



Report of: Corporate Director of Children, Employment and Skills

Health and Wellbeing Board	Date: 18 April 2018	Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: A Future For Us – Islington Fair Futures Commission Recommendations

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. Islington Council is committed to making Islington a fairer place for all. At the heart of this mission is ensuring that everyone has the best start in life and is supported to achieve their aspirations, regardless of their background.
- 1.2. For many of the 45,000 children and young people who live in Islington it is the best possible place to grow up. Our borough has world class cultural, artistic and sporting facilities on our doorstep, and our local schools help our children and young people to thrive.
- 1.3. However, far too many children and young people growing up in Islington face significant barriers that prevent them from benefitting from the opportunities around them. Poverty, overcrowding at home, unemployment and a lack of opportunities to learn and earn - some children and young people face many, or all, of these barriers.
- 1.4. 2017 was Islington’s Year of Children and Young People. Islington can be a fantastic place to grow up, but it can also be challenging. The Fair Futures Commission, chaired by young adults, Jermain Jackman and Kadeema Woodbyrne, took a radical look at how the council and its partners can help to change that.
- 1.5. Everyone has a part to play to help build resilience in children, young people, their families and the local community. Despite the significant budget challenges the Council faces as a result of cuts in national government funding, there are still opportunities to drive innovation and positive change. To unlock these opportunities we need to re-imagine a child and youth friendly Islington to make it an even greater place in which to grow up, learn, work and have fun.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To welcome the Fair Futures Commission's final report.
- 2.2 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to take the recommendations back to their organisations and respond to the relevant recommendations of the Fair Futures Commission's report by Summer 2018. Partners will be asked to respond formally by the end of June 2018 and responses will be compiled into a report in response to the Commission's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 We want all children and young people in Islington to start well and develop well. By 2025, Islington should be a place where:
- children and young people can achieve the very best wellbeing outcomes and have the resilience and creativity to thrive;
 - parents and carers have the knowledge, skills and confidence to provide the environment in which children can thrive; and
 - the community – made up of our residents, businesses, the state, charitable and community organisations - is the economic, physical and social infrastructure which supports children and young people to thrive.
- 3.2 The Fair Futures Commission is made up of academics, creative thinkers, local young people and residents. This gave us a rich mix of experts from a variety of fields and, more importantly, experts of lived experience. It explored practical solutions so that everyone - individuals, communities and organisations - can support, play a part and develop their role in making Islington a great place to grow up in, and therefore promote good social and health development in the early childhood, the middle years and adolescence/young adulthood phases of life.
- 3.3 The Commission's aim is to make a fairer future for all, to listen to the next generation and give them the power to shape the things that directly affect their experiences while growing up. Commissioners sought these voices with a series of events and discussions held in schools and youth hubs, and walks through the borough to see it through the eyes of children, young people and parents themselves. The Commission were particularly interested in the most vulnerable, the invisible and the voiceless. It heard incredible and hard hitting stories about the ups and downs of growing up in Islington today. Over 200 individuals and organisations took part in the Commission's work over the year.
- 3.4 The Commissioners brought together children, young people, parents, teachers, the third sector, police, health partners and many more to share their experiences and knowledge. They then spent many hours boiling down the many proposals and ideas which were submitted into the recommendations in the final report. Above all else though, they listened and heard what children and young people had to say about life in Islington.
- 3.5 After carefully considering their findings and the feedback, the commissioners have made a variety of recommendations to Islington Council and its partners, which are included in the Commission's report. This also resulted in five key population outcome ambitions defined by the Fair Futures Commission:
1. **21st century skills for growing up:** Children and young people have the skills to manage their emotions and feelings, health, relationships, home and money
 2. **21st century skills for work and the future world of work:** Children and young people are prepared for work and the future of work
 3. **Connected communities:** Young people, parents and carers can lead change in their communities and support each other

4. **A child-friendly place to live and grow:** Children and young people live in a safe community with space to grow, live and play
5. **Alliances for ambitious and fairer futures:** Islington has a strong community of leaders that come together, collaborate, invest and deliver ambitious futures with children and young people – making our community a great place to grow up in

3.6 The recommendations cover every aspect of improving children and young people's health and wellbeing. There is an emphasis on preventative measures to build resilience in children, young people and communities that may reduce the risk of lasting impact of poor health and wellbeing in adulthood. For example:

