

Child Friendly Haringey

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation & Action	Lead & others to be involved	Timescale	Agreed Partially/Agreed Not Agreed	Comments
<p>1. That the Council declares its intention to become a “Child Friendly” borough, with this approach embedded in everything that the Council does and driven by strong political and officer commitment.</p>	<p>Director of Children’s Services and Priority 1 Board</p>	<p>May 2018</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The Council wholly supports the intention behind UNICEF’s idea of being "child friendly" and welcomes the interesting and varied case studies provided in the report to illustrate how other authorities have taken this forward. We believe that our current Priority 1 vision and objectives incorporate elements of the commitment to being "child friendly" but we recognise the potential value of challenging ourselves (including other Council services) and our partners to demonstrate the practical difference their policies and decisions make for children. We welcome the opportunity to explore what a commitment to being "child friendly" could look like for Haringey specifically.</p>
<p>2. That a “Child Friendly borough” strategy be developed for Haringey and that this includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear local vision of what a “Child Friendly” borough should look like; • Enhanced arrangements for listening and responding 			<p>Partially Agreed</p>	<p>This would have significant resourcing implications and at this point in the Corporate Plan cycle, we do not think developing a separate "child friendly borough" strategy and governance mechanism distinct from Priority 1 would be helpful. However, as we begin to consider the content of the Corporate/Borough Plan from 2018 for children and young people, we think this will provide the right process for refreshing our overarching strategy and local vision, for which a commitment to being "child friendly" could be a unifying theme. Furthermore,</p>

<p>4. That an application be made by the Council to become a Unicef Child Rights Partner.</p>			<p>Not Agreed</p>	<p>Pending the discussions outlined above, and in light of the significant financial contribution required by UNICEF at a time of severe budget pressure, we do not believe that applying to become a Child Rights Partner is the right decision for Haringey at this time. However we remain open to doing so in the future if agreement can be reached about what the local commitment to being "child friendly" would mean for Haringey and buy-in secured from our partners.</p>
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<p>5. That the following issues, based on feedback and performance information, are key priorities for children and young people in the Council's new Young People's Strategy and the focus of any projects developed as part of the Unicef Child Rights Partners scheme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community safety for young people and, in particular ensuring that they are able to travel safely around the borough; • Youth facilities and activities which provide fun as well as opportunities for personal, educational and social development; • Mental health and the promotion of social and emotional well-being; • Housing and, in particular, the avoidance of homelessness; and • Reducing the percentage of children living in households living in poverty. 	<p>Jennifer Sergeant & Young People's Strategy Steering Group</p>	<p>September 2018</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>We welcome all feedback from children and young people about what their priorities are and how they would like to see us respond. The issues of Community Safety, mental health services and youth facilities are already picked up as part of our Young People's Strategy 2015-18 and there is work ongoing in each of these areas, which officers would be happy to provide further information on. The Young People's Strategy is due for review in 2018 following the agreement of a new Corporate Plan and further engagement with young people as part of this will help to update our objectives and inform service development.</p> <p>The issues of housing and homelessness for young people have been considered as part of the Supported Housing Review recently completed and we are planning to recommission the youth homelessness pathway. We also recognise the growing challenge relating to housing for young residents and continue to work closely with Homes for Haringey to ensure homelessness prevention is maximised.</p> <p>Child poverty remains a significant concern in Haringey, despite the improvement in the relative deprivation of the borough compared to the London and national picture. Child poverty and improving life chances requires a multi-dimensional response from the council, which is reflected in our commitment to outstanding schools, our work on post-16 education and reducing NEETs, benefits maximisation and managing the impact of welfare reform, and supporting parents into work by rolling-out the local Early Years offer.</p>
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