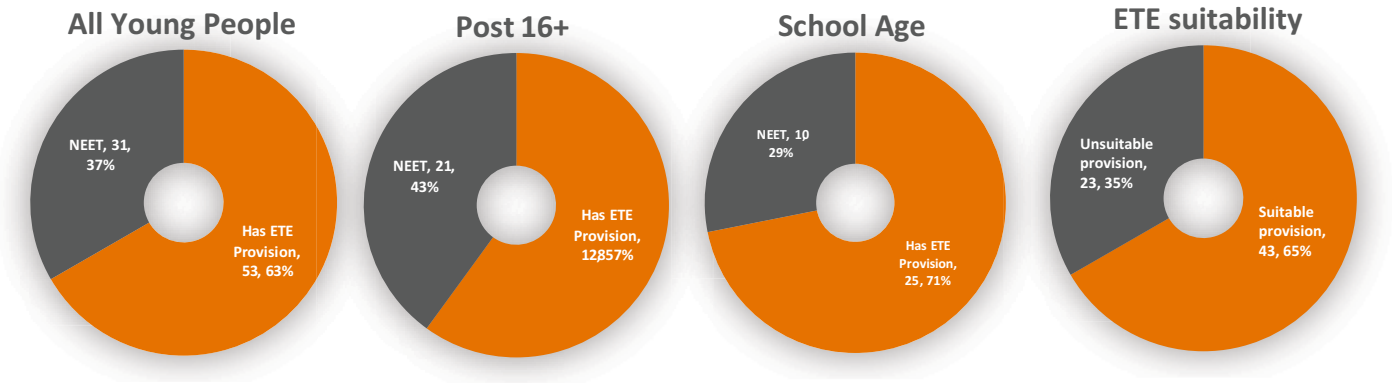
The panel ordinarily meets twice per year and provides an independent view on the appropriateness and rationale of the decision making of children who have been referred for an Out of Court disposal. In 2024/205 the panel met once due to administrative delays. The multi-agency panel consists of representatives from the Magistracy, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Youth Justice Board (YJB), the Metropolitan Police and Haringey Children's Services and Early Help. The most recent panel met in June. Six cases were chosen at random and scoring during the panel on the appropriateness of the disposal given (scoring explained below). Panel members agreed with the decisions reached in all of the cases, albeit one was with panel observations, meaning a certain level of challenge.

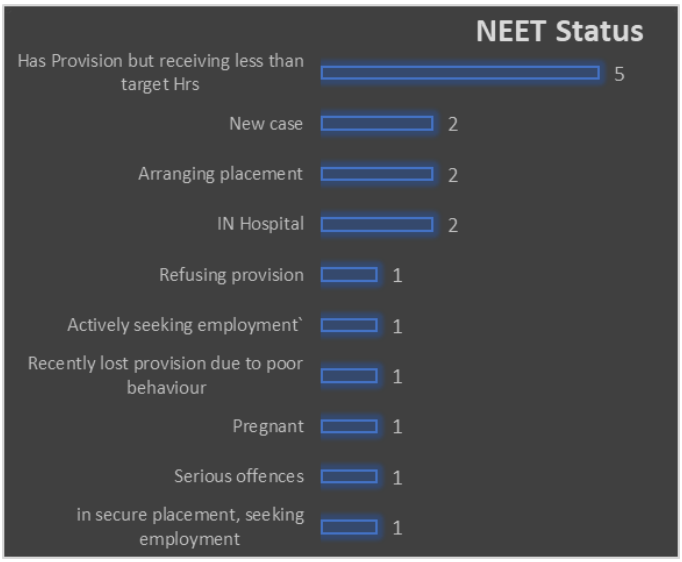
Outcome of Scrutiny	No
Appropriate disposal consistent with policy & guidance	10
Appropriate but with panel observations	2
Inappropriate or inconsistent with policy/ guidance	0
Panel fails to reach a conclusion	0

9. Education

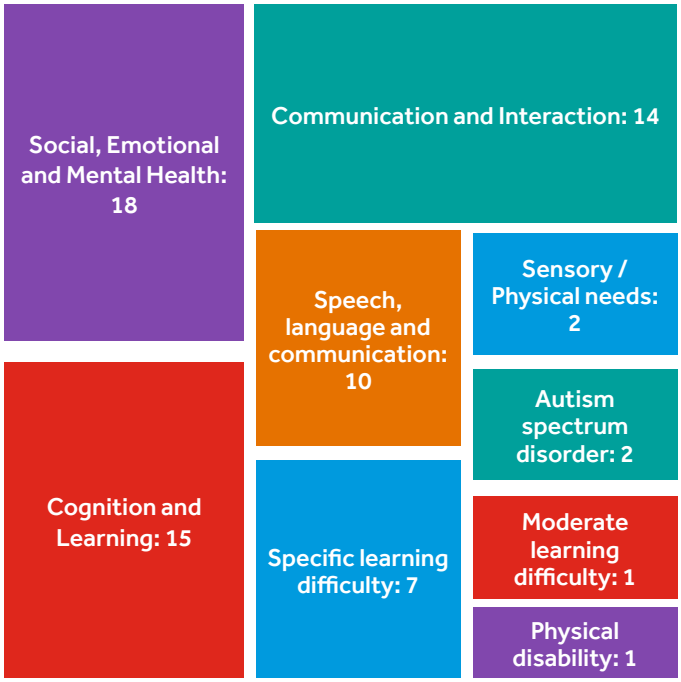
In March 2024, the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board had a thematic focus on education, training and employment. This allowed the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board to have more of an oversight of the YJS cohort. The key findings and analysis are in the graphics below:

The graphic below provides some context to the Not in Education Training or Employment (NEET) data. Overall, 63% were in full time education provision at the end of their intervention in 24/25. However, 65% were assessed as suitable provision for their needs.





There were 23 children that had an EHCP on our 24/25 caseload.



What HMIP said: "There is a strong focus on education, training and employment, demonstrated by inclusive and impressive provisions like the Haringey Learning Partnership and the in-house bespoke Dusty Knuckles programme. This is having tangible impacts for children, including low rates of school exclusion which can prevent entry to the justice system."

"The use of a range of profile and performance data,

along with the themes and findings from audit work, provided a comprehensive analysis of the profile and needs of children and their families, including issues of disproportionality and over-representation of children known to children's services and SEND children."

The YJS track the NEET cohort for reasons to ensure we are doing everything possible so that our children and young people have what they need to access ETE. Of the 37% NEET the reasons we found were: -

- Conviction in particular weapon related offences
- Children and young people being in transition between placements due to recent exclusions,
- Contextual safeguarding concerns and feelings of safety
- Children and young people missing or refusing their placements – where they are meant to be accessing ETE.
- Desire for employment over education
- Lack of in-year Post 16 provision

We ensure that we regularly review the NEET list and are in regular contact with the virtual school and all relevant partners to ensure our ETE rate remains high.

Examples of what education provisions and the partnership are doing to support the YJS cohort is highlighted below:

- **Schools, Haringey Learning Partnership, Sixt**h Form College and FE College partnership working: On going work with our schools, alternative provision and post 16 education providers to ensure that Haringey children that become known to the youth justice system are supported appropriately in education to reach their full potential. This includes sharing information regarding YJS involvement, sharing assessments completed by the YJS Speech and Language Therapist and CAMHS practitioners, and supporting EHC Needs Assessment requests made by education provision or parent/careers.
- **AQA accredited units and certification:** The Young Haringey Achievement Centre (as named) continues to recognise the commitment and hard work of our children for their contribution to their local community with educational qualifications via the AQA Scheme. AQA certificates have been for manual handling, Health and safety, bike maintenance, origami, making cards and customer service skills in a local food bank. AQA certificates, and the work experience gained whilst obtaining them, have been included in CVs.
- **SEND:** In accordance with the agreed protocol between the YJS and local authority SEND team, the two services continue to work closely to ensure that all relevant children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that enter the youth justice system are identified, with assessments and intervention plans reflecting their needs. The YJS and SEND Team have responded to the increase in live cases (17%) for children with an EHCP by increasing the communication between the services. The YJS Education Officer and SEND Team points of contact (school age and post 16 EHC Coordinators) meet monthly to discuss each relevant child. The YJS Education Officer works closely with the SEND Team to ensure that all relevant children that have an EHCP have had an annual review within the previous 12 months, or emergency annual review has been completed if there has been change in education placement. Either the YJS Education Officer or YJS case manager are invited to all reviews.
- **Virtual School:** The YJS and Virtual School have strengthened their working partnership, with a point of contact established between the YJS Education Officer and VS Education Improvement Consultant. Monthly meetings discuss the relevant children, to ensure that their educational needs are being met.
- **Turnaround in Schools:** Our first in school prevention pilot in 2022 responded to a trend in number of out of court disposals (OOCD) for possession of a knife coming from children attending the same secondary school. The Turnaround Programme has enabled Haringey YJS to expand this offer to an additional 2 secondary schools, taking the offer to a quarter of mainstream secondary schools within the borough. YJS data confirms that 1 in 4 of children known to the YJS have attended one of these schools. A member of the YJS Out of Court Disposal team spends a day in each school, delivering case specific interventions one-to-one with children that have been identified by the schools that are at higher risk of experiencing school exclusion.
- **The Dusty Knuckle Programme:** In collaboration with the Dusty Knuckle Bakery, a bespoke 5-week Pizza Making Programme was created to provide children & young people with the opportunity to improve their employability skills to support them to secure employment. The programme concludes with a celebration night, which provided the children and young people with the opportunity to demonstrate their newly learnt skills to employers, family and professionals. Two cohorts have been completed, with the

programme expanding to 6 weeks that includes industry visits to different restaurants to provide participants with live experiences and insights in the food, drink and hospitality industry. Two NEET participants from the two cohorts were successful in securing employment and training placements upon conclusion of the first two programmes. All participants achieved AQA awards and certificates upon completion of the programme.

- **Redemption Roasters:** With 11 coffee shops in London, and growing, Redemption Roasters aim to reduce offending by training barista's and offering them employment within one of their coffee shops. Haringey YJS have successfully worked with Redemption Roasters to successfully provide our first referral into full-time employment. Further collaborative work will be developed with Redemption Roasters over the next 12 months.
- **Construction Youth Trust:** A significant gap within our post 16 cohort was identified regarding their ability to gain the CSCS card and L1 Health and Safety qualifications, which would improve the chances of gaining employment within the construction sector. In partnership with The Construction Youth Trust, the YJS is provided a CYT worker to complete one to one work with post 16 NEET children which includes the completion of both industry recognised qualifications, site visits, apprenticeship applications, work experience, CV workshops and construction self-employment workshops.
- **Tottenham Hotspur Foundation:** In partnership, the YJS and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation will enhance their working relationship to provide relevant children with tailored community mentor support. A variety of THF programmes will prioritise children known to the YJS to provide them with positive activities, employability support and community support post engagement with the YJS as strategy from statutory services.

See appendix 2 for the new SEND Charter, the YJS will be working towards these principles within its service delivery.

9.1 Restorative justice

Our work with victims is a high priority for the Youth Justice Service, we recognise our local challenges where many of the victims are children themselves and are reluctant to engage in the process, as well as time lags between offence and outcome which can be difficult for those impacted by crime to be drawn back in when much time has passed. However, despite this we continue to nurture ways to ensure that repairing harm is at the heart of our work with children.

In our ongoing effort to reduce serious youth violence, all weapons-based offences where there is no discernible victim are subject to a specific RJ screening completed by the VSO which supports case managers with a clear plan of recommendations to address repairing harm and ensuring RJ is embedded in intervention plans.

All children who have a direct victim must engage in statutory victim awareness sessions as part of their interventions.

Last year we successfully completed a number of shuttle mediation sessions as well as letters of apology and reflection. We have found that letters of reflection have helped children understand the process more which can lead to more meaningful direct letters of apology to victims.

We are currently developing a victim awareness group workshop to be open to all children in our cohort, exploring wider themes such as the impact of crime on the wider community and society as a whole as well as having a deeper focus of offences most prevalent in our area such as harm and drug-based offences.

Going forward - our partners in the Metropolitan police have identified a member of staff to act as Surrogate victim at Referral Order Panels for all cases where an emergency worker has been the victim of harm. Their role is to provide a tangible humanising role in supporting children to understand the impact of harm on all emergency workers in the execution of their duty.

