

Fair Futures Strategy

MAKING ISLINGTON A GREAT PLACE TO
GROW UP IN

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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.

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.

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.

The Fair Futures Commission was 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.

COMMUNITY
BINDS FAMILIES
TOGETHER

GIVE A VOICE
TO THE VOICELESS

PREVENTION
IS BETTER
THAN
CURE

**A
FUTURE
FOR US**

BEST
START
IN LIFE

EACH OF US CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
TO LOVE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE
IS TO INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

THEIR AMBITIONS,
OUR FUTURE

A PLACE THAT
WORKS FOR
ALL CHILDREN

MY FAIR SMALL STEPS CAN
ISLINGTON MAKE A BIG CHANGE



The Commission's aim was to listen to the next generation and give them the power to shape the things that directly affect their experiences growing up. During 2017, 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.

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. After carefully considering their findings and the feedback, the commissioners made a variety of recommendations to Islington Council and its partners.

The Council and its partners were asked to respond to the report, [A Future for Us](#), setting out how we intend to meet the recommendations. We welcome the focus on supporting children and young people, as they grow up, in a way that **prevents** challenges arising in the first place. One powerful lesson we have taken 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 our response to the Commission's report.



21st century skills for growing up

Desired outcome: Children and young people have the skills to manage their emotions and feelings, health, relationships, home and money

Summary of progress



Transforming social, emotional and mental health

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Develop ways that empower children and young people to manage their feelings and emotions • Link young people to social action by using social prescriptions • 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 • Support young people to have the skills and understanding about mental health and asking for help

The Islington Clinical Commissioning Group and Islington Council have put in place an offer to support young people's social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) that goes beyond traditional health settings. The SEMH offer was co-designed with young people, parents and carers, schools, social care, health, youth hubs and other services. It includes:

- a single point of access for children and young people to all social, emotional and mental health services (SEMH) via one central 'front door.'
- emotional wellbeing services offering counselling and therapeutic support
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Early help services
- Social prescribing, including support to access third sector services, through the Isledon Wellbeing service
- Emotional Wellbeing Workers linked to youth hubs
- An online counselling service for YP up until their 19th birthday (Kooth)

Youth led spaces: More services are delivered in community spaces where young people told us they feel more comfortable to access services. Barnardos, the Targeted Youth Support Counselling Service and the Isledon Wellbeing Service support children and young people at a range of community venues including youth hubs and other community venues such as Sobel Leisure Centre.

The new offer includes a new youth work role – Emotional Wellbeing Workers – who are focused on supporting young people in the community who need additional support from a trusted professional to support them in building confidence to access SEMH services. These new roles were specifically co-designed with young people.

Social prescribing: Funding was secured through a national pilot for Personal Health Budgets to support young people's emotional wellbeing. This pilot has been set up with Isledon who support SEMH in Islington's youth hubs. Personal health budgets enable young people to access community-based activities they are interested in and have the potential to impact positively on their mental health but where there may be a cost to access. The Emotional Wellbeing Workers employed by Isledon and local CAMHS colleagues oversee this initiative and monitor the impact on young people's wellbeing and the outcomes they set out to achieve.

Staff training in schools and youth settings: Islington has two programmes for whole school approaches: iMHARS (Islington Mental Health and Resilience in Schools) and iTIPS (Islington Trauma Informed Practices in Schools). iMHARS continues to work with schools to think about SEMH and whole school approaches to mental health. iTIPS continues to recruit more schools to join the programme. Further information about the outcomes and progress of iMHARS and iTIPS can be found [here](#). Mental Health First Aid Training also continues to be available to all schools.

A recent presentation at the Safeguarding Children Board resulted in formally adopting the trauma informed approach for those working with children and their families including youth settings. Trauma informed practice will become a key plank within the new approach to [early help](#).

Nature for Wellbeing: The Commission asked the council to consider how the natural environment could be used for a calm and peaceful reflection space for young people and families. The Islington Parks Service facilitated a donation from the Morris Foundation Trust to the Sunnyside Community Garden to create a new community garden. This project provides the local community (all ages) with a beautiful space to come together in or simply to have some personal quiet reflection. The space is accessible to the public, at all times, and free to use.

Early Help 0-19 • Vulnerable Adolescents

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: A commitment to building on Bright Start Islington for children aged 0-5 • Explore a way where public and community services work together to support young people to build their abilities and tackle past experiences.

In October 2018, Islington Council began an extensive review of the targeted early help council offer. Through working alongside families, we consulted practitioners and partners such as those across early childhood settings, play and youth work, schools, health, voluntary sector and community organisations and the police. The review drew on a wide range of evidence and insights to identify a model that enables a more relationship based, seamless offer of support for families, from earliest help in services provided to all children and families (also known as universal settings) to targeted family support.

