

**Report for:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee  
13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Item number:**

**Title:** Children's Youth Service update report

**Report  
authorised by**



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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for  
Non-Key Decision: For information**

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report provides an update as requested by Members on two services run by our Youth Service. These are the Bruce Grove Youth Space, Haringey's Youth Centre and its current activities and the Youth Council and its current activities. It also gives a summary of further developments in progress for these services.

## 2. Background information

Over the last decade there have been significant changes to the youth provision within Haringey. Historically there had been a number of youth centres across the Borough offering positive activities and a youth centre provision to our young people both at a universal and more targeted level. Over the years there have been several revisions and reshapes of our youth offer with significant cuts to the youth provision budget of in excess of £1.6million being introduced over the 2011 – 2015 period. The majority of universal service youth provision ended during this time. In 2017, the Bruce Grove Youth Space was further developed to respond to emerging vulnerabilities of our young peoples across the Borough. This centre supported both young people in the local area as well as across Haringey. In 2018, in response to concerns about youth violence and unrest, Children's Service received additional funding of approximately £100,000 for the delivery of summer holiday activities. An evaluation of the summer programme showed that, overall, children and young people enjoyed the additional activities. For the financial year 2019/20, Children's Service has received £250,000 additional funding for holiday activities, this includes for the summer holiday period.

### **a. Provision**

The council manages a designated youth centre in Bruce Grove known as the Bruce Grove Youth Space (BGYS). The centre is highly regarded by young people and also by the community. The centre acts as a space for young people to gather and have fun and it also provides opportunities for young people, with the support of staff and volunteers working at the centre, to develop personally. For example, personal development is achieved through training that young people can access to become youth mentors.

During the December 2018 Ofsted inspection of children's social care services, Inspectors were encouraged by senior managers to visit BGYS because senior managers considered it to be a centre of excellence. The Inspectors agreed and reported the following in the final Ofsted inspection report, that the BGYS "offers excellent provision for young people in Haringey. The centre offers a wide range of effective universal and targeted support, facilitated by highly motivated and skilled workers. The centre has established links across the local community, with effective partnerships collaborating well to offer support that engages children in expanding their horizons and achieving education and employment opportunities. Young people are highly involved and influential in developing and delivering this service, including, for example, the production of a hard-hitting and realistic video on the impact of social media on grooming behaviour and risks involved in relation to child sexual exploitation. Young people regard the centre as a safe space, and it is well placed to support further preventative work with them around issues such as youth violence and gangs."

### **b. What is on offer**

A range of activities and groups are delivered from Bruce Grove Youth Centre to young people who live in Haringey aged between 11 and 18 years (up to 25 years for children with disabilities) throughout the week which currently include:

- Open access opportunities to young people in the community on one day per week between 3 and 9pm at Bruce Grove with around 100 young people dropping in over the open session
- Skateboarding, gardening, jewellery making, cooking, badminton, football, dance, t-shirt making, big math challenge, filming, art, spoken word, managing pocket money, dodgeball, movie nights, fashion and design, hair and beauty workshops, boxing, table tennis and photography
- The centre has an equipped music studio and staff supported by musicians in the community are working with young people to support them in developing their music through an entrepreneurial record label venture
- Young carers support groups are provided weekly which also provide opportunities for the young carers to socialise with other young people utilising the activities in the centre
- Since April 2019 a weekly 'Autism drop in' provision is held at the centre for parents/carers and their young person offering advice and information
- Youth workers working with colleagues in Community Links provide a training programme for young people to become peer mentors and in 2018/19 there were 10 graduate young people who have gone on to mentor their peers as well as building their own emotional resilience. Currently there are another 8 young people who are being trained as

peer mentors. Peer mentoring is provided for young people across the Borough. This peer mentoring programme is linked also to the Mental Health Trailblazer programme.