As part of our ongoing improvement as a service we have devised a specific restorative justice plan to drive forward improvement in this area, specifically victim contact. With current changes to how the Met contact victims the YJS will have better access to creatively reach more victims directly.

The inspection report said: "The YJS was committed to restorative justice and ensuring victims were heard. The intervention offer to victims was diverse with engagement being victim led, demonstrated by the support to victims not being time bound to the child's disposal"

"The seconded police officers achieved high levels of consent from victims to pass their details onto the YJS, although victims' uptake of services from the YJS was comparatively low. The YJS had recognised this as an area for development and had created a restorative justice action plan".

9.2 Reparation

Over the past year, our children continued the amazing work of giving back to their community by completing various reparations projects. We continue to offer a mixture of outdoor landscaping opportunities in the warmer months and all year-round opportunities such as mindful art session, bicycle repair and work with Food Aid. We also actively encourage children to engage in reparation at home. Repairing harm at home can prove to be a powerful way in aiding family cohesion and teaching children independent living skills such a cooking and extra chores around the home.

The children's hard work has continued to help the Parks Service maintain its Green Flag award for yet another year by working on maintaining the many beautiful green spaces across the borough.

We received our first Koestler award in autumn 2024 for artwork created by a child that contributed the mural on the YJS building. The children continue to make cards which have been sold for charity in the past but also continue to be sent as notes of appreciation to our partners and community panel members which are always gratefully received. In early 2025 we started quilling, origami as well as stencilling, all wonderful new art forms which many of the children have not been familiar with but have learnt and taken to wonderfully. These techniques have been used in several ways including artwork proudly displayed in council buildings as well as cards for victims, families and to aid sessions of mindfulness.

Our children continue to help out in the Food Hub Aid – which supplies 30 food banks across North London. The children are picking, packing and as well as lifting of products to help the smooth running of this fantastic organisation.

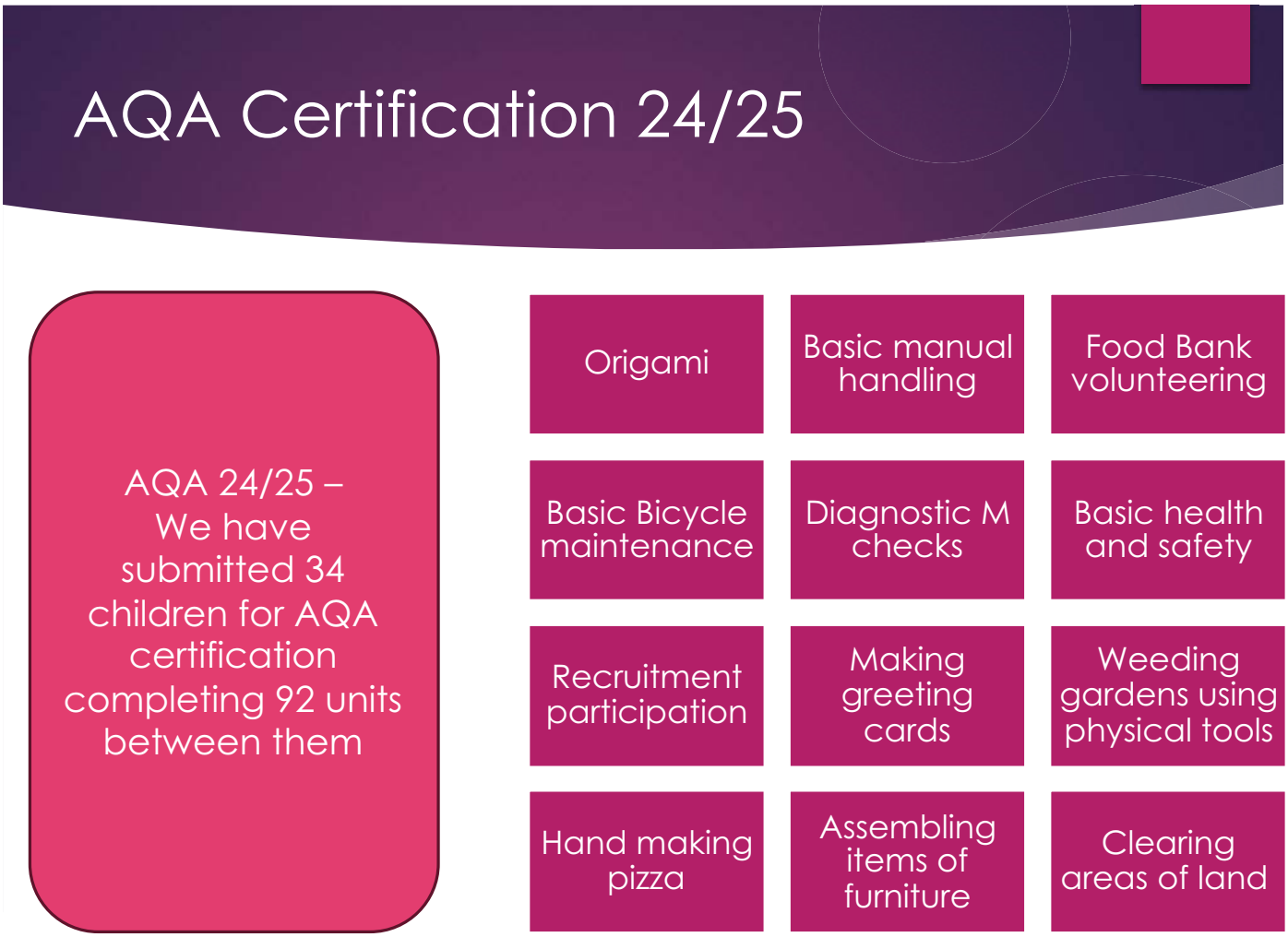
Since the success of last year, we have moved into our second year with Streetwise Kids bicycle recycling programme. This teaches children real world skills that can be used to gain employment. Children learn variety of task to reuse parts and repair bicycles. In May 2025 we were able to gift some of the refurbished bikes in partnership with Haringey Resettlement team – a team that supports refugees placed in Haringey. The bikes were presented to parents to gift to their children. It was an amazing opportunity to truly give back to residents in need.

We continue to utilise Youth Participation as a form of reparation, that give children the opportunity to have their voice heard as well as contribute to the service development. So, this year we have had children take part in inspection feedback groups, staff Interviews panels and going forward this summer we will have children support us with our Community Panel Training.

As well as making amends and giving back to the community, we take the opportunity to ensure accreditation where possible, reparation has been an intervention that had provided a significant amount of AQA accreditation thus helping us meet our planned target. AQA offer a wide range of units which makes achievement accessible to every child and young people regardless of their age, ability or interests.

AQA Certification summary:

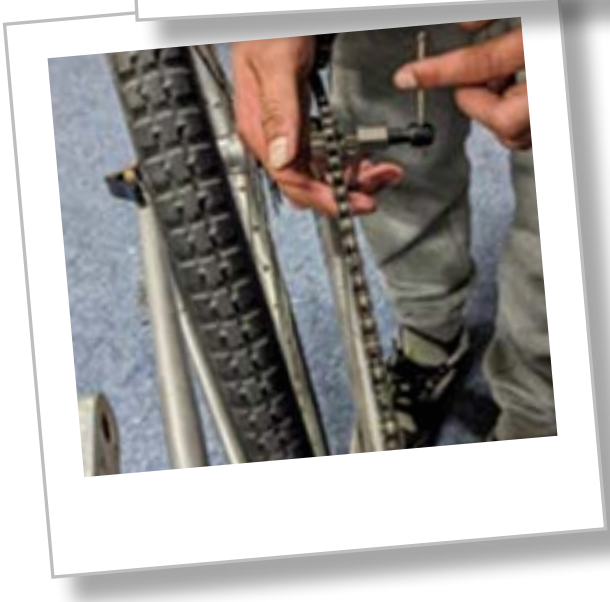
From April 24 to March 25 34 children and young people received an accreditation, totalling 92 AQA units.



The inspection report says:

"There were a range of reparation projects which were meaningful, promoted community capital, and reflected the diversity of the borough, while also enabling children to achieve AQA's units."

REPARATION PROJECTS



Projects this year included:

- Gardening and ground maintenance in Bruce Castle Park, Chapman's Green, Markfield Park and Wood Green Crown Court gardens
- Helping with deliveries and packing for the food bank Distribution's in Food Bank Aid Hub
- Community panel member recruitment interviews
- Cooking – learning to prepare a meal for their own families.
- Street Wise Kids – Weekly Bicycle repair workshops
- Mindful Arts and Crafts

10. Serious youth violence data

Haringey employs the use of the YJB Serious Youth violence toolkit. The Youth Justice Board's operational definition of Serious Violence (SYV) is any drug, robbery or violence against the person offence that has a gravity score of five or more. At the time of writing, the latest available SYV toolkit was for Q3 24/25.

This toolkit shows the number of SYV offences in the last year was 56. This is exactly the same number as the previous year. There was a spike in Q1 24/25 which was solely due to historic robberies committed by two children.

The YJS has committed to delivering the bespoke venturous programme which is designed to impact on violence reduction. The approach to violence reduction and knife / weapons awareness interventions is centred around enhanced life skills, emotional intelligence and consequential thinking. This will be specifically targeted at children that have committed Robbery and Weapon related offences and will take place over the next year with a view of evaluating impact. Wipers CiC have been commissioned to deliver these programmes.

The YJS has been also participated in the council's wider young people at risk strategy and knife crime campaign – Week of action where there was a big focus on education and diversion. The YJS took some of their Turnaround cohort to the Ben Kinsella Foundation exhibition and their post court cohort to the Wood Green Crown Court workshop.

Serious Youth Violences - Offence and Offenders

	Q1 22-23	Q2 22-23	Q3 22-23	Q4 22-23	Q1 23-24	Q2 23-24	Q3 23-24	Q4 23-24	Q1 24-25	Q2 24-25	Q3 24-25
Serious violence offences	16	17	6	11	4	13	28	8	35	3	10
Number of individual children involved	9	12	6	9	5	6	12	6	13	2	6

11. Detentions in police custody

The continued focus and development of the Child first custody, training & Research Pilot (ChiRP) is the next stage in moving towards a Child First approach being adopted in all London custody suites. All custody sergeants from Wood Green and Brixton Custody Suites, project engage workers, and a selection of solicitors have been trained this year which is focused on child first approaches. The interim evaluation report will be published in the summer 2025.

Haringey Council, Enfield Council and the MET Police have continued with their focus on Wood Green Custody Suite which is one of its busiest custody suites in London. There is a strategic ambition in making this the first child first custody suites In London with the view of:

- Divert children from custody;
- Maximise 'Reachable/Teachable opportunity (including intervention and safeguarding)
- Optimise the custody environment and experience – care, compassion and respect;
- Achieve best outcomes

Haringey Council and Enfield Council in partnership oversee the Engage project which was developed and launched by the North Area BCU in August 2021 and have had it confirmed that the project has been extended by the Violence Reduction Unit. The project places youth workers into the Wood Green Police custody with now the support of the Liaison and Division health offer to create a more dynamic and meaningful diversion programme. The project presents a unique opportunity of the reachable and teachable moment when the child is most likely to be susceptible to receive support whilst in custody.

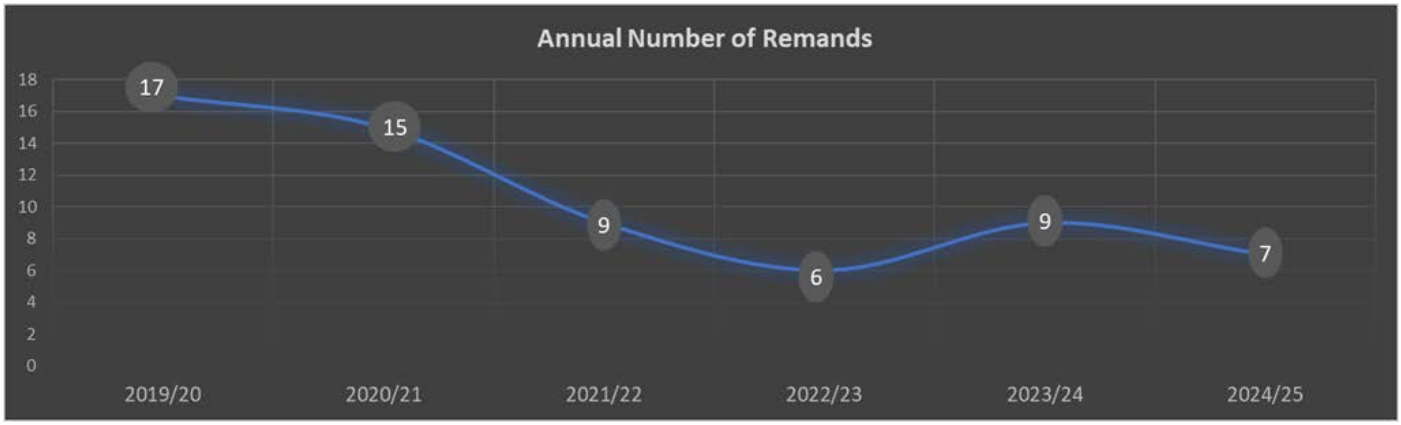
There were 663 arrests through 24/25. Haringey residents make up a total of 25% of these arrests.