- **21st century skills for growing up** – supporting children and young people to be happy, safe, active and develop well; supporting children and young people to develop solid skills for life particularly strong positive relationships and managing emotions and feelings; and supporting children and young people to overcome and thrive despite adverse childhood experiences (stressful or traumatic events) that may affect their futures.
- **21st century skills for work and the future world of work** – preparing children and young people for the future world of work that will be global and rich in technology and equipping them with the right skills and knowledge for this. This may help to reduce and limit the illnesses and health-damaging behaviours associated with unemployment.
- **Connected communities** – improving cohesion, social networks of support, active citizenship and social action as a way of reducing isolation and improving a sense of belonging to the community, skills, confidence and friendships.
- **A child-friendly place to live and grow** – creating places and spaces that work for children and young people and helps to develop their physical, mental and social health.
- **Alliances for ambitious and fairer futures** – creating a truly place-based partnership approach to investment and decisions that relentlessly focus on and represent children and young people's interests.

Table 1 outlines the **recommendations relevant to Health and Wellbeing Board members**. The full report and list of recommendations is attached at **Appendix A**.

3.7 The Council and its partners are asked to respond to the report setting out how they intend to meet the recommendations. The Commission has asked that actions are tailored for the appropriate equality groups such as disabled children and LGBTQIA young people, and other key groups of children and young people such as young carers, refugees and those in care. It would also like to see plans for how the actions will be put in place to make sure that they happen.

Table 1: Fair Futures Recommendations relevant to Health and Wellbeing Board members

Call to action	Organisations who play a part in making these happen					
	Islington Council	Health	Schools	Businesses	Social sector	Other
21st century skills for growing up						
We ask Islington Council, health care and early childhood services for a commitment to building on Bright Start Islington for children aged 0 – 5.	X	X			X	Early years private, voluntary and independent providers
We ask the Council and other organisations – like the police and schools - for a commitment to empower young people to support each other. This may help young people who got through their challenges to support others in similar situations. This may help young people who got through their challenges to support others in similar situations.	X	X	X		X	Metropolitan Police
We ask Islington Council and other public and community organisations to explore a co-ordinated way to support young people to build their abilities and tackle past experiences. This should empower them socially, emotionally and develop their thinking and reasoning skills.	X	X	X		X	

Call to action	Organisations who play a part in making these happen					
	Islington Council	Health	Schools	Businesses	Social sector	Other
21st century skills for growing up						
<p>We ask Islington Council, health care services, schools and other groups to develop ways that empower children and young people to manage their feelings and emotions.</p> <p>Actions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safe and clear spaces for friends to flag when a young person they know may be struggling. This could also be for young people to go for support to manage their emotions and feelings. Make this a youth-led approach similar to You're Welcome for health services. Spaces could be in schools, pop-ups in youth hubs, businesses and Islington Council buildings. • support children and young people to feel good by connecting them to 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' opportunities, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect – see friends, talk to family, get involved in a youth group ○ Keep Learning and Be Creative – read or learn a new activity for fun, join a library, draw, paint, act, play ○ Be active – walk, cycle, play sports, swim, dance ○ Take Notice – mindfulness meditation, yoga ○ Give – volunteer, get involved in community or youth-led activities or campaigns. • training for staff in schools on how to identify and support children and young people to manage their emotions and feelings • create a calm and peaceful reflection space in a local park for young people and families when faced with difficult and challenging times such as bereavement. • explore how digital technology can support young people to manage their feelings and emotions 	X	X	X		X	
<p>The Clinical Commissioning Group is the local organisation which plans and decides on health care services. Social action is about coming together with other people to solving social problems in the community. Social prescription is another way of linking young people with community activities and services. We ask the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group to consider linking young people to social action by using social prescriptions together with medical approaches to mental health. For example, a doctor would signpost a young person to community activities, group or services to help them improve their mental health</p>		X				
<p>Train those who work with young people about mental health first aid, and ways that respond to children and young people's past negative experiences and events.</p>	X	X				
<p>Support young people to have the skills and understanding about mental health and asking for help.</p>	X	X				

Call to action	Organisations who play a part in making these happen					
	Islington Council	Health	Schools	Businesses	Social sector	Other
21st century skills for growing up						
In organisations, consider mental health awareness training for staff who manage young people such as apprentices and young adults.	X	X		X		