- Weekly martial arts and dance classes for children and young people with disabilities supporting young people in building their self-confidence.
- The Wireless Festival project works with young people to reduce youth violence. In 2018 our young people joined others on stage in Finsbury Park and chose to hold a 'minutes silence' in memory of 77 young lives lost and in 2019 are planning a music event
- Supporting refugees and asylum-seeking young people living with their families in the community – including working with local schools to provide advice and information in relation to the needs of these young people.
- Providing weekend and holiday BBQ, Talent Shows and fun days for the young people and their families which has realised new members for the centre
- Supporting young people remembering a young person who died from youth violence by holding a BBQ and memorial
- In addition to the weekly and summer programme of events as described above the youth services currently runs two residential events with young people and young carers
- Funds were provided to support youth provision across the summer holidays last year and this year funds have been identified to again better support youth provision across school holidays, evenings and weekends.
- The Council provided an additional £250,000 for activities in 2018. The activities provided over the summer holidays were very well received by children and young people. An evaluation of the additional provision was undertaken to hear the views of children and young people. Proposals for youth provision across the Borough include a specific summer timetable that has taken account of the views of children and young people from the 2018 evaluation.
- Young Londoner Fund community safety activities provided during the summer e.g. boxing and other sports at Tottenham Community Sports Centre
- Arts and Leisure services offer youth activities across the school holidays which include sports and arts activities across the borough, family orienteering, community events and festivals in addition to providing activity vouchers for vulnerable children and young people to join in outdoor activities and ice skating.
- Youth mentoring programme – including peer mentoring
- Hope in Tottenham street bus provision
- Emotional resilience workshops with young people

### **c. Youth Council**

- The Youth Service supports our Youth Council by working with the young people in a range of ways through forums, surveys, activity based events, meetings and local and national events.
- These activities and events include:
  - an annual borough wide consultation undertaken with our young people to identify young people's top 10 priority issues which is then narrowed down to a 'top 3'. This year's top 3 priority issues

are: youth crime, mental ill health and exclusions from school. The young people have a launch event followed up by an annual event focussing on these priority areas identified – currently being planned with the Met Police is a session on stop and search understanding the challenges and experiences of both the young people and the police

- facilitating and supporting Youth Council and their Cabinet meetings
- undertaking consultations on local strategies, policies and service developments such as use of a digital communication application for young people and their social workers and Independent Reviewing Officers
- recruitment of senior management posts within Children's Services
- supporting young people in representing the youth voice of Haringey in the London Youth Assembly and Youth All Parties Parliamentary Group (APPG)
- developing stronger connections with schools

#### **d. Developments**

- Sainsbury's locally have nominated Bruce Grove Youth Centre for an award to mark Sainsbury's 150 year anniversary and a £1000 has been awarded to the centre.
- A forthcoming development is in train with a national organisation Project Future grant funded by Comic Relief for three years to provide emotional and mental health support to young people. Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Clinical Psychologists to work 16 hours each week at the centre have been employed and it is anticipated that this service will be up and running in June 2019. This project links to the Mental Health trailblazer programme.
- The Youth Council is in the process of developing a partnership with the National Youth Theatre to enable free auditions for young people in Haringey that are interested in pursuing a career in Theatre or Production/Design.
- The Youth Council is in the process of developing a relationship with Alexandra Palace and are working with them on planning the Great Fete summer festival.
- Working in partnership with our voluntary sector to provide activities within the communities for our children and young people during the school holidays and weekends and evenings.

#### **e. Contribution to wider Borough Plan and Children and Young People Strategies**

- The youth service actively works with colleagues across the Council, statutory and voluntary sector partners and the community to provide and develop activities, opportunities and a safe space for our young people. In the forthcoming year further development activities and links are planned particularly in relation to the early help and prevention agenda within Haringey, addressing serious youth violence to support delivery of the Young People at Risk Strategy and providing

opportunities for our young people in education, employment and training.

**3. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential

**4. Use of Appendices**

Draft member report providing information on proposed youth programmes across the Borough available during the summer and other school holiday periods, in addition to evening and weekend provision.

**5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Bruce Grove Youth Space [Bruce Grove Youth Space](#)

Services for young people – Haringey Council website [Services for young people](#)