2024/25 has seen an increase in the number of children that Engage is reaching. Every child and who has been arrested has been offered support and the number of those consenting to having a first session in custody with an Engage Youth & Family Practitioner has risen from 36% in Q1 to 72% by the end of Q4. This can mainly be attributed to the recruitment of a dedicated Haringey Practitioner in Q2 whose sole focus is providing intervention for Haringey CYP. The main reason for CYP declining Engage intervention is that they already had support in place from other services. 25% of Haringey CYP arrested had prior involvement with the Youth Justice Service at the point of arrest.

There has also been a recommissioning of the Appropriate Adult service contract with Enfield Council with the tendering process nearing completion with contract monitoring jointly managed.

12. Remands

In Haringey we never refuse or recommend against Bail, we do recognise when children may struggle to adhere to strict packages, but it is part of our culture of practice to ensure that remand is the last option. Our current data shows that the number of remands remains low with only seven children remanded to custody in 24/25.



London Accommodation Pathfinder:

Haringey council signed up to be part of the YJB's London Accommodation Pathfinder (LAP), a pan-London community-based accommodation and intensive support provision for 16- and 17-year-old males as an alternative to custody. This is being considered for every child that is in custody and proposals made to the courts where appropriate and safe to do so. The LAP went live in the Autum 2023 and thus far have had two children that have been placed in the LAP.

13. Use of custody

The use of custody has decreased nationally over the past ten years in recognition of progress within youth justice. Our children and young people in custody are amongst the most complex and vulnerable children in our borough who are in the secure estate for some of the most harmful and grave crimes.

Our data shows that we had one custodial sentence in 24/25. Custody is never recommended unless directed by a court for matters deemed "so serious" however as part of good practice commensurate community options are always put forward

14. Workforce development

Please see the original youth justice plan 24-27. However, some additional training was extended to support with the workforce development:

- **Virtual Reality Headset Training** – Platform to access real life scenario based topics
- **Real Direction** – Online Platform to access a proactive education platform on a number of topics.

In addition to the youth justice plan the following training has been commissioned for this year 25/27:

- **Bail and remand** (youth remand concordat). Youth Justice Legal Centre
- **Out of Court Disposal** and changes to the gravity matrix. Youth Justice legal Centre are the commissioned provider and will be jointly delivered with Enfield council.
- **Risk Assessment** – Formulation of assessment of risk

15. Evidence-based practice and innovation

Innovation
Dusty Knuckle 5 week Pilot Bakery Programme for children there are NEET. Initial evaluation report will be completed by summer 2025.

Evaluation
Child first custody, training & Research Pilot (ChiRP) report will be published in Summer 2025.

Evidence-Based
Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an evidence-based therapeutic intervention for the whole family, delivered in their homes by trained FFT therapists with advanced clinical skills. Currently being evaluated by Youth Endowment Fund.

Innovation
Continued focus on Supporting families Debt Management Pilot with Early Help Services development

Innovation
Social Prescribing – Health based pilot. It is an approach that connects young people to activities, groups, and services in their community to meet the practical, social, and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing.

Evaluation
The London Accommodation pathfinder published its report in November 2024 in which Haringey contributed too.

16. Challenges, risks and issues

The Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board have developed a risk register where we keep abreast of any risk to service and delivery. It allows members to respond and support effective change, tasks on the register can be delegated to the operational board which sits underneath the management board.

To mitigate the risk and challenges the service has an improvement plan for the year which also incorporates the recommendations from the inspectorate report.

Challenges	How the service has responded
Turnaround – Low number of completion rates	➔ Turnaround action plan developed ➔ 1-3 week monitoring and tracking of data
Substance Misuse – Low number of referrals and substance misuse interventions completed	➔ Discussed at the YJS all service meetings with a substance misuse workshop taking place with the staff. ➔ Review of cohort that meet the criteria for a referral ➔ Monthly monitoring and tracking of referrals ➔ Implemented a rolling substance misuse education group session
Victim Uptake – Low level of uptake to restorative justice processes	➔ Restorative Justice action plan developed ➔ Review of correspondence that is sent to victims at first contact ➔ New agreements in place for surrogate victims that involve emergency workers
First Time Entrants Rate	➔ Deep dive into the characteristics to understand the cohort better.

17. Sign-off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board	Ann Graham
Signature	
Date	18 June 2025

18. Appendix 1 - YJS partnership plan

No	Key Indicators	YJB National Indicators	23/24 Output	24/25 Target	24/25 Output	25/26 Target
1	National Indicators	1.1 Reduce the Use of Custody 1.2 Reduce the rate of Re-offending. 1.3 Reduce the rate of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System	9 sentences 32.3% 51 children	6 sentences 30% 45 children	1 sentence 26% 67 children	1 sentence 25% 50 children
		YJB New Key Performance Indicators	**23/24 Output**	**24/25 Target**	**24/25 Output**	**25/26 Target**
2	Suitable Accommodation	Increase the % of children in suitable accommodation by the end of their intervention	91%	96%	92%	95%
3	Education Training and Employment Suitability	Increase the % of children in suitable Education, training and employment by the end of their intervention	72%	80%	73%	80%
4	Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (number of children with an order ending in the period)	Increase the % of children attending intervention from those that have an identified Emotional/ Mental Health need.	42%	80%	65%	80%
5	Substance Misuse (number of children with an order ending in the period)	Increase the % of children attending intervention from those that have an identified Substance Misuse need	41%	80%	46%	80%
6	SEN/EHCP	% with an identified SND/EHCP need that have a formal plan in place	100%	100%	100%	100%

No	Key Indicators	YJB National Indicators	23/24 Output	24/25 Target	24/25 Output	25/26 Target
7	Out of court disposals	% of Out of Court Disposals (OOCDs) completed successfully	43%	60%	56%	65%
8	Links to Wider Services	During the intervention:-				
		% of children that are a Child in Care	19%	N/A	16%	N/a
		% of children that are on a Child Protection Plan	5%	N/A	8%	N/a
		% of children that are Children in Need	14%	N/A	15%	N/a
		% of children on an Early Intervention Plan	8%	N/A	22%	N/a
9	Management Board Attendance	% of the statutory senior board members (Children's Services, Education, Probation, Police, Health) that attended the partnership board (can be delegated)	90%	100%	80%	100%
10	Serious Youth Violence	Reduce the number of serious youth violence offences (Drugs, Violence and Robbery with a gravity of 5 and above)	34	30	15	15
11	Victims	Increase the % of children engaging with RJ opportunities (of those consented)	79%	90%	100%	100%

No	Key Indicators	YJB National Indicators	23/24 Output	24/25 Target	24/25 Output	25/26 Target
		YJS Performance Indicators	**23/24 Output**	**24/25 Target**	**24/25 Output**	**25/26 Target**
12	Case Management (Personal Performance Reports PPR) There is now an expectation that records are obtained where those CiC children that are placed in another authority	Increase the % of children with an ASSET+ completed within timescale (within 20 working days of start of intervention and every 3 months thereon)	72%	80%	72%	80%
		Increase the % of children with Home Visit undertaken within timescales (within 15 working days of start and every 2 months thereon)	76%	80%	78%	80%
		Increase the % of children with an Intervention Plan completed within timescale (20 working days from start and every 3 months)	77%	80%	77%	80%
13	Links to Wider Services	To support our CIC with robust risk plans to reduce the number of CIC who get assessed as High Risk across at the end of YJS Intervention:				
		*Serious Harm	25%	20%	26%	20%
		*Safety and Wellbeing	64%	50%	61%	50%
		*Reoffending Rate	45%	35%	39%	35%

19. Appendix 2 - SEND Charter

Haringey SEND Working Together Charter

Families and practitioners as equal partners

Feel welcome and cared for

- Provide a warm, caring, welcoming environment
- Make time and space to get to know and understand our families' life experience
- Be curious, find out, avoid assumptions
- Promote access and remove any barriers

Feel valued and included

- Acknowledge and value our families' experiences
- Recognise, build on and celebrate positives and successes
- Empower all to express their views, thoughts and feelings
- Get back to people in a timely way

Artwork by Daniel Bartlett, Post-16 category

Work in equal partnership

- Have a shared commitment to work together from the start
- Respect, accept, and value all views and contributions equally
- Agree, plan, and review decisions and actions together
- Follow up and provide feedback

Communicate together

- Communicate with openness, respect, and honesty
- Make time for communication
- Enable everyone to take part without judgement
- Acknowledge different views
- Recognise that things can go wrong - find a way to re-engage and move forward

SEND

NHS Whittington Health NHS Trust

SEND Power IN HARINGEY

Haringey LONDON

20. Glossary of terms

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
CiC	Child in Care
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school

EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

Report for: Children's Scrutiny Panel 9 September 2025

Title: Children's Social care annual performance 2024-25

Report authorised by: Ann Graham, Corporate Director of Children's Services

Lead Officer: Dionne Thomas Director of Safeguarding & Social Care

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report provides an analysis of the performance data and trends for any measures relating to Children Looked After (CLA), children on Child Protection Plans (CPP) and Children in Need (CIN).

1.2 This report notes the progress and the consistent, effective performance with regards to safeguarding children and young people in Haringey for 2024/25.

1.3 The report identifies key developments, summarises performance activity levels and details several future priorities for vulnerable children.

1.4 Appendix i contains performance highlights and key messages identifying areas of improvement and areas for focus. It provides an overall assessment so that Members can assess progress in key areas within the context of the Local Authority's role as Corporate Parent and duties under section 17 of the Children Act.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Members note the performance data as set out in appendix i.

3.2 Committee is asked to note the report and, in particular:

- The service improvement and challenges contained within the report as well as the actions taken during 2023/24 in response to local demand and the financial pressures experienced by the service in relation to placements.

- The areas identified as priorities for 2024/25 following analysis and review of the year's performance

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 This report is for information only

5. Alternative options considered

N/A

6. Background information

6.1 The welfare of Haringey's vulnerable children is one of the Council's highest priorities.

6.2 The annual report is intended to inform Committee of the performance of Children Social Care Services in 2024/25.

6.3 Committee should be aware of the progress made against managing the safeguarding demands. The report, in addition to other measures, enables Members to assure itself that the necessary arrangements are in place for the Council to effectively discharge its children social care obligations. In this regard, there is a distinct leadership role for the Leader, Lead Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Chief Executive and Director of Children Services; also, there is a wider corporate parenting role for all members of the Council.

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes

N/A

8. Carbon and Climate Change

N/A

9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

N/A

10. Use of Appendices

Appendix I - Progress against key Performance indicators for Children Looked After (CLA)

11. Background papers

N/A

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Appendix I

Children's Social Care annual performance 2024-25

1. **Introduction and Background**

1.1 This report provides an overview of performance for Children's Social Care Services for 2024/25. The report provides comparative data by benchmarking with our statistical neighbours and looks at how our performance has grown and developed, where this is appropriate. Haringey's statistical neighbours are a group of local authorities judged by the DfE to have the most similar demographic profile and have been revised this year to account for latest comparable demographic data.
these are:

- Barnet
- Brent
- Ealing
- Enfield
- Hounslow
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Redbridge
- Southwark
- Waltham Forest

1.2 Children's Social Care provides services and support for children and young people who are:

- in need
- at risk of harm and in need of protection
- children in our care who are looked after
- care experienced young adults

1.3 These children and young people have needs which are assessed as being complex or acute and require the statutory involvement of the Local Authority within the responsibilities set out in legislation, principally the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, and the Children and Families Act 2014 and various statutory guidance (including Working Together to Safeguard Children: December 2023).