The review recognised the need to further enhance its work across the council and with external partners to ensure a co-ordinated approach to supporting children and families in universal settings, as well as through targeted family support, to provide the right support at the right time.

The proposed new approach looks at developing a family support offer for 5-18 year olds across Islington alongside Bright Start for families from pregnancy to age 5 and Targeted Youth Support. The integrated offer for families with children aged 0-19 will have a shared local area approach, a focus on developing those who work with children and their families and will deliver an offer that supports the local community and wider partners.

This builds on the key principle that early help is a function or approach that everyone does, rather than a service. It sits within a shared vision of early help as everybody's business and recognises that most families prefer to manage their challenges either within their local community, or with some extra help from a trusted professional in their local area they already have a relationship with. When this isn't enough, they want additional help to be integrated into what is already being offered instead of moving into a whole new service.

The proposed Early Help offer incorporates five key principles:

- **Responsiveness and flexibility** - being in the front door/universal settings – providing a team around the family/worker approach for universal services and families who require targeted support.
- **Graduated enabling approach** – that builds on resilience and empowers families, enables communities and partners and ensures that there is scope for conversations to access the full range of universal and targeted support and services available in the local area.
- **Focused on outcomes** for the whole family, whole population and individual family outcomes
- **Consistent approach** – rooted in consistent and high-quality skills and practice that places families at the centre particularly those that build meaningful relationships, an understanding of children's needs, how their experiences are expressed through behaviour and supports

collaboration and change with them. This sits alongside the requirements for specialisms across the age ranges.

- **Accessibility** – ensuring services are community based, are where families are, based in local areas, ensuring the messaging normalises rather than stigmatises access to help, and ensuring that advertising makes the services visible and accessible.

During 2017/18, the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee conducted a review on the co-ordination and join up of services for vulnerable adolescents. It concluded that the council and its partners recognise that providing joined up services is the best approach to supporting vulnerable young people. The Committee advocated for further actions which have been implemented. The full progress report on support to vulnerable adolescents can be found [here](#). The Committee also made several recommendations to help reduce exclusion from school following a review in 2018/19. The council are working with schools to improve attendance recognising the importance of access and engagement with school as a protective factor.

Other approaches are being explored such as supporting young people and their families through Family Group Conferencing in the Cally area following the death of an Islington young person. The council will be investing further funding to ensure stability for children looked after by the Council and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and to improve employment and skills outcomes for vulnerable young adults.

Islington Play Offer • Play Streets

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: A commitment to building life skills in the primary school years and developed through play – in adventure playgrounds, parks, leisure centres and play streets. Make the Islington Play Offer visible – in one place – to young children and parents • A commitment to organise more [Play Streets](#) and broaden these out to schools and estates.

Following the Commission's report, the council focused on identifying what was needed for adventure play to ensure these meet the needs of children, young people and families. The Play and Youth team



secured two providers, Awesome CiC and Islington Play Association, to separately operate, deliver and manage Islington's 12 adventure playgrounds for over a period of 15 years. Adventure playgrounds support children and young people's physical, social and emotional health and well-being as well as their overall development and can be a protective factor for those children at risk. Adventure playgrounds improve children's outcomes through positive relationships with play workers who identify and support children that may need additional help as they develop ('earliest help'). Some breakfast and lunch clubs are offered during school holidays at very low cost, which contribute to the borough's overall childcare offer for

families.

Islington's commitment to organise more Play Streets continues. The number of Play Streets has increased from 11 to 17 operating across the borough at various times throughout the year. This is more than most London boroughs and we receive frequent requests for advice from other local authorities. There are certain application times during the year for new applications to be approved and we expect new applications in the coming months as the weather improves. We are also planning more Play Street promotion in the coming months.

Islington continues to encourage residents to set up Play Streets on their streets as they help to keep children healthy, active and they help reduce community isolation. Promotion is via schools/nurseries, London Play and the Islington Play Association as well as the council's website. Further information about setting up a Play Street can be found on the Council website, here:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/roads/play-street>

The Young and The Digital: online and digital support offer

The Fair Futures Commission’s Call to Action: Explore how digital technology can support young people to manage their feelings and emotions • Explore tried and tested digital technology to support young people and parents. Integrate this as part of the service or support offer for them.

The council and local health organisations agreed to include a digital solution as part of the redesigned [social, emotional and mental health pathway](#). Launched in September 2018, Islington’s new online counselling platform, [Kooth](#), forms a key part of the new SEMH model. Kooth is a free online counselling and emotional well-being support service providing young people aged from 11 up to their 19th birthday in Islington with a free, safe and secure means of accessing support from a professional team of qualified counsellors. Young people can access this service anonymously through the Kooth website.

“I’m not alone! My friend introduced me to an online group where we support each other. But sometimes you need someone there who actually knows...someone professional.”

