



Children, Employment and Skills
222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR

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

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Council	22 February 2018	All

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

SUBJECT: Islington Fair Futures Commission – A Future for Us

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 dreams, 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 their doorstep, and our local schools help them 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 a great place to grow up, learn, work and have fun.

- 1.6 The final report of the Fair Futures Commission will be published week commencing Monday 19th February 2018.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To welcome the Fair Futures Commission's final report.
- 2.2 To call on the Council Executive to respond to the recommendations of the Fair Futures Commission's report in due course.

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 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 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 today's society. 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 countless proposals and ideas which were submitted into the recommendations you see in the final report. Above all else though, they truly 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.
- 3.6 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.

- 3.7 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. We look forward to working with young people, parents and partners over the coming months and years to implement the recommendations in this report.

4. Financial implications

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

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 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.

6. Environmental implications

- 6.1 The recommendations could have environmental implications which will need to be reflected in the council's response to the Commission.

7. Resident Impact Assessment

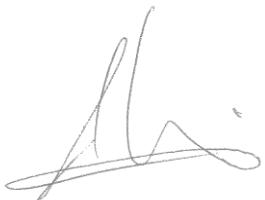
- 7.1 The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (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: Final Report of the Islington Fair Futures Commission (*to follow*)

Final report clearance:

Signed by



14 February 2018

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

.....
Date

Report author: Tania Townsend, Partnership Development and Strategy Manager and
Fair Futures Commission Programme Lead

Tel: 020 7527 3080

E-mail: tania.townsend@islington.gov.uk