1.4 The governance and scrutiny of the arrangements for safeguarding children take place through this Committee and the following multi agency forums:

- Safeguarding Accountability Meetings chaired by the Leader of the Council with the Lead Member for Children, relevant Assistant Directors and, Director of Children Services in attendance. The meeting is held quarterly and allows the Leader to hold senior officers to account, to scrutinise performance related to vulnerable children, to be appraised of any concerns about the safety and welfare of children and to strategically drive improvements.
- Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee has a dedicated focus on Children Looked After and Care Leavers and has in attendance seven elected members along with senior officers in the partnership. The Committee meets quarterly and scrutinises performance and strategic planning related to children in care and care leavers.
- Haringey's Safeguarding Children's Partnership (HSCP) meets regularly, including a joint board meeting with the Adults Safeguarding Board. In accordance with Working Together 2023, three statutory safeguarding partners - Local Authority, Police and the ICB - must make arrangements to work together, along with the relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in our area. Haringey's Executive Board meets 6 times a year monitoring and reviewing Haringey's statutory safeguarding arrangements. The statutory safeguarding partners rota the chairing of the HSCP Executive and main board meeting. The HSCP is currently chaired by the Local Authority Director of Children's Services.

1.5 The HSCP has sub-groups which oversees the work of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership in relation to Quality Performance and Outcomes, Practice Learning Workforce and Development, Training, Missing and Exploitation (MACE). The HSCP annual report evaluates the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection in Haringey and has set the following priorities, to improve the collective effectiveness of agencies in:

- Children living with Mental Health issues
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Older children in need of help and protection, and
- contextual safeguarding including exploitation

2. National Context - National Statistical Reporting

2.1 All local authorities report to the Department of Education to inform the Child in Need Annual Census and the 903 Children in Care Return. The results of which are published every October on the DfE website. The CIN census covers early intervention, contacts and referrals to social care and the reasons, Child and Family assessments and identified factors, the nature and volume of child protection activity, the numbers of children subject to child protection conferences. The 903 return

covers children entering care and the reasons, the types of placements used, the legal status of children, how many children have left care and for what reasons (including adoption) and details about care leavers and their accommodation, employment and training outcomes and how the local authority is keeping in touch with them. The 903 now also include details of allocated social worker and stability.

2.2 In addition, more detailed returns are submitted to the North Central London Regional Adoption board on children with an adoption plan, the timeliness of matching and placing with an adopter and the recruitment of adopters.

2.3 An annual social worker workforce survey is also submitted to the DfE about the workforce profile, recruitment, retention, and sickness rates for social workers and also caseload numbers.

2.4 Data to Insight (D2I) the sector-led service for local authority children's data professionals with support from DfE, Ofsted and ADCS hosts The Local Authority Interactive Tool (CHAT) which collates a range of data across a number of returns and can be filtered to compare and benchmark performance across children's indicators based on the Ofsted ILACS inspection annex A data set.

3. Future Challenges and Operational Priorities

3.1 The future challenges and priorities can be summarised as follows (this is not an exhaustive list and the history of this type of work is that new priorities will emerge).

- Families First Partnership (FFP) programme aims to transform the whole system of help, support and protection, to ensure that every family can access the right help and support when they need it, with a strong emphasis on early intervention to prevent crisis.
- The service is following the development of the new Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill and preparing for the implementation of new social care reforms as set out in the new national policy statement, 'Keeping children safe, Helping Families Thrive', Nov 2024.
- Continuing to meet the increasing demands for children's social care services and responding to factors arising from national and international challenges.
- Expand and improve the quality and timeliness of interventions available to children with presenting mental health or emotional wellbeing difficulties
- Maintaining operational effectiveness of the service in the context of new and emerging mental health and neuro-diversity support needs, the evolving and complex nature of child criminal and child sexual exploitation, the acuity of domestic abuse risks and needs, housing related risks and substance misuse.

- The costs associated with the placements for children in care which continue to be a significant pressure for the Council, more so given the Council's current budget pressures. Additional corporate funding has already been given to the department, but as demand increases and the supply of placements comes under further pressure, the impact continues to be carefully monitored.
- The recruitment and retention of social workers continues to be a key focus and creative approaches to grow our own will continue to be explored.
- The development of permanence planning and tracking will ensure children achieve the earliest permanence
- Maximising the data provided by our data and information systems to strengthen performance dashboards and service compliance with key performance indicators.
- The priority in our Short Breaks Statement is to develop and deliver an Overnight Short Breaks provision within the borough itself, to provide children with the most complex and profound learning difficulties, respite and to mitigate against the need for these children to come into local authority care.
- Haringey Children's Academy providing learning and development opportunities for the children's workforce and supported by professors and academics, remains a central part of Children's Service retention and skills progression strategy.
- To continue to lead, jointly with our MET police colleagues, on our innovative Stop and Search work that is currently being piloted across London.

4. Local Background and Context

4.1 The department continues to support high levels of need and complexity in families for the following reasons:

- In 2023, 17.3% of children in Haringey lived in relative poverty, close to the London average but lower than similar areas and the national rates (19.8%)
- Haringey has the highest alcohol sales per adult in London, with a significantly higher rate of alcohol related hospital admissions.
- 2% of Haringey's working age population claim Employment Support Allowance for mental health and behavioural disorders, the fifth highest in London
- The borough has the eighth highest rate of domestic abuse with injury in London
- Haringey ranks 8th in London for households in temporary accommodation, an improvement from 5th in the previous year

4.2 Alongside these challenges, Haringey as a local area continues to be a strong and thriving place for children growing up in the area. It is a place that has a rich

history, strong and vibrant communities, great transport links and excellent facilities with a range of cultural events. Key strengths include:

- Diverse communities where more than 180 languages are spoken.
- Over a quarter of the borough is green space – with 25 Green Flag Parks and 120 venues where cultural activities take place.
- Residents report that they have good friendships and associations in their local area and good relations between different ethnic and religious communities.
- And we will be the Borough of Culture in 2027

5. Our children and young people population

5.1 In Haringey, there are 54,422 children aged 0-17 years, representing 21% of the overall population (Census 2021), largely in line with statistical neighbours and London where 21% and 22% of people are aged 0-17 respectively. Notably, the ward with the highest proportion of 0-17-year-olds is South Tottenham (29%), while the ward with the lowest is Stroud Green (15.4%). The number of under 18s is not expected to change significantly in future years and will remain most concentrated in the east of the borough.

5.2 Almost half of the pupils in Haringey schools do not have English as a first language (47.4%). After English, Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Bulgarian, and Somalian are the most commonly spoken languages (May 22 Census)

5.3 One of the most significant challenges is inequality in outcomes. Poverty is a crucial determinant of poor outcomes. Childhood deprivation is unequally distributed across the borough and children in the east of the borough are substantially more likely to be affected by income deprivation. In 2023, 10,863 children in Haringey were living in relative poverty and this equates to 17.3% of all 0-16 year olds. This is the 11th highest of all London boroughs.

6. Outcomes for children and young people

6.1 **Haringey's Children in Care have above average educational outcomes** with our KS4 Average Attainment 8 Score for 2024 of 20.6% against an England average of 18.3. Progress 8 also scored in the second top quartile.

6.2 **Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have higher educational outcomes**, 22 of 27 measures featuring in the top quartile in England.

In 2024 for pupils with SEN Support for the following measures Haringey ranked in the top15 Local Authorities:

- Attainment 8 score per pupil at end of Key Stage 4
- Progress 8 score per pupil at end of Key Stage 4
- Progress 8 score per pupil at end of Key Stage 4 for pupils with EHC Plan
- English Baccalaureate - Average Point Score
- %19 year olds qualified to Level 2 and level 3

6.3 **Haringey has fewer secondary pupils being permanently excluded** and is better than the national average (0.01%) and its percentage of NEET children, those (Not in Education Employment or Training) improved (1.7%) from 1.9% in the previous year.

7. **OFSTED**

7.1 Ofsted inspectors visited the borough in February 2023, when they assessed the care, help and protection given to children, young people and care experienced young adults and their collective experiences of this support. They also examined what was being done by leaders to improve services.

7.2 They found that since 2018 many services in Haringey have been "transformed," with most children now receiving "good support, when they need it, from the right people" including from social workers, personal advisers, early help workers and staff in schools."

7.3 The report also included 6 areas that could improve:

- The effectiveness of permanence planning for children in care, including the challenge brought by independent reviewing officers.
- The identification of and response to children in private fostering arrangements.
- The provision and quality of life-story work at key developmental stages in children's lives.
- The quality of supervision in ensuring that plans for children make a positive impact.
- The understanding and knowledge of frontline workers about adoption.

7.4 The report concluded the following paragraph:

"Haringey's diverse population is reflected in the workforce and senior leadership team. This is important to frontline staff and one of the attractions of working for this local authority. Staff and leaders are acutely aware of the enduring public perception of Haringey children's services. At all levels, staff are proud of working for Haringey. A culture of appreciation, kindness and support is firmly embedded. Staff said their leaders care about them, listen to them and take action to address the things that

need to change. In turn, staff are loyal and they care about their leaders. Staff who leave often return to Haringey. They talk about the feeling of 'family'. This sense of emotional safety is vitally important, enabling workers to practise with the confidence and persistence needed to effect change for children and young people who are living in very challenging circumstances."

8. Safeguarding and children in care trends

8.1 This section of the report sets out the data we monitor every month to assess our performance in supporting children in need, those who are on a child protection plan and those who are in our care. The data supports us in tracking our improvement and identifying our challenges for action and this is shown for the past three year

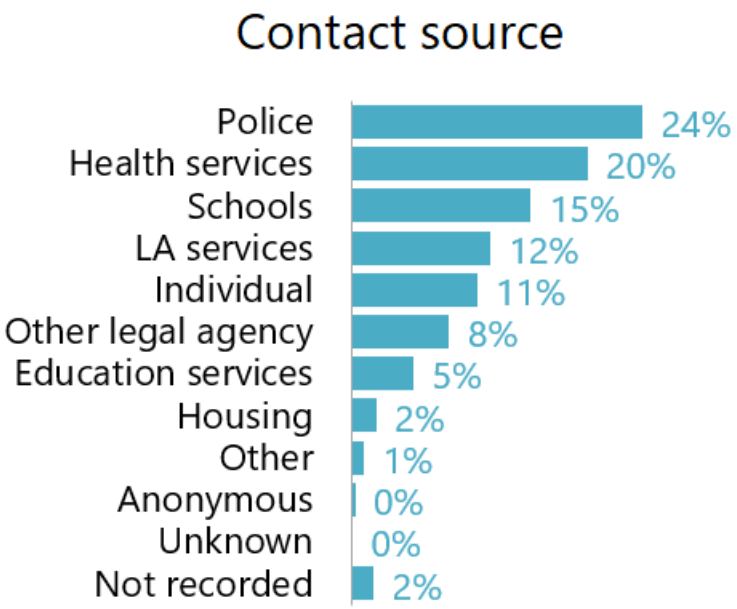
8.2 The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), which receives contacts and referrals, is our local single point of contact for anyone who is worried about a child. The service continues to effectively collaborate with key partners and has sustained the practice and performance.

8.3 Our internal auditing process, part of our comprehensive quality assurance framework indicates that practice within the MASH is strong, we remain focused on continuing to strengthen practice and means that children receive a timely and effective response.