As well as direct one-to-one online counselling, Kooth also provides a range of support through chat rooms and dedicated articles on specific issues such as self-management techniques. Islington services are able to signpost to this online support to use alongside any direct input they provide to a young person they’re working with. Between September 2018 and November 2019, there were 505 new registrations by children and young people who accessed the full range of services multiple times. Islington has moved into the second year of Kooth.

A range of online and digital applications (apps) to support wellbeing and mindfulness were explored as part of a dedicated project looking at local digital solutions. 60 digital champions were trained in supporting young people to use apps to support emotional wellbeing. NHS England have now developed an App Library that sets out a range of tested apps that are approved and recommended for use.

Next steps

<p>Coming up</p>	<p>Early Help 0-19 • Vulnerable Adolescents</p> <p>Taking forward the new model for early help, continuing to review support for vulnerable adolescents and embedding early help within the new Fairer Together partnership approach</p> <p>Islington Play Offer</p> <p>Better and co-ordinated marketing and communication activity for all opportunities for play in different places and spaces across Islington</p> <p>Transforming social, emotional and mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and embedding the SEMH model as part of a wider offer • Working with young people to think about support positive SEMH and self-management • Embedding the use of personal budgets to promote social prescriptions and undertaking a review of impact to inform future developments <p>The Young and The Digital: online and digital support offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding the online offer as part of Islington’s SEMH offer • Supporting other local services to learn and make use of the opportunities that the digital landscape can provide as part of a service or support offer.
<p>Starting up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the council’s staff volunteering programme to recruit staff to ‘community/real/goal model’ roles and inviting local businesses and community leaders to take part. • Encouraging statutory PSHE

Next steps

- Working across the partnership to put in place practical ways for young people to learn how to live independently and prepare for managing a home and their money
 - Supporting young council employees' emotional health and wellbeing
 - Reviewing [Izzy-info](#) for what's needed for an online one stop shop
 - Exploring community use of school buildings
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21st century skills for work and the future world of work

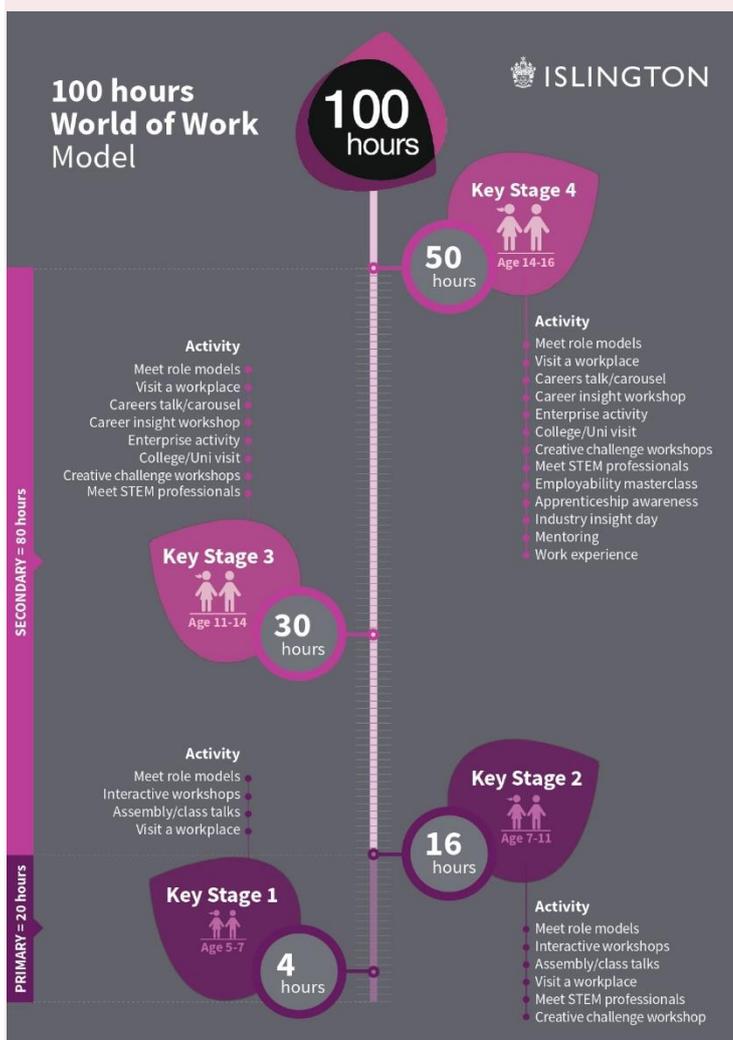
Desired outcome: Children and young people are prepared for work and the future of work

Summary of progress



100 hours' experiences of the world of work by age 16 and work experience • Business talent and mentoring networks • Employers preparing young people for the world of work

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Develop great experiences of the world of work. All Islington young people would benefit from at least 100 hours experience of the world of work by the time they reach the age of 16. Work experience should be a priority. • Build on business talent and mentoring networks for young people • Encourage employers' contribution to preparing young people for the world of work



On 21 January 2020, Islington Council launched the 100 hours World of Work initiative, an ambitious target of ensuring all young people in the borough have 100 hours' experience of the world of work by age 16. This includes career insights, work tasters, mentoring, employability workshops, careers events and workplace visits, all available to Islington schools and education providers for free. It is a key building block in Islington's wider aim of building a fairer, more inclusive economy that works for all residents - this includes the young people growing up in Islington today.

