



Report of: Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Council	23 February 2017	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
-----------------------	-------------------	------------

SUBJECT: Islington Fair Futures Commission – Making Islington a great place to grow up

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 2017 is Islington's Year of Children and Young People. Islington can be a fantastic place to grow up, but it can also be challenging. We want to take a radical look at how the council and its partners can help to change that.
- 1.2 Everyone has a part to play to build resilience in children, young people, their families and the local community. Despite the significant budget challenges we face as a result of cuts in national government funding, there are still opportunities to drive innovation and positive change; we have to unlock these opportunities. This means re-imagining a child and youth friendly Islington to make it a great place to grow up, learn, work and have fun.
- 1.3 Creating communities which are great places to grow up in is a collective effort. To spark our effort, the Fair Futures Commission (FFC) will launch on Wednesday 22 February. Chaired by 22 year old Jermain Jackman, winner of the BBC's television competition The Voice in 2014 and former Arts and Media Islington student, the Commission will provide independent advice and support by bringing everyone together who shares our vision to make Islington a fairer place for all.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To welcome the establishment of the Fair Futures Commission.
- 2.2 To agree that the council should work with its partners, and the Commission itself, to support the FFC's work.

3. The Fair Futures Commission

- 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 There are two key future challenges which require a place-based approach to realise this ambition:
- building on our early intervention approach; and
 - building individual and community resilience to prevent or help young people and families to bounce back from issues and situations which impact on their wellbeing.
- Supporting children’s wellbeing and building resilience includes issues such as the built environment, community safety and protection, housing, economic development, employment and skills. This goes beyond one department such as Children’s Services. Nor can it be achieved by the council alone. However, the council has a statutory duty to lead arrangements and promote co-operation with other partners to achieve this.
- 3.3 The aim of the FFC is to provide independent advice and make recommendations to the Council and its partners regarding how, as a place, we build a child and youth friendly community and create the conditions for children and young people to thrive and be at the heart of everything we do. **Appendix A** gives further details about the Commission’s scope, remit and timescales.
- 3.4 The Commission is made up of academics, creative thinkers, local young people and residents. This gives us a rich mix of experts from a variety of fields and, more importantly, experts of lived experience. It will explore and identify 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.
- 3.5 The Commission will operate for a year. It will gather and collect evidence through a combination of written submissions and interactive sessions to enable good involvement from everyone particularly children, young people and parents. The Commissioners will produce a report with practical recommendations which will be considered by the Council Executive and its partners.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations could have financial implications which will need to be reflected in the council’s consideration of the medium term financial strategy and future budget proposals.

Legal Implications

- 4.2 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.

Environmental Implications

4.3 There are no environmental implications directly arising from the recommendations.

Resident Impact Assessment

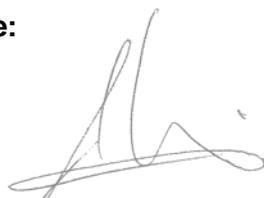
4.4 The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 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. An RIA will be completed during the lifecycle of the Commission to identify the potential for the recommendations to improve equality for some key groups.

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – further information on the FFC (to be circulated)

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



.....
Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

15 February 2017

.....
Date

Report author: Tania Townsend, Development and Strategy Manager
Tel: 020 7527 3080
E-mail: tania.townsend@islington.gov.uk