8.4 Contact & Referrals to social care

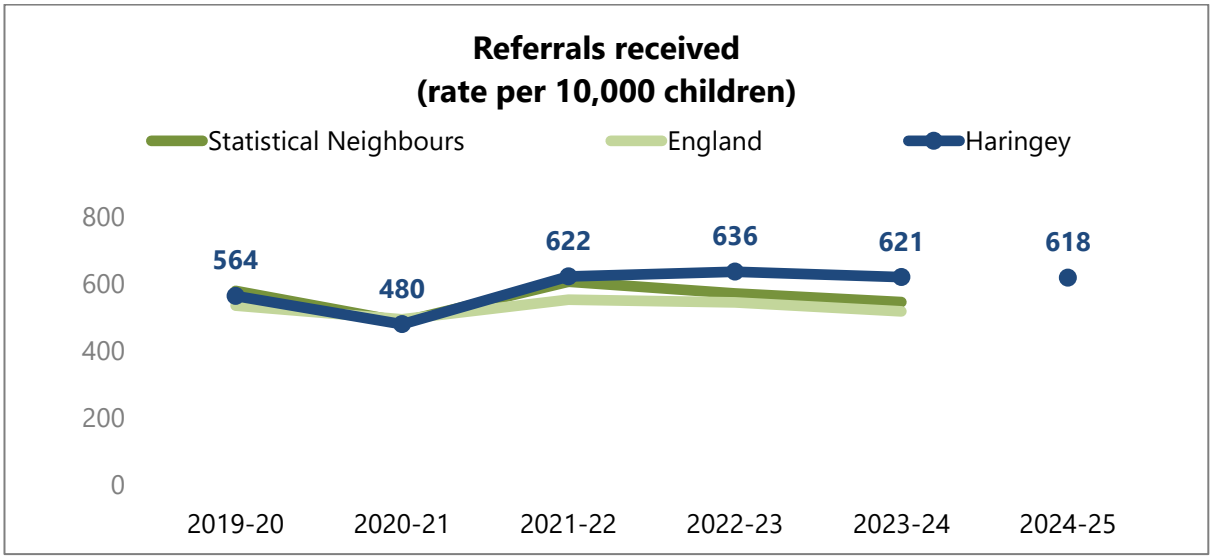
8.4.1 The communication of concerns from partner agencies or the public to children's social care is an important step in initiating a child protection response. Not all of these communications from partners and the public will meet the threshold for referral to social care, some will be passed to the Early Help service or signposted to universal services, others are simply one of our partner agencies ringing for some advice or support. These communications are categorised as contacts.

8.4.2 In the 12 months to March 2025 there were 13,958 contacts to MASH which is very similar to last years' number. The break-down of sources is set out below and shows an increase in the number from health and a fall in the number from the police (29% in 23/24)

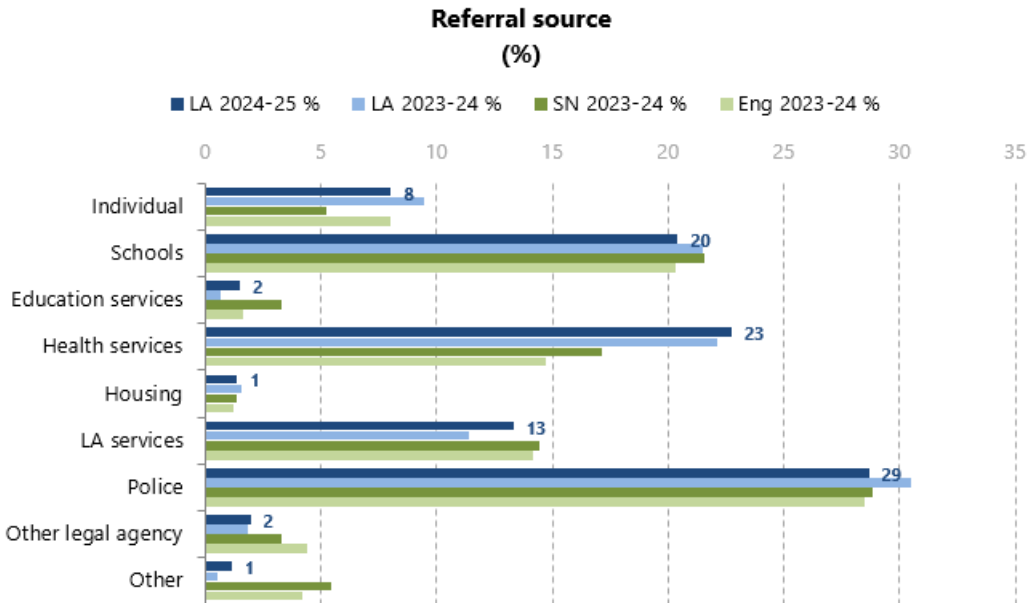


8.4.3 A referral is a contact that meets the threshold for services to be provided by children's social care, in respect of a child who is not currently open to the service. This means that social workers in the multi-agency assessment hub (MASH) share information and complete a risk analysis for the referral.

8.4.4 The number of referrals received was 3,312, very similar to past 3 years, but means the rate per 1000 population has moved slightly above our latest statistical neighbours.



8.4.5 The Police continue to be the largest source of referrals in common with our statistical neighbours and England. We have seen a reduction in referrals from schools and an increase in referrals from our colleagues in health.



9. Children with a Disability

9.1 The Disabled Children's Team (DCT) continues to meet the complex and diverse nature of the range of needs experienced by children with disabilities.

9.2 The experience of the management team is helping to strengthen the skills, experience and expertise within the service though focus is maintained on continuing to develop and embed this across the service.

9.3 It is clear however that complexity in the nature of cases is rising and the service has seen an increase in court proceedings, impacting on timeliness and performance data. This is seen alongside an increase in children qualifying for CiN support and those being received into local authority care.

9.4 Regular multi-agency meetings take place with special schools and they continue to ensure the partnership approach to providing children with disabilities is robust and timely support.

10.SEND Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

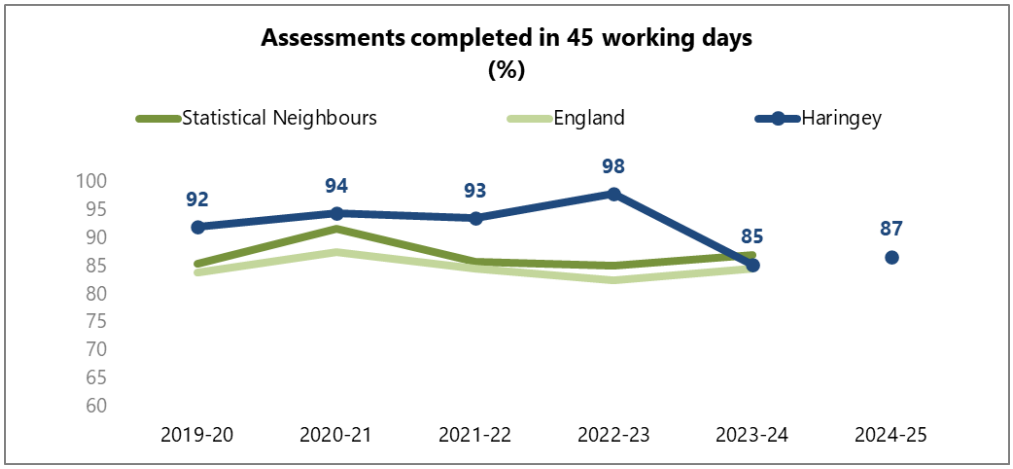
10.1 In 2024 a similar number of EHCPs were issued to the previous year, with 84% within the 20-week timescale with allowed exceptions discounted. This compares with 46.4% for England and 70% for our statistical neighbours.

11.Assessments

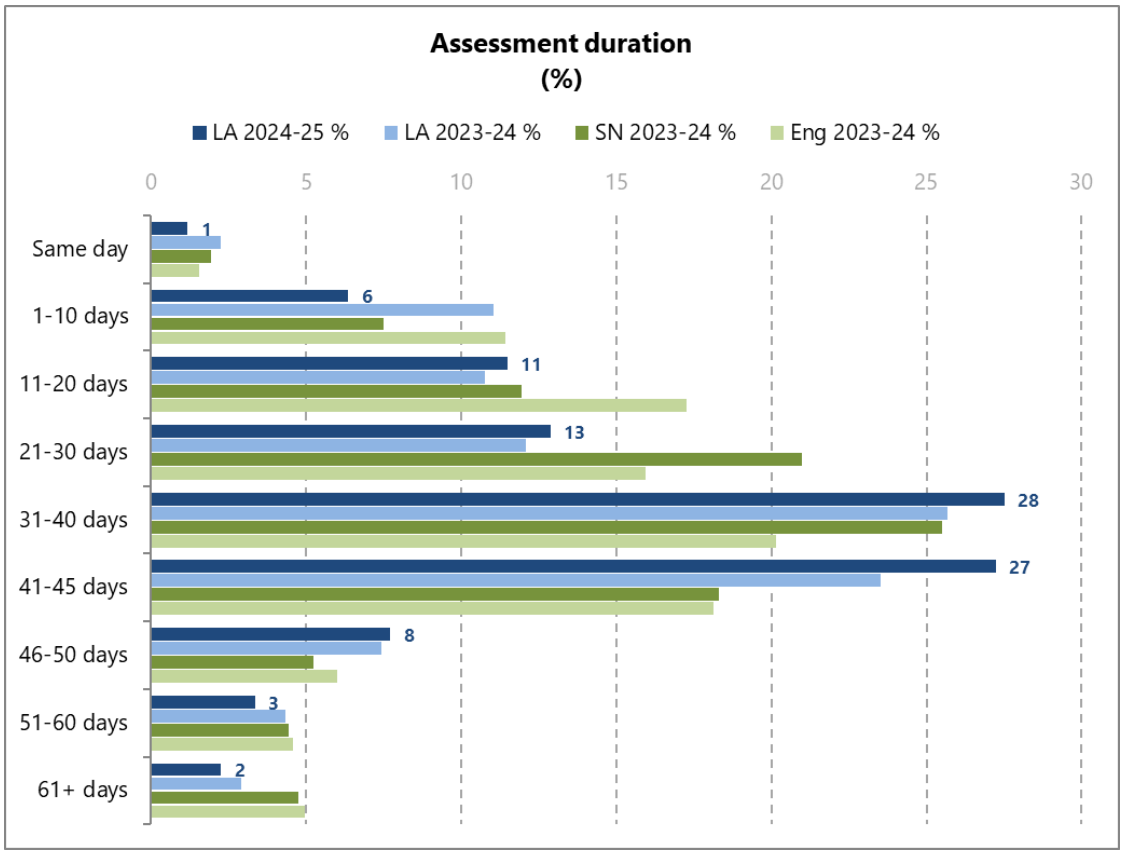
11.1 A referral to social care will normally result in a decision to complete an assessment of the child's needs (within 45 working days). In addition, if there is a concern that immediate protection may be needed as the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, a strategy discussion with police and other partners is held immediately. At the strategy discussion it is decided whether to initiate enquires under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, which is an enquiry to decide what type of action is needed to safeguard a child and if necessary, hold an initial child protection conference within 15 working days.

11.2 During 2024/25 there were 3,540 assessments completed at a rate of 661 per 10,000 children, up from a rate of 580 per 10,000 children in 2023/24. In each of the past 6 years, at least 85% have been completed in 45 working days, as shown in the graph below. This represents continued good performance in the completion of assessments which compares well to statistical neighbours and England.

Assessments completed in 45 Working Days (%)