Call to action	Organisations who play a part in making these happen					
	Islington Council	Health	Schools	Businesses	Social sector	Other
Connected communities						
<p>We ask Islington Council, together with schools, NHS and other partners to join up youth leadership and social action opportunities. It should be clearer for young people and parents/carers about how they can get involved. Monitoring of the social and employment skills they gain from their involvement should take place.</p> <p>Actions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a central online ‘opportunities’ point for young people or parents to register for these opportunities • equal access to opportunities for children, young people, parents and carers to creatively get involved at different levels (from being a young advisor, parent champion, on a school council or youth councillor to responding to consultations, designing new services and involvement in focus groups). This includes appropriate reward and recognition. • opportunities to crowdsource ideas with children, young people and families using digital and online platforms • publishing consultation and engagement results and guidelines on techniques • a commitment for new policy and commissioning projects to include co-production in either the development or delivery of services particularly children, young people or parents/carers with ‘hidden voices’ 	X	X	X		X	
We ask Islington Council and NHS commissioners to consider social action as part of future contracts for services. For example, reserve part of the budget to fund youth peer support or parent champions.	X	X				

Call to action	Organisations who play a part in making these happen					
	Islington Council	Health	Schools	Businesses	Social sector	Other
Connected communities						
<p>We ask Islington Council and NHS services that support young people, parents and carers to explore tried and tested digital technology as part of the service or support offer for them.</p> <p>Actions could include: Enabling young people, parents and carers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use technology such as Skype for follow up appointments, advice and guidance in circumstances where a young person or parent do not have to be seen or examined. This excludes social care where a child must always be seen. use online peer support so that they can support others who are going through the same challenges 	X	X				

Call to action	Organisations who play a part in making these happen					
	Islington Council	Health	Schools	Businesses	Social sector	Other
Alliances for ambitious and fairer futures						
<p>We ask Islington Council and its partners to develop and communicate an 'Islington Guarantee' or 'Promise for Young People' for those living and/or studying in Islington. It should be from birth to adulthood. It should set out the life and work skills, outcomes and support young people can expect or are entitled to at different stages of their lives.</p> <p>Actions could include: linking to a concessions card which includes discounts or access to local attractions, culture, leisure including cinema, sport, libraries, museums, etc.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	
<p>Build on the leadership that looks out for children and young people's interests, responding to what matters to them and improving their futures. The Islington Children's Trust Board should evolve to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise opportunities, ideas and resources from different people, places and organisations. Take forward these recommendations. It should lead the Guarantee and health and wellbeing investment and priorities for children. Hold an annual Fair Futures Summit. This should check in on children and young people's experiences and what they need, progress on these recommendations and the future for learning, life and work skills. 	X	X	X	X	X	X
<p>We ask Islington Council and its partners to build on strengthening partnerships for young people using health or social care services, such as those with learning difficulties or disabilities, to help their independence.</p>	X	X	X		X	

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications:

Some of the recommendations could have financial implications which will need to be reflected in both the Council's and CCG's response to the Commission. This includes consideration of the Council's medium term financial strategy and both the Council and NHS future budget proposals concerning children and young people.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The council has a duty under section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to promote cooperation with relevant partners (including health, education, police and probation services) regarding children's well-being in Islington, and relevant partners have a duty to cooperate with the council. The focus of the arrangements referred to is children's physical and mental health and emotional, social and economic well-being; protection from harm and neglect; and education, training and recreation.

4.3 Environmental Implications

N/A.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Commission has asked that actions are tailored for the appropriate equality groups such as disabled children and LGBTQIA young people, and other key groups of children and young people such as young carers, refugees and those in care. A Resident Impact Assessment will be completed as the Council and partners consider and respond to the recommendations to improve equality and equity for some key groups.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 One powerful lesson we should take away from this Commission is that when those who hold power take the time to really listen to children and young people and to respond to what they have said, truly exciting things are possible.
- 5.2 The Fair Futures Commission recommendations should be seen as a medium to long-term investment in Islington's children and young people where we will have to stay the course – pursue these goals regardless of obstacles - to realise the benefits and impact.

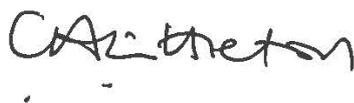
Appendices

- Appendix A: A Future for Us – Fair Futures Commission Final Report

Background papers:

n/a

Signed by:



9 April 2018

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Date

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