The initiative is the product of extensive consultation with schools and local businesses to create positive change for the next generation. The model gives children and young people not only an understanding of the workplace, but the skills to thrive when they enter it.

A [web portal](#) curates all of the brilliant offers from business and other partners to support schools and young people to choose and book from a menu of activities. 37 businesses are currently signed up to offer activities through the online menu. New employers include cyber security firm Risk Ledger, Institute of Physics and the Southbank Centre. Social

value commitments from providers will also see training and work opportunities for young people in tech and fashion/garment making.

Feedback from young people, schools and businesses has been positive. As well as the benefits to young people such as equitable access to opportunities including business talent and mentoring, to schools such as the relationships and support from businesses, there has also been benefits to businesses such as the skills that their staff are able to develop, and doing something very practical and very local to build a future talent pipeline for their business or industry sector.

Future world of work • Alliance for preparing young people for work and the future of work

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Prepare young people with the skills to secure jobs in the future, such as creativity, new ways of working and decision making • Equip schools and young people with up to date information about the future of the world of work to inform careers education and choices • Form an alliance for preparing young people for work and future of work.

Launched in March 2019, and sitting alongside the 100 hours initiative, the [11 by 11 Pledge](#) translates the wealth of cultural opportunities in and around Islington into a sustainable enrichment programme for all children and young people attending Islington schools. Delivered in partnership with schools and local arts and cultural partners, all children and young people in Islington will:

- Have 11 outstanding cultural experiences by Year 11
- Be inspired by talks delivered by creative organisations in school assemblies
- Be able to learn through a suite of teaching resources developed using materials provided by local cultural organisations



The 11 by 11 Pledge makes culture and creativity an intrinsic part of every child's learning and development. For primary schools, it incorporates cultural enrichment into the core curriculum. For secondary schools, it promotes how cultural enrichment can translate into progression routes for higher education and work.

Since the programme launched, over 10,000 pupil experiences have been offered through 11 by 11. 67 schools have engaged with activities for students or CPD sessions for teachers and Cultural Leads. This is over 90% of the 72 schools 11 by 11 aim to work with. 74 cultural organisations have offered 11 by 11 activities in at least one window over the past year and 54 schools have now nominated a Cultural Lead teacher to champion 11 by 11 within their school.

The council plays a significant convening role to progress a 'Team Islington' approach to preparing young people and young adults for work and the future of work. The Employment Board embeds an approach across the council to increasing employment outcomes for residents who need help the most. From 2020, a Youth Employment Project Board will focus on the approach to improving employment and skills outcomes for vulnerable young adults. The Careers Network shares learning and practice across all schools with opportunities linked to Labour Market Information as a regular feature.

Affordable workspaces with childcare facilities

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Islington Council and affordable workspace providers to test how affordable workspaces with childcare facilities for young parents or parents with children could work.

The council’s affordable workspace programme, spaces where local people can work for free or at a significantly reduced rent, is going from strength to strength. The Inclusive Economy team have secured funding and approaches to make affordable workspaces aligned to the needs of Islington residents a reality in Islington. Following successful bids through the Greater London Authority (GLA) Good Growth Fund, two affordable workspaces launched in Finsbury Park focusing on fashion retail (garment production) and tech. A further £700k has been secured through Good Growth Fund 2 and £3.5 million secured to build an Inclusive Knowledge Economy.

As part of its inclusive economy approach, the council’s procurement framework for affordable workspace now requires providers to deliver added value that benefits the local economy and local residents looking for space in Islington to start or develop their business. These commitments cover supporting unemployed women back into work, training opportunities, apprenticeships and outreach work in local schools and colleges.

The IE team explored various scenarios for affordable workspaces with childcare facilities. Proposals for integrating crèche facilities will need to be assessed on a case by case basis due to the constraints that each space may have, for example the landlord, lease, conditions or layout. However, affordable workspace operators will be encouraged to map childcare provision in the surrounding areas and ensure that this is considered when developing their offer once appointed.

