

DRAFT

Haringey Youth Strategy 2025-2030



Haringey
LONDON

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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 education¹. 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 guidance² 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 Strategy³. 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 approach⁴.

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](https://www.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 Survey⁵ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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 base⁶ 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<p>Witnessing violence in the community can lead to emotional, social and cognitive problems.</p> <p>Low trust in public institutions can jeopardise young people's safety.</p>

6 Young People at Risk Strategy Evidence Base



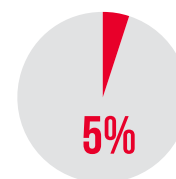
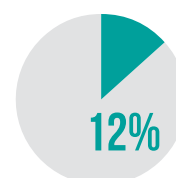
10-17 year-olds
were cautioned or
sentenced in
Haringey in 2022



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	<p>Neglect can lead to maladaptive coping mechanisms and emotional disorders.</p> <p>Exposure to domestic violence can establish norms relating to the use of violence in personal relationships.</p> <p>Parental substance use is a significant risk factor for children's involvement in youth violence.</p> <p>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.</p>
Education	<p>A lack of qualifications can cause individuals to perceive crime as their only route to prosperity.</p> <p>Absenteeism from school can lead to lower educational attainment and increased vulnerability to exploitation.</p>

Family Hubs Needs Assessment (2023)

This needs assessment⁷ was developed to inform the development of Haringey's Family Hub Programme.

Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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 education⁸. 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.

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



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.

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

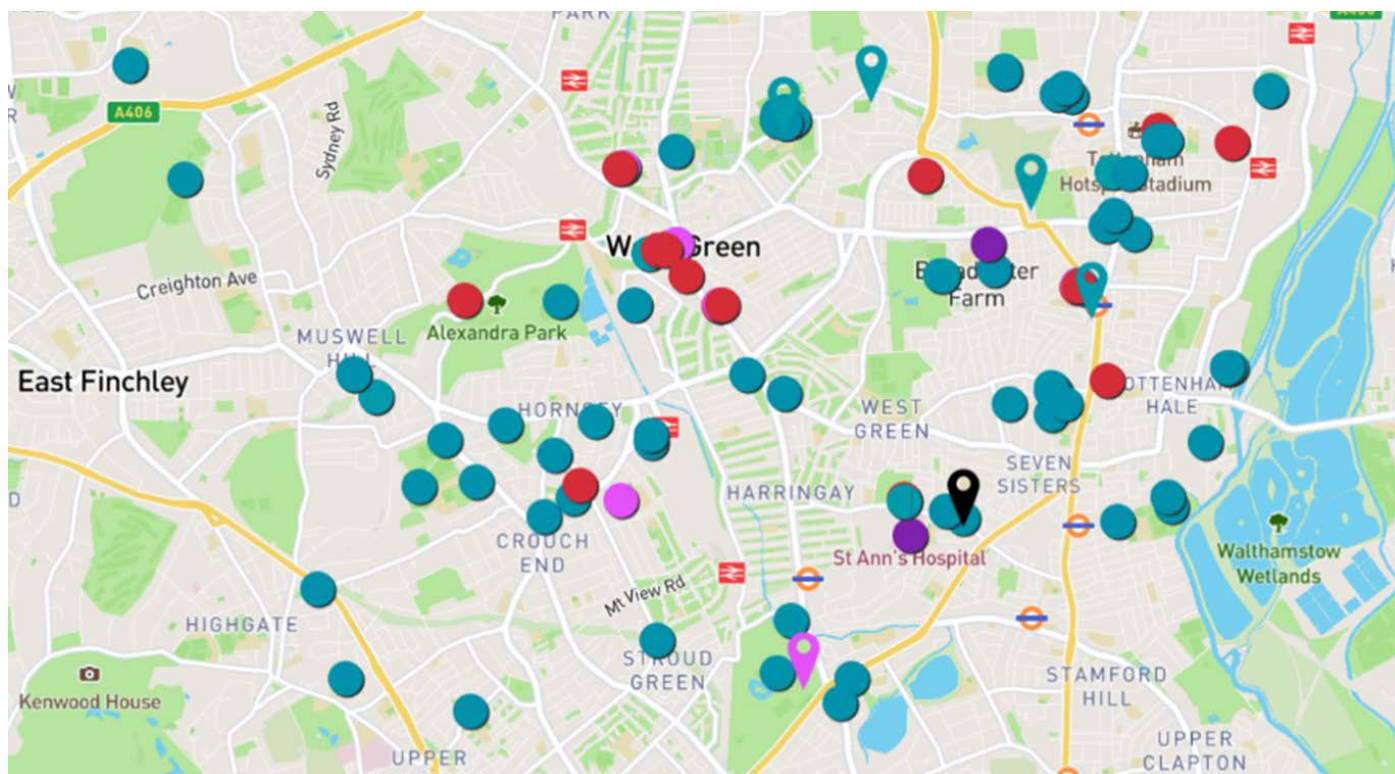
Youth work is a skilled profession with its own code of practice and it is important that youth workers have the right qualifications and training to help them support young people to the best of their ability. Youth workers build voluntary, trusted relationships with young people, away from many of 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 Council's 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 as 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.



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](#)