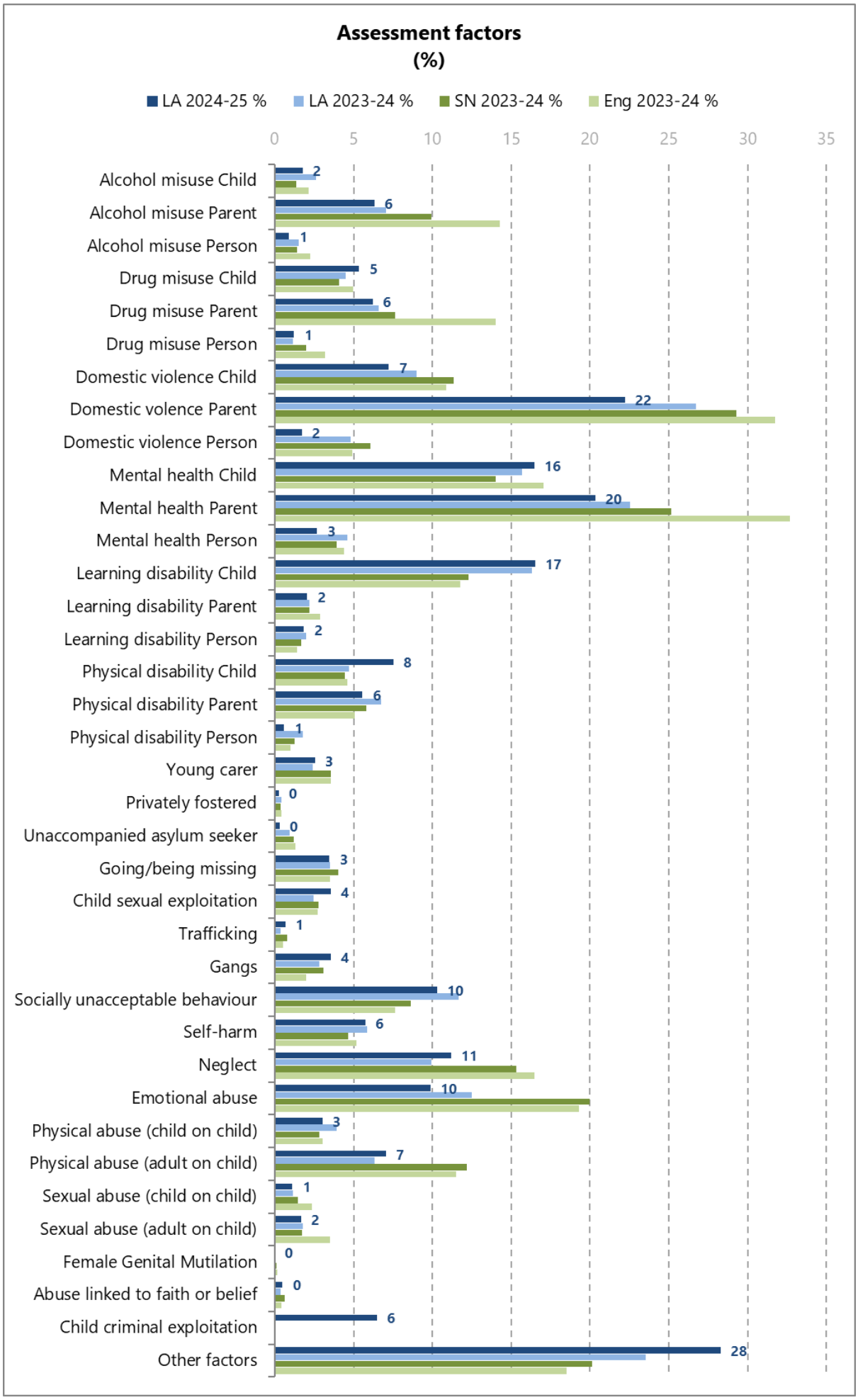
Duration of assessment



11.3 Factors found at the end of assessment

11.3.1 Despite a decrease Parental Domestic Abuse continues to be the single most common factor found at the end of assessments.

11.3.2 Other factors usually found as an addition to one of the main factors listed. Areas with fewer factors found include Mental Health and Emotional Abuse

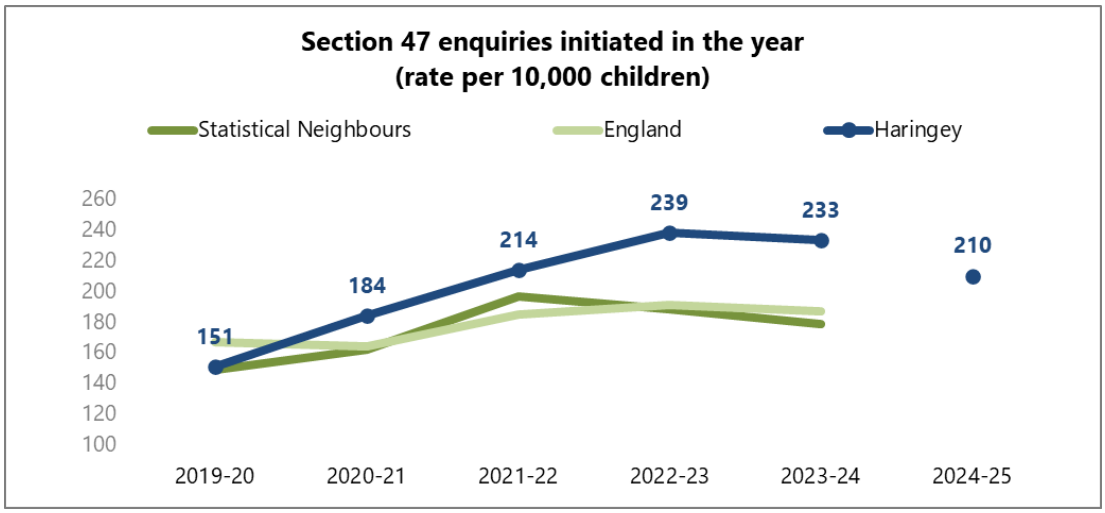

Assessment factors
(%)
LA 2024-25 %
LA 2023-24 %
SN 2023-24 %
Eng 2023-24 %
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
Alcohol misuse Child 2
Alcohol misuse Parent 6
Alcohol misuse Person 1
Drug misuse Child 5
Drug misuse Parent 6
Drug misuse Person 1
Domestic violence Child 7
Domestic volence Parent 22
Domestic violence Person 2
Mental health Child 16
Mental health Parent 20
Mental health Person 3
Learning disability Child 17
Learning disability Parent 2
Learning disability Person 2
Physical disability Child 8
Physical disability Parent 6
Physical disability Person 1
Young carer 3
Privately fostered 0
Unaccompanied asylum seeker 0
Going/being missing 3
Child sexual exploitation 4
Trafficking 1
Gangs 4
Socially unacceptable behaviour 10
Self-harm 6
Neglect 11
Emotional abuse 10
Physical abuse (child on child) 3
Physical abuse (adult on child) 7
Sexual abuse (child on child) 1
Sexual abuse (adult on child) 2
Female Genital Mutilation 0
Abuse linked to faith or belief 0
Child criminal exploitation 6
Other factors 28

12. Section 47 enquiries

12.1 As noted above, Section 47 enquiries are carried out when there is a referral in which a child or children are reported to be at immediate risk of harm. This always follows a multi-agency strategy discussion and is a necessary part of initiating a child protection plan.

12.2 The rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 children aged 0-17 decreased to a rate of 210 per 10,000 children from 233 in 2023/24 our rate is still above the last published rate of 174 for statistical neighbours and the England average rate of 187.

12.3 **Rate of s47 enquiries per 10, 000 children**



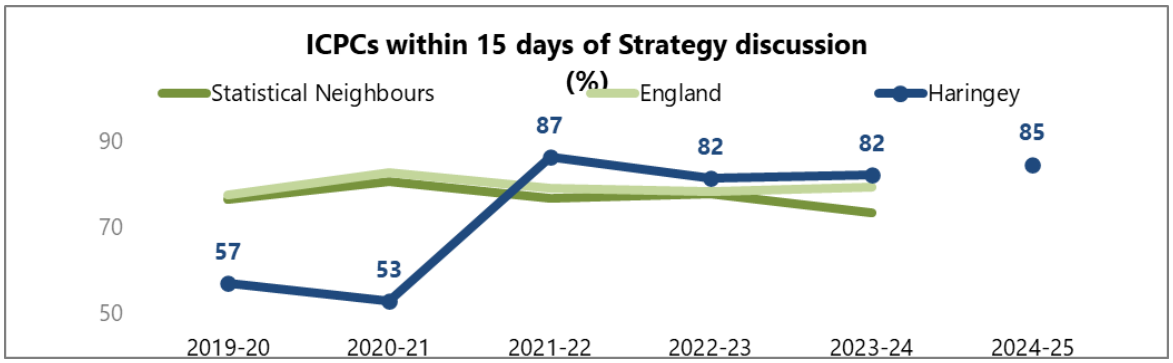
13. Initial Child protection conferences (ICPC)

13.1 Following section 47 enquiries, where needed, an initial child protection conference is held. Bringing together family members (and the child where appropriate) and all relevant information., It is the responsibility of the conference to make recommendations on how organisations will work together to safeguard the child, including the option of placing the child on a child protection plan.

13.2 In 2023/24 a total of 216 ICPCs were held, this increased to 225 in 2024/25.

13.3 It is critical that initial child protection conferences are convened quickly. Timeliness is defined by ICPC's which take place within 15 days of the strategy discussion which triggered the Section 47 investigation, the 85% for 2024/25 compares well with the national figure of 80%.

Trend of ICPC Timelines

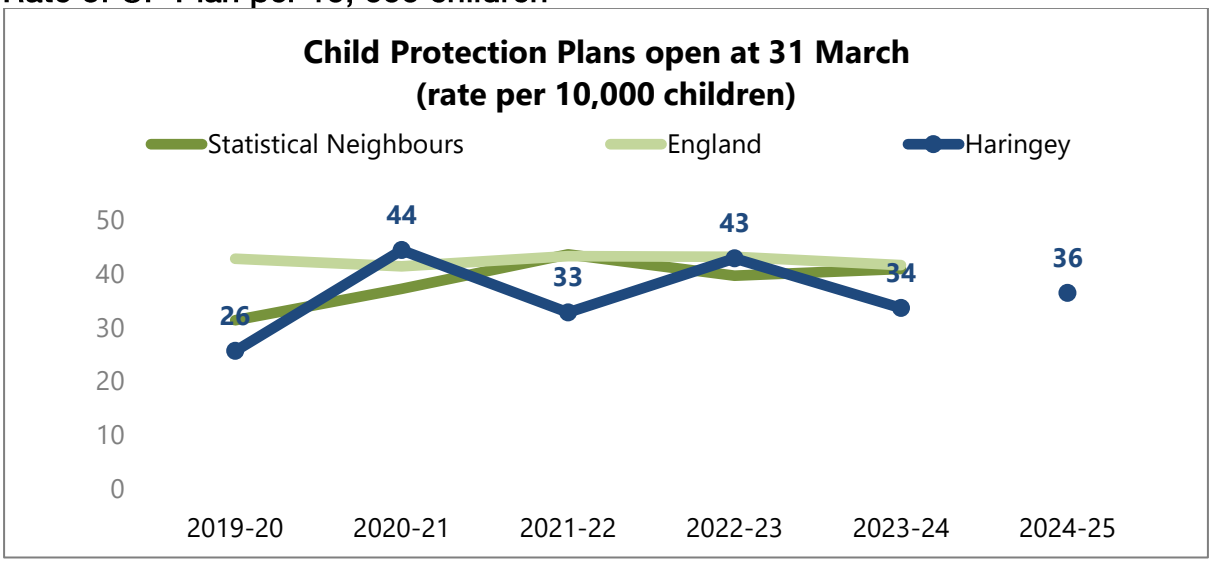


14. Child Protection Plans

14.1 The aim of a child protection plan is to ensure the child is safe from harm and prevent further suffering and harm. The plan should promote the child's health and development and support the family and wider family members to safeguard their child provided it is in the best interests of the child.

14.2 There were 195 children on a child protection plan at the end of March 2025 or a rate of 36 per 10,000, which is below the last published statistical neighbours rate (41)