Next steps

<p>Coming up</p>	<p>Experiences of the world of work and work experience • Business talent and mentoring networks • Employers preparing young people for the world of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding 100 hours across more Islington schools • A targeted approach to world of work activities for priority groups of young people, for example, children looked after by the Council • Identifying opportunities for young people to access WoW activity outside of school and developing a work experience strategy <p>Future world of work • Alliance for preparing young people for work and the future of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills strategy to support Islington residents acquiring sector relevant skills and accessing good quality employment opportunities • Implementing the Inclusive Knowledge Economy which includes creating internships and work experience opportunities for young people with tech employers, and outreach activities to bring ‘tech’ to youth and community settings
<p>Starting up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting young entrepreneurs



A child-friendly place to live and grow

Desired outcome: Children and young people live in a safe community with space to grow, live and play

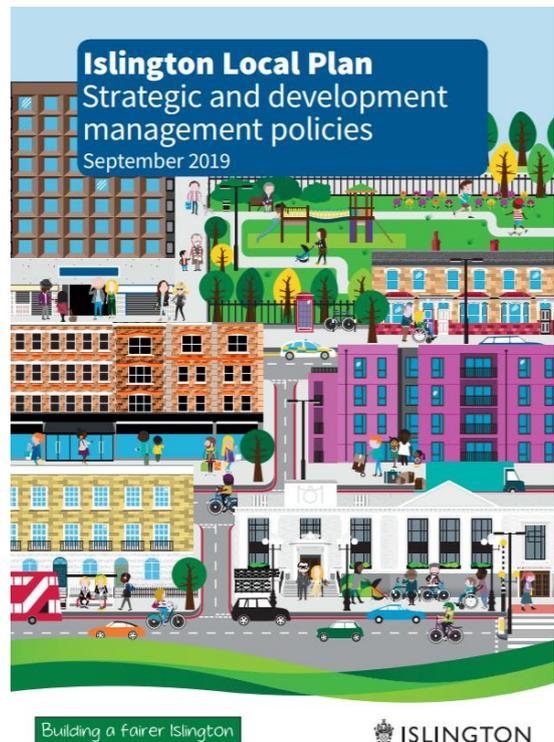
Summary of progress

Local Plan: Child-friendly place

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: use the next version of the Local Plan to set out a vision and design for how Islington becomes a child-friendly place. This includes helping some of the recommendations in this section happen

Building on the insights from children and young people through the Fair Futures Commission, the review of the Local Plan has refined and improved the relevant policies as far as is possible to reflect the goal of making Islington a child-friendly place to live and grow. It is explicit that planning is an important tool to facilitate the recommendations of the Commission to deliver child-friendly places. This includes:

- A specific strategic objective to ensure a child-friendly environment to make Islington the best place for all young people to grow up in.
- Policies to protect existing facilities/spaces and requiring provision of new play space as part of new development.
- A policy outlining that provision should be made for formal play space and playable public space in addition to any formal play space provision. This playable space should involve alterations to spaces outside of playgrounds to make them more usable for children and young peoples' active play. Playable space can be provided in a range of places including on local streets and parks, or on the public realm of private developments, and can allow children to safely move around neighbourhoods more independently; this involves reducing traffic volumes and speed.
- Play and informal recreation areas must incorporate trees and greenery wherever possible and form an integral part of a child friendly built environment.
- A policy to promote green infrastructure such as open space to meets multiple objectives including the encouragement of social interaction and provision of play space.
- Setting out key design principles which all development proposals must comply with. This includes making sure development is connected for example helping to improve permeability and movement, improving safety and promoting positive social contact – and inclusive – e.g. people are placed at the heart of the design process to create places which are convenient and enjoyable for everyone to use.



The Local Plan review process is a lengthy formal process and is currently being inspected. Subject to the outcome, it is anticipated that the new Local Plan will be formally adopted in the Autumn of 2020.

Involving young people in major development projects

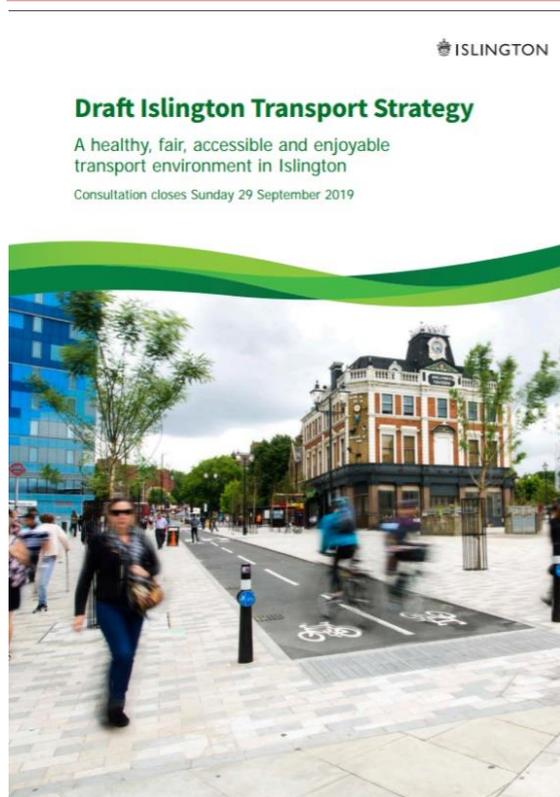
The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Consult children and young people at the earliest stages of the design, development and delivery of major development proposals including social housing • Create a community feel and ownership of both place and the community with young people by involving them in the design of housing and other development projects.

The New Build team are scoping and exploring a prototype for involving young people in a New Build scheme from design to construction. The discovery phase has identified opportunities to co-design the approach with architects, young people and contractors. The prototype will also connect to the 100 hours experience of the world of work initiative. Similarly, the applicant for the proposals to redevelop the Holloway Prison will be involving children and young people on landscape and play space design.

Please also see: **People as Partners**

Planning transport and travel opportunities with children and young people

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Actively engage children, young people and families in planning the important transport and travel opportunities in Islington.



The publication of the final Islington Transport Strategy was subject to delays in 2018 and 2019. The final strategy is due to be adopted this year (currently proposed for May). A full public consultation of [the draft strategy](#) ran between July and September 2019.

The Transport Planning team engaged with young people at Soapbox youth centre, received feedback via an online survey and stakeholder groups such as the Islington Clean Air Parents and London Sport and distributed consultation material via the schools and children's bulletins, Isledon group, SEN schools coordinator, libraries and community centres, grant funded organisations.

The draft strategy outlines ambitious programmes such as Liveable Neighbourhoods, school streets, walking and cycling accessibility, cycle training, school travel, play streets, safer routes to estates, road safety education, school air quality and pedestrian accessibility.

To support children and young people with disabilities, we are developing an independent travel training programme.

Contextual safeguarding: identifying themes and interventions with young people

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Services working with young people to explore how young people can communicate concerns about their safety in particular places and spaces in Islington.

Between November 2018 and September 2019, perspectives and insights into the lived experiences of young people were communicated. Similar to the findings in the Fair Futures Commission report, the key issues from these were:

Concerns about living/studying in Islington

- Knife crime and gangs remains the most concerning area of concern for young people

- Communication with adult was important – young people were concerned about how adults perceive them and that they will be judged or dismissed if they make disclosures
- A number of young people have negative perception of the police due to their experience of stop and search

What is currently working well and what makes young people and their friends feel safer

- Young people stated that youth clubs etc are great but that they struggle to identify those opportunities and places which are just for them. Advertising don't work and the best way for them to find out about those places is by the word of mouth through other young people.
- Young people feel safer in areas where there is good street lighting or busy streets where there are shops and crowds
- Young people stated that they benefited from schools' assemblies and training sessions delivered by specialist professionals

What young people would like to change. What else can be done to make them, their friends and their family feel safer.

- More free sport activities and variety of sport activities especially for girls (i.e. football) and better publicity around what is on offer for young people
- More practical subjects in schools, i.e. how to do a CV / how to get a mortgage
- More opportunities for young people to engage in employment or training, especially those ones where we get paid

The feedback from young people will be incorporated into the review of Working Together for A Safer Islington Youth Safety Strategy.

From 'No Ball Games' to Active Estates

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Review signage on estates with children, young people and adults, such as the 'No Balls Games' signs. Use positive messages.



The Active Spaces project has been established to focus on three to four estates across Islington with the ambition to promote shared environment and communal facilities to support health, play, physical activity and access to activities. This includes a 'No Ball Games' signage review that will actively involve young and adult residents. The aim is not to simply remove the signs but to engage the community in reviewing the signage and integrate routes to facilities that support healthy, physical, leisure and play activities.

Until the review is completed, no further "No Ball Games" signs will be placed on estates. The

Greenspace team are also designing new signage for parks.

Overcrowding: Drying / communal laundry facilities

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Develop ways to reduce the impact of overcrowding for children and young people on their long-term health conditions and their education and employability opportunities - Drying or communal laundry facilities or the design/redesign of flats to minimise the development of damp which affects conditions such as asthma

The council's Neighbourhoods team have been conducting a pilot of communal drying facilities on Highbury Quadrant estate. A sizeable room was identified on the estate and set up involved engaging with residents and ensuring the room was fire safety compliant.

Each resident and the caretaker have a key to access the room. The caretaker completes regular checks to ensure that nothing is left behind, maintenance and the room is secured.

The team feels that this has proved to be a useful pilot and enabled a number of Highbury Quadrant residents with limited space to complete their laundry whilst avoiding condensation and damp.

Further roll out will be on a case by case basis involving sufficient resident participation or interest and resources required to make the facility fire safety compliant.

Study space and support for young people living in overcrowded homes

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Develop ways to reduce the impact of overcrowding for children and young people on their long-term health conditions and their education and employability opportunities - enabling access to good study space in places such as libraries, leisure centres and businesses

In September 2019, the Islington Libraries Service launched the refurbished study space at Central Library. Study space has increased by 25% and usage has steadily been increasing. All of the desks have power and Wi-Fi. Group study rooms are popular as is use of the study facilities with young people.