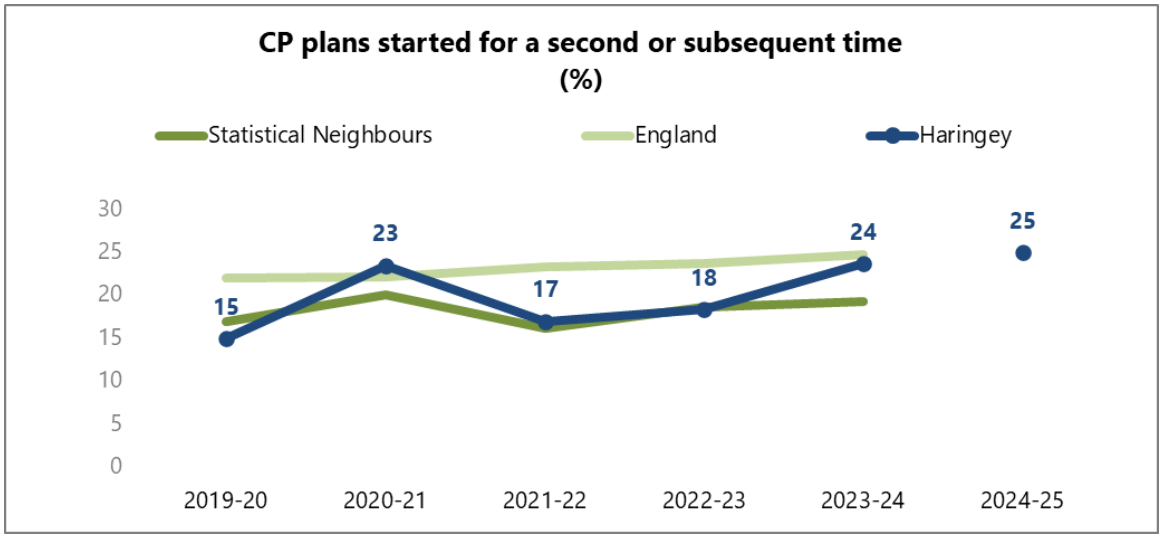
Rate of CP Plan per 10, 000 children



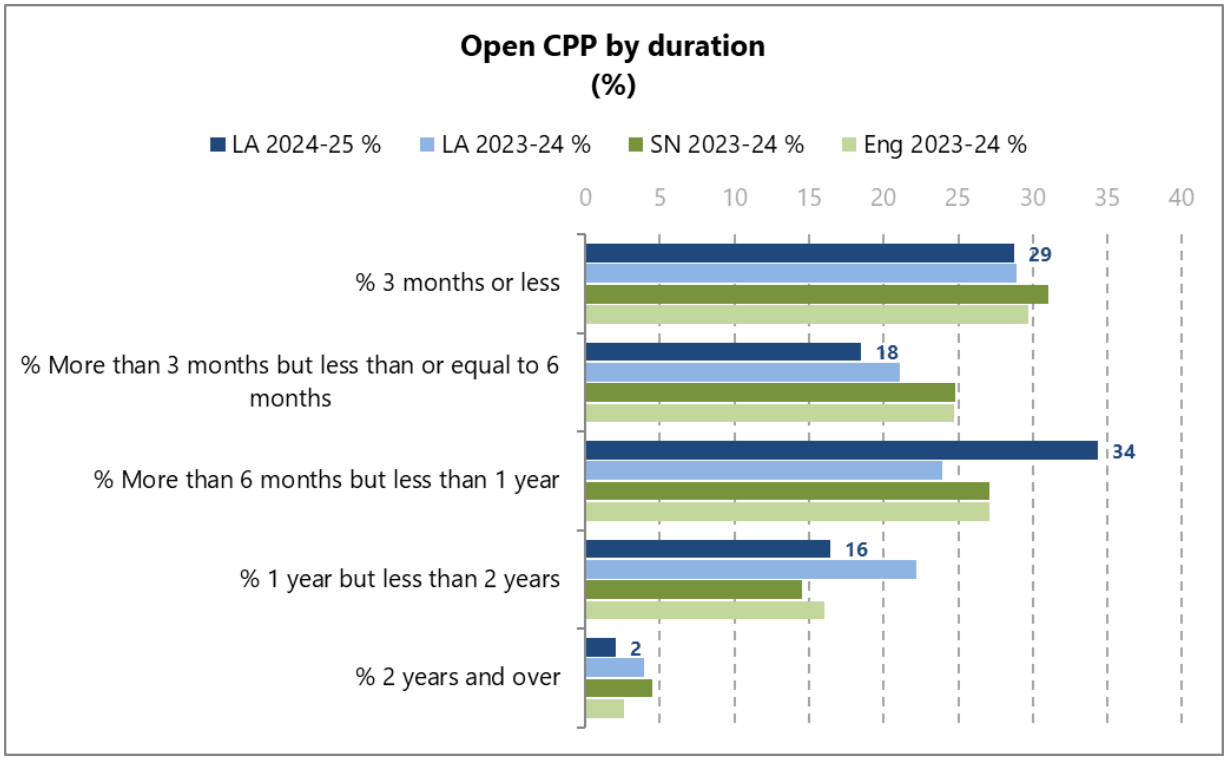
14.3 It is vital that the right children only remain subject to plans for the length of time required to bring about and demonstrate change. A simple measure for this is the rate of second and subsequent plans, if these are too high, it could be that plans are ineffectual or are not lasting long enough, too low and it could be that a degree of over caution is evident. The described percentage rate matches our statistical

neighbours rate, (albeit with a minor data variance). We are keeping cases subject to subsequent plans under review, to ensure that thresholds are applied appropriately and to see if there is any learning for the service in relation to early de-planning

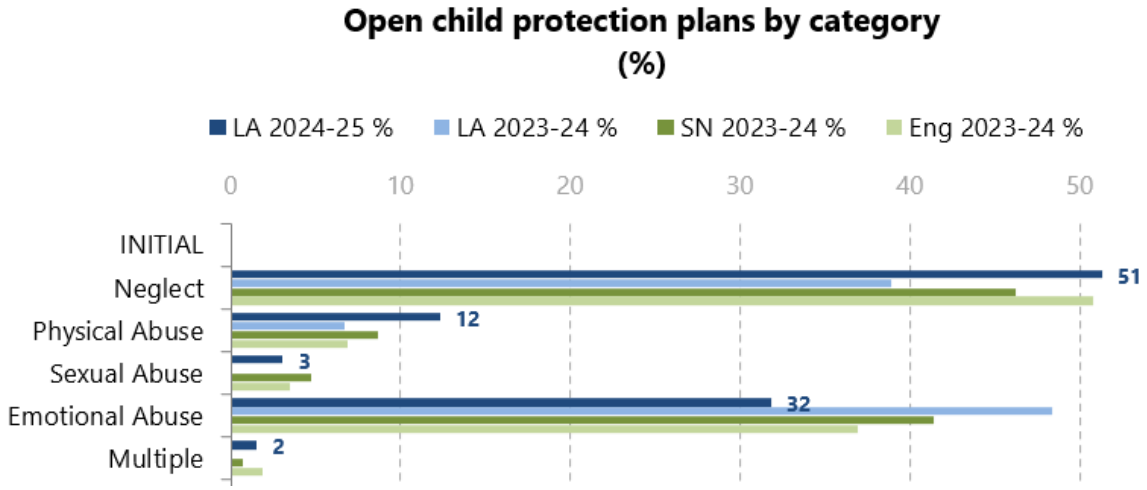
14.4 Comparing re-registrations for Child Protection Plans



14.5 Most child protection plans cease within two years. Of the 214 plans ending during 2024/25 ten were open for over two years which is the same rate as our statistical neighbours.



14.6 In common with other local authorities, the main initial reasons for children becoming subject to a child protection plan relate to emotional abuse 32% and neglect 51% as shown in the chart below

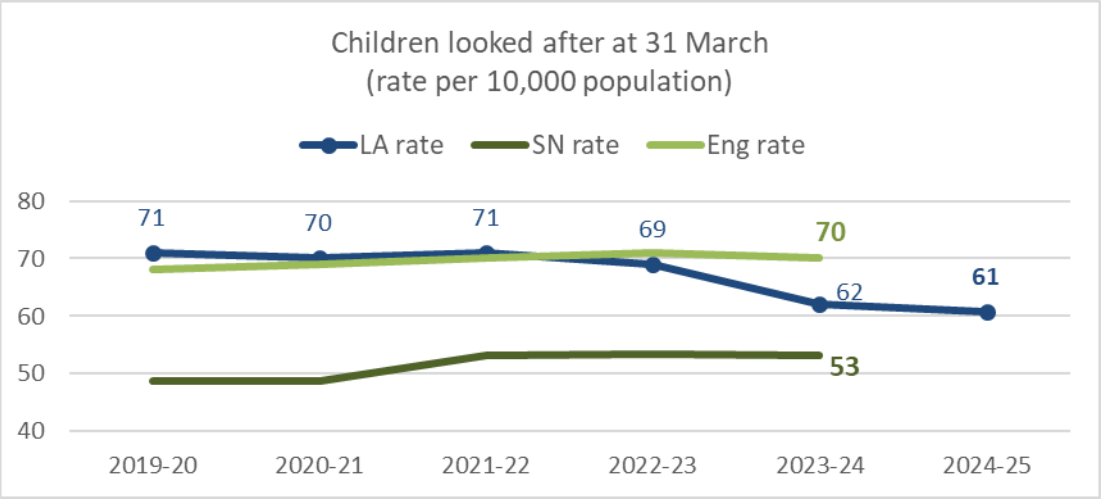


15. Children Looked After

15.1 A child who has been in the care of a local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a Child Looked After (CLA) also often referred to as children in care. Children in care in general are either living with extended family members, foster carers, in a residential children's home or living in residential settings like schools or secure units. Children come into care for a variety of reasons, including because they are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with no responsible adult to care for them or children's services may have intervened because it was believed that the child was at risk of significant harm. A child stops being looked after when they are adopted, are made the subject of a Special Guardianship Order, return home unless there is a Care Order in place, or turn 18. However local authorities are required to information, advice and or support most children who leave care at 18, until they are 25 years old.

15.2 At the end of March 2025, 325 children were in our care. This is slightly fewer than in 2024 and the trend is opposed to the increase in national numbers.

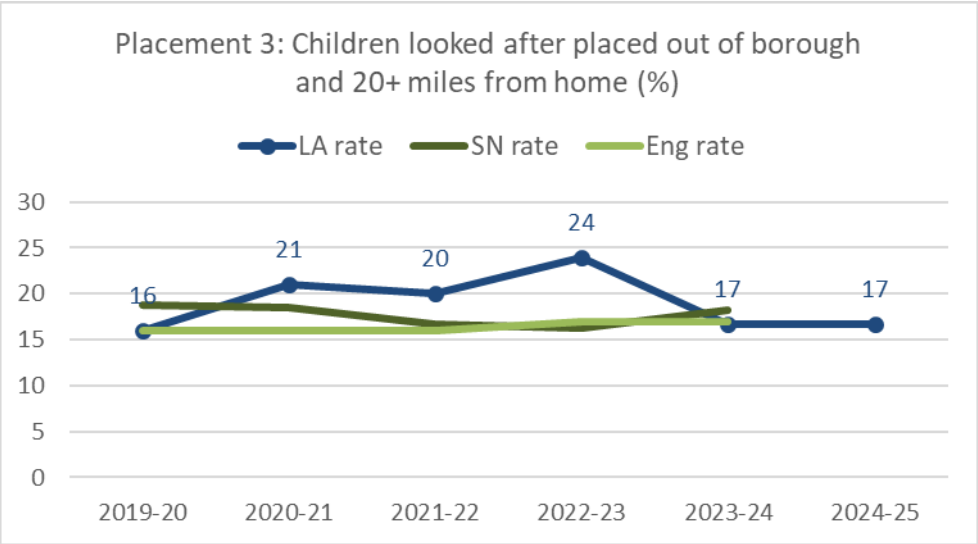
Rate of CLA started per 10, 000 children



15.3 The table below shows the children in care by placement type at the end of March 2024. Foster placements continue to be the largest proportion of placement types along with the proportion slightly higher than that of all England.

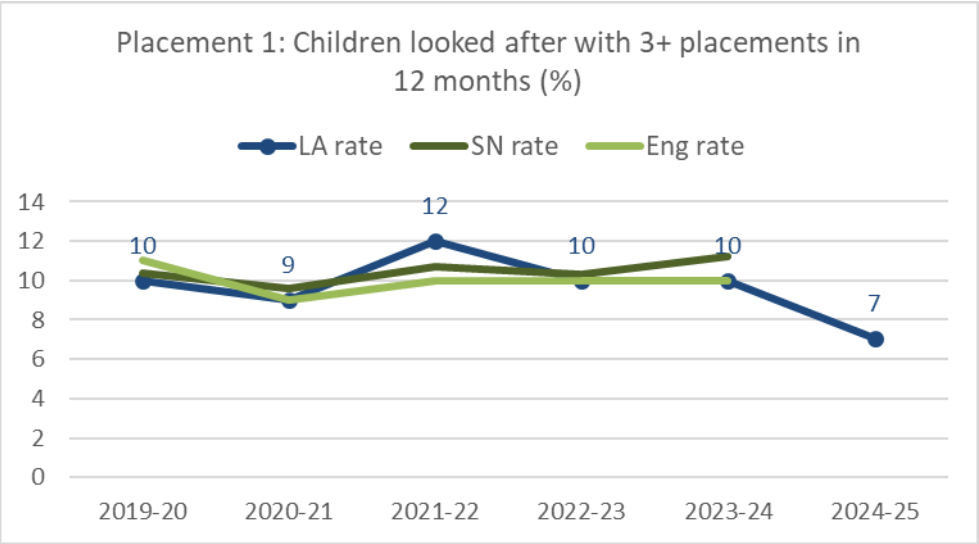
	LA 2024-25 nos	LA 2024-25 %	LA 2023-24 %	SN 2023-24 %	Eng 2023-24 %
Foster placements	**234**	72%	70%	68%	67%
Placed for adoption	**10**	3%	2%	1%	2%
Placement with parents	**7**	2%	4%	4%	6%
Other placement in the community	**0**	0%	0%	-	-
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	**34**	10%	15%	-	-
Other residential settings	**9**	3%	2%	3%	2%
Residential schools	**0**	0	0	0	-
Other placements	**0**	0	7%	8%	5%

15.4 At the end of March 2025, 17 % of children were in placements in or within 20 miles of Haringey. This matches the previous year, and the last known data for statistical neighbours (17%). Local provision continues to be a challenge, and we continue to use our own residential provision, Haselmere Children's Home, to mitigate national and local challenges. We also continue to build relationships with local providers and work with our regional and sub-regional partners to address sufficiency issues.