The Library is open 7 days a week, until 8pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 5pm on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday and from 1pm – 5pm on Sunday.

Ronald Crosby QC @olly_robinson · Jan 11, 2020
Islington Central Library (2 mins walk from Highbury & Islington Station) has a huge room full of desks with good WiFi and power sockets, in case this is useful to anyone



Ronald Crosby QC
@olly_robinson

Worth adding that it's almost completely full of young people studying. Libraries are cool lads

1 2:56 PM - Jan 11, 2020

Child-friendly public spaces • An attractive and safe place for children, young people and families to live

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: Change the culture and design of park spaces to create a welcome and inclusive playable landscape that is child and young person friendly. Design public spaces in ways that include and benefit all residents • Community development approaches are used for spaces where there are conflicting uses by young and older residents • A commitment to improve the basics of good quality surroundings including the visual appearance, safety, lighting and mix of use.

The lived experience of children aged 3 to 16 years' use Islington parks: As parks are an integral part of children's happiness and development, Islington Parks Service commissioned Islington Play Association (IPA) to write a report about Paradise Park which included the views of children from the local neighbourhood, so that children and young people could express their opinions. The report provided the service with excellent insight into how children interact with our parks spaces and what they would like to see more of going forward. This information has been shared with staff responsible

for designing and maintaining the spaces to ensure these points are taking on board and implemented where possible.

Improvements to park play facilities for children and young people: Over the past year, the Parks Service completed the redevelopment of two children’s play areas in Milner Square and Astey’s Row. The redevelopment for Milner Square was so successful that it won the 2019 Street Design Awards for Children’s Play. The design development for Astey’s Row heavily involved young people and their input was reflected in the end design.

Bingfield Park redevelopment – testing new ways of involving young people: The Parks Service worked with Copenhagen Youth Project (CYP) and the Youth and Community Team to engage young people affected by the recent death of a local young person. The young people were involved in the design and installation of a community seating space and garden. They were also involved in the building of this space and it is hoped this will continue as active involvement in its maintenance. The service plan to use this relationship to involve young people in the wider redevelopment of the park, ensuring their voices and input is heard.

School Streets: There are now 13 streets closed to vehicular traffic at school start and finish times, creating 13 school street schemes at primary schools in Islington. The schemes aim to improve air quality, road safety, sustainable travel and promote physical activity in young people. Over the coming years we plan to install school streets at all primary schools where feasible. Where it is not feasible, the council will look to develop public realm improvements or screening schemes.

Cycling safely and independently: Bikeability trains children how to ride safely, confidently and independently. In 2018-19, Islington’s Public Realm trained 1630 children and young people through a Bikeability course, 1295 on school courses and 335 on holiday courses. Holiday courses take place at Wray Crescent and Rosemary Gardens. In 2018-19, 64 adults and related children were trained in Family cycle skills sessions where small groups of 2-3 are taught how to ride safely together.

Resurfacing of four 3G football pitches across the borough: The council has resurfaced four of Islington’s 3G AstroTurf football pitches, ensuring that these valuable facilities continue to provide opportunities for people of all ages to engage in sporting activities and casual play. The improved facilities can be found at Rosemary Gardens, Whittington Park, Elthorne Park and Paradise Park.

Moreland Street Public Realm Scheme: A public realm scheme has been designed to prioritise the road in favour of pedestrians and cyclists and in particular for children attending Moreland Primary School. The school was actively involved in helping shape the design of the new road layout. The scheme was recently awarded MODESHIFT Excellence in Walking 2019 Award.

Installation of CCTV Cameras to enforce heavy ‘lorry ban’ in designated residential areas: There are currently two cameras enforcing the 7.5 tonne weight restriction located on Copenhagen Street and Mildmay Park. There is also one camera enforcing a 3.5 tonne weight restriction on Drayton Park. There are various width restrictions across the borough which are also used to prevent HGVs from using residential roads as a cut-through.

Next steps

<p>Coming up</p>	<p>Child-friendly public spaces • An attractive and safe place for children, young people and families to live</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing additional cameras on lorry ban streets <p>Involving young people in major development projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the prototype New Build involvement of young people • Implementing opportunities to involve young people in the redevelopment of Holloway Prison
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Next steps

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing together and cascading the learning from all projects involving young people in major developments across organisations <p>Planning transport and travel opportunities with children and young people</p> <p>Adopting and delivering final transport strategy with specific programmes. Consultation to be carried with young people on schemes related to them.</p> <p>From No Ball Games to Active Estates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing signage on estates and in parks with young and adult residents with options for replacements. <p>Contextual safeguarding: identifying themes and interventions with young people</p> <p>Continuing to see Islington through the eyes of young people, understanding their lived experiences about safety in different places and spaces and co-producing solutions with them to create a safer Islington</p> <p>Overcrowding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing further study space, space for music practice and support for young people living in overcrowded homes • Developing further options to ease overcrowding
<p>Starting up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Islington transport routes



Connected communities

Desired outcome: Young people, parents and carers can lead change in their communities and support each other

Summary of progress

People as Partners

The Fair Futures Commission’s Call to Action: 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'

The focus of exploring co-production with children and young people – particularly those with 'hidden voices' - is located within non-children’s services areas to enable spreading good practice throughout organisations in Islington.

A joint project between the council’s Communities and the Inclusive Economy teams has begun the journey for this approach through the development of community space in North Islington as part of the Good Growth Fund. Following on from an open application process to lease 48 Seven Sisters Road, the successful applicants will be working with the architects to engage and involve young people and young adults in the co-design of the interior design of the building and the programme for improving employment outcomes. There is also an emphasis on enabling the legacy of 48 Seven Sisters Road as a site that provides services for Islington’s Black Caribbean and wider Black, Asian and minority ethnic community.

Next steps

Coming up	<p>People as Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the successful applicants to put in place and implement a co-production plan for the building design and employment programme for 48 Seven Sisters Road
Starting up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People as Partners: co-designing space at West Library as a youth employability hub and consider how children can co-design improvements to adventure playgrounds Joining up youth and parent/carer leadership and social action opportunities so it is clearer for young people and parents/carers about how they can get involved and monitoring of the social and employment skills they gain from their involvement Piloting an approach to including social action on a future contract



Alliances for ambitious and fairer futures

Desired outcome: 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.

Summary of progress

Child-adolescent-young adult pathway for those with learning difficulties or disabilities (Progression to Adulthood)

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: 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.

A programme of work is now well established as joint approach by Islington CCG and Islington Council to disability across all ages.

An Islington Progression to Adulthood Board is now in place, chaired by the council's Corporate Director for People. This board has full representation across all key partners involved in supporting young people with disabilities. It is also leading the development of a multi-agency Progression to Adulthood Strategy.

Transition to Adulthood pathways have been reviewed and published on Islington SEND Local Offer webpage. Additional social care posts have been recruited to work with young adults who have a diagnosis of Autism but no Learning Disability meaning they are not eligible for support from Islington Learning Disability Partnership (ILDLP) but still have eligible needs under the Care Act 2014. An options appraisal is currently being scoped to consider how a local model is developed that is able to meet the needs of **all** young adults with additional needs.

A revised and stronger Children's Trust Board

The Fair Futures Commission's Call to Action: 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: Organise opportunities, ideas and resources from different people, places and organisations • Take forward these recommendations • Lead the Guarantee and health and wellbeing investment and priorities for children • Hold an annual Fair Futures Summit that checks 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.

The new Fair Futures group will be the vehicle for a collaborative approach to making Islington the best place to grow up in. We will look at how this fits with the emerging Fairer Together Partnership and emerging work around the three Start Well, Live Well and Age Well themes as work develops over the coming months.

One of the successes of the Fair Futures Commission stems from how the conversations were rooted in the pursuit of making Islington a great place to grow up in rather than the performance of individual services or organisations. This approach required leaders to move away from thinking from an organisational perspective and was driven by the way in which the Fair Futures Ambitions were defined. The Fair Futures group will continue the following purpose, vision and desired outcomes set out in the Fair Futures final report.

The new Fair Futures group replaces the Children and Families Board (also known as the Children's Trust Board). Children's Trust Boards are statutory under section 10 of the Children Act 2004. It's form, structure and function are at the discretion of the local authority if it is fulfilling the requirement to be a place where focus is on improving the five statutory children's wellbeing outcomes.

Building on the Commission, we have committed the new partnership group to regularly listen to and understand the experiences and challenges for children and young people, their families, and frontline practitioners. At least two people aged between 18 and 25 will be recruited for the new partnership and

is potentially a progression route for Youth Councillors, CAIS members or other young people from our established youth forums at the end of their term. It is proposed that a young adult is invited to chair the new partnership with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families as Deputy Chair. To ensure that children can influence and shape their futures, a project is being scoped for local area children’s forums for children aged 6 to 12 years. This is based on model piloted by Awesome in the Mildmay ward. These forums would be clustered around the adventure playgrounds and ensure that this age group have a creative means for voice and influence on the issues they care about.

Next steps

<p>Coming up</p>	<p>Child-adolescent-young adult pathway for those with learning difficulties or disabilities (Progression to Adulthood)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing off the Progression to Adulthood Strategy and putting the action plan in place <p>A revised and stronger Children's Trust Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalising the shape of, and recruiting members including the young adult chair to, the new Fair Futures Board
<p>Starting up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and communicating an 'Islington Guarantee / Pledge / Entitlement' for children and young people, from birth to adulthood. • Developing the Children’s Forums