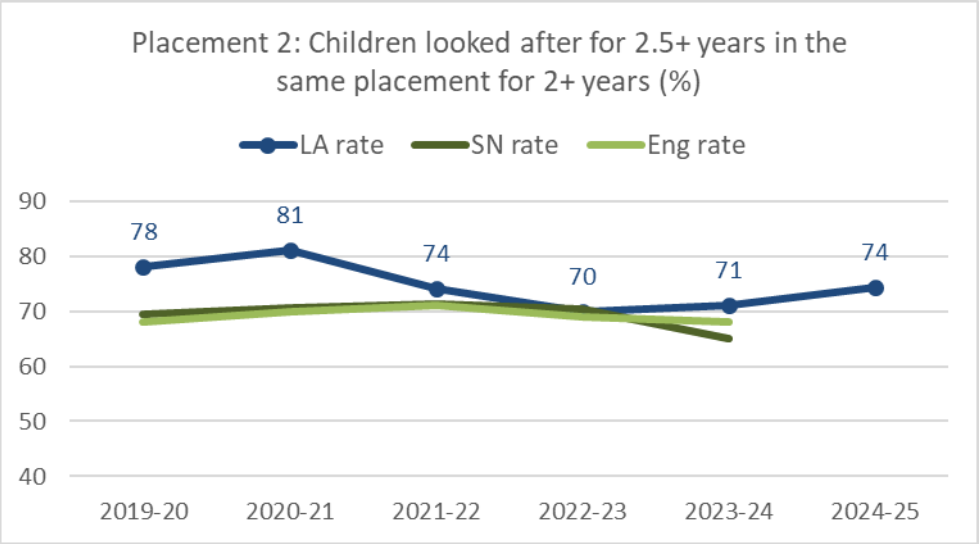
15.5 Placement stability is a key factor in children's wellbeing. Having the chance to settle into a foster or residential placement over a period of time, supporting our children in developing a feeling of belonging, helping them feel secure in themselves. Stability will be achieved only by making sure that the child is in the right placement for them. There are two types of placement stability that we measure – short term stability which looks at the number of placements for children in the last 12 months, and long-term stability which considers those children who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years and have been in the same placement for more than the past 2 years. It is a combination of these indicators that gives us confidence that our children in care are in a stable environment.

15.6 Our short-term stability performance shows that only 7% of children in our care had three or more placements in the past12 months. This is lower than 2023/24,



statistical neighbour data (10%) and the national average.

15.7 Our performance in relation to long term placement stability is improved from a strong 71% to 74% at the end of March 2025. Permanence planning is continually being monitored and strengthened, and we ensure that Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) have sufficient information to enable expedient and timely permanence planning. Our trackers are helping us monitor children who have not been matched with a new permanent family arrangement and we constantly check and review children's permanency plans through to permanence.



15.8 The data for children who go missing from care shows us that 13% of children were reported missing in the period 2024-2025. This remains below our SN rate of 15%. When children do go missing from placement there is a robust and effective response from children's social care and the Police. The missing co-ordinator tracks, and risk assesses children who go missing to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent repeat occurrences and return home interviews are routinely conducted by specialist workers.

16. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

16.1 There are two means by which UASC come to Haringey. Firstly, as spontaneous arrivals, most frequently arriving at local police stations. The second is through the National Transfer Scheme, which aims to equitably re-distribute UASC across the country, especially those from Kent and Croydon in recent years although there has been a sharp decrease in numbers the second of these two routes has become the most prevalent.

16.2 At the end of March 2020 there were 48 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in care, this fell to 26 by March 2024 and was further reduced at the

close of March 2025, to 19. This represents around 5.8% of the children in care cohort.

17. Adoption

17.1 There were 7 adoptions during 2024/25 which is in line with the last reported data from statistical neighbours but we remain beneath the national average. 13 children were also granted Special Guardianship Orders giving them a permanent home.

17.2 Haringey and the ALN (Adopt London North) have strengthened practitioner knowledge around early permanence as a placement option for children, with ALN running a number of in person and virtual training sessions for practitioners across the directorate.

17.3 A key priority continues to be the reduction of disparity in adoption for children of global majority heritage and improve the adoption system so that more adopters of Black heritage become applicants and choose to adopt through Adopt London.

18. Leaving care

18.1 For young people qualifying for service as Care Leavers also known as Care Experienced Young Adults, there is a requirement for Haringey to stay in touch with the young person, keep their Pathway Plans under review, continue the appointment of a Personal Adviser and provide financial assistance where the young person is employed or seeking employment to enable the young person to pursue education or training. These duties continue until the former relevant child reaches 21 or, where the child's pathway plan sets out a programme of education or training which extends beyond their 21st birthday, they continue for so long as the child pursues that programme.

18.2 The service has been continuing to work with the duty on local authorities to support all care leavers up to age 25 who can return to the local authority at any point after the age of 21 and request support.

18.3 At the end of March 2025 there were 662 care experienced young adults who were qualified for care lever services

Eligible	~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods)~ Currently looked after Age 16 or 17
Relevant	~ Age 16 or 17 ~ Has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 (can be multiple periods)~ Looked after on or after their 16th birthday ~ No longer looked after
Former Relevant	~ Aged between 18 and 25 ~ Previously an eligible or relevant child
Qualifying	~ Aged between 16 and 21 (or 25 if in education) ~ Looked after on or after their 16th birthday ~ Not looked after for at least 13 weeks since age 14 or ~ privately fostered after the age of 16 but before the age of 18 or were looked after prior to becoming subject to a SGO"

Cohort of Care Leavers and eligibility for services

Age	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying	**Total**
16	30	1	0	1	32
17	61	9	1	4	75
18	0	0	70	0	70
19	0	0	83	0	83
20	0	0	78	1	79
21	0	0	82	2	84
22	0	0	79	1	80
23	0	0	79	0	79
24	0	0	80	0	80
Total	**91**	**10**	**552**	**9**	**662**

18.4 Looking at care leavers in suitable accommodation and those in employment, education or training Haringey has a higher percentage than both our statistical neighbours and the England rate

19.Workforce

19.1 The Workforce Development service has developed several initiatives with regards to recruitment and retention, enabling the service to 'Grow our Own' and

obtain a high performing culture and be an employer of choice within the external marketplace. This is enacted through many routes; student placements; recruiting cohorts of newly qualified social workers; the Step Up to Social Work programme, Social Work Apprentices, supporting staff to be Practice Educators; promoting within and converting agency staff to permanent contracts. We remain signed up to the London Pledge and the Framework for London in Permanent Children's Social Work Recruitment both these approaches help with the management of agency social workers costs across London and providing staffing stability.

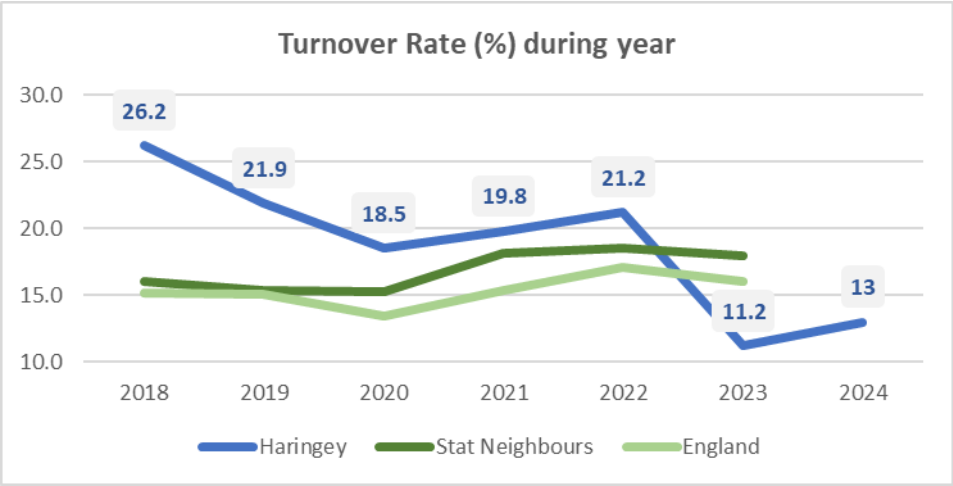
19.2 We are committed to retaining both newly qualified and experienced social workers by offering flexible secondment opportunities across different teams and service areas. These opportunities are designed to:

- Broaden professional experience
- Enhance knowledge and skills
- Support career progression within Haringey

19.3 We believe that when staff feel valued, supported, and are given room to grow, they are more likely to remain with the organisation long term. Our approach reflects our commitment to valuing our staff, to their wellbeing, development, and work satisfaction.

19.4 We are proud to share recent progress in our commitment to developing and retaining competent social workers within Haringey:

- Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) Programme In 2025, we successfully recruited 6 internal social work students onto the ASYE programme, out of a cohort of 7. All 6 newly qualified social workers (NQSWs) began their ASYE journey in August 2025. Notably, 4 of these NQSWs were sponsored by Haringey through the Step Up to Social Work programme.
- Step Up to Social Work – New Cohort Haringey has committed to sponsoring 6 new students on the Step Up to Social Work programme. These students will begin their first placements in Adult Services in March 2026, continuing our investment in high-quality training and development.
- Social Work Apprenticeships Our 4 social work apprentices have successfully completed their first placement in Adult Services as of August 2025. They are now preparing for their final placements, scheduled to begin in March 2026.



19.5 The Director of Safeguarding & Social Care regularly leads the weekly "Gather and Grow" sessions where key messages are communicated service wide, and the workforce can ask any questions or make service adjustment feedback.

19.6 The Director's Roadshows have also continued, and the Corporate Director meets with the Head of Service to hear and resolve organisational challenges.

19.7 The health and wellbeing of Children's Services workforce is of great importance and all managers have been trained on how to carry out relevant risk assessments, create awareness of providing details of the Employee Assistant Programme and occupational health referral schemes and enabling their teams to flourish in hybrid ways of working. There also have been service specific health and wellbeing surveys leading to the implementation of key actions. The service ensures that exit interviews are carried out and feedback to the relevant management level and staying interviews also take place across the service. These platforms provide invaluable feedback on what is working well and where realistic improvements may be made.

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Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Work Plan 2024 - 26

1. **Scrutiny review projects;** These are dealt with through a combination of specific evidence gathering meetings, that will be arranged as and when required, and other activities, such as visits. Should there not be sufficient capacity to cover all these issues through in-depth pieces of work, they could instead be addressed through a "one-off" item at a scheduled meeting of the Panel. These issues will be subject to further detailed development and scoping.

Project	Comments	Priority
Housing and children	To look at how housing impacts on children and young people and, in particular those who may be vulnerable or where there might be safeguarding concerns.	

1. **"One-off" Items;** These will be dealt with at scheduled meetings of the Panel. The following are suggestions for when particular items may be scheduled.

Date	Potential Items
2023/24	
29 July 2024	• Terms of Reference • Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member • Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 • Performance Update • Haringey local area SEND CQC/OFSTED Inspection Outcome
9 September 2024	• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Haringey local area SEND CQC/OFSTED Inspection Outcome • Update on the key issues relating to Housing & Children
19 November 2024	• Budget Scrutiny

(Budget)	• Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023-2024
13 January 2025	• Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Exam and Test Results • Evaluation of Haringey's Early Help Strategy
13 February 2025	• Further Update around Children's Mental Health outcomes and developments underway for improvement. • Children's Social Care; Annual Performance 2023/24 • Update on Youth Justice Service Inspection (Verbal)

2025/26	
14 July 2025	• Terms of Reference • Appointment of Non-Voting Co-opted Member • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families

	• Performance Update – Looked after Children • Private Fostering Update
9 September 2025	• Q1 Budget & Performance Monitoring report (Finance). • Youth Justice Annual Plan - Progress report • Haringey Youth Strategy – Action Plan • Children's Social Care; Annual Performance 2024/25
18 November 2025 (Budget)	• Q2 Budget & Performance Monitoring report (Finance) • Budget Scrutiny • Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report
15 January 2025	• Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2024-2025 • Exam and Test Results
26 February 2026	• An update on the implementation of the Council's Autism Strategy. • Cabinet Member Questions – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families • Children's Mental Health Outcomes.

Potential future items

- White Paper on Schools and SEND

- Possible changes to Schools funding Formula

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