



ISLINGTON

# Their Ambitions, Our Future: Children and young people at the centre

## Executive Member Annual Report

Cllr Michelline Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young  
People and Families

October 2020 – July 2021



# Covid19: Key moments for council services supporting children and young people



- Support for children of critical workers, vulnerable children with a social worker and those with an EHCP during the lockdown period including our close support to secure their attendance.
- Free wifi to our care leavers
- Devices organised and allocated to support children with their learning
- Food parcel deliveries vulnerable families in partnership with voluntary sector partners
- Investment in supporting the increasing for social, emotional and mental health support
- Ensuring other key services for children and young people including early years and childcare settings, adventure playgrounds, youth centres and hubs and libraries were open to those who needed it
- Face to face contact with children during the pandemic based on a dynamic risk assessment of the need for multi-agency support. Gradual resumption of face to face contact with children, young people and their parents/carers for other services
- Programmes of work to ensure that groups such as Black Caribbean pupils make good progress and attain as well as their peers
- Taking forward actions from our joint study with the Youth Justice Board to address the disproportionality of Black, Asian and other minority ethnic young people in the youth justice system
- Responding to community safety issues for young people

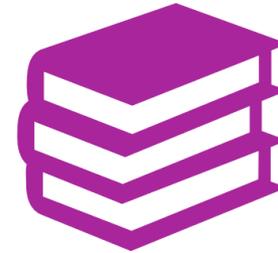
# The baton change: from January 2021



1. Parent Voice Forum



2. Young People's Forum



3. Book boxes



4. Youth procurement and provision



5. No Need to Exclude



ISLINGTON

Imagine



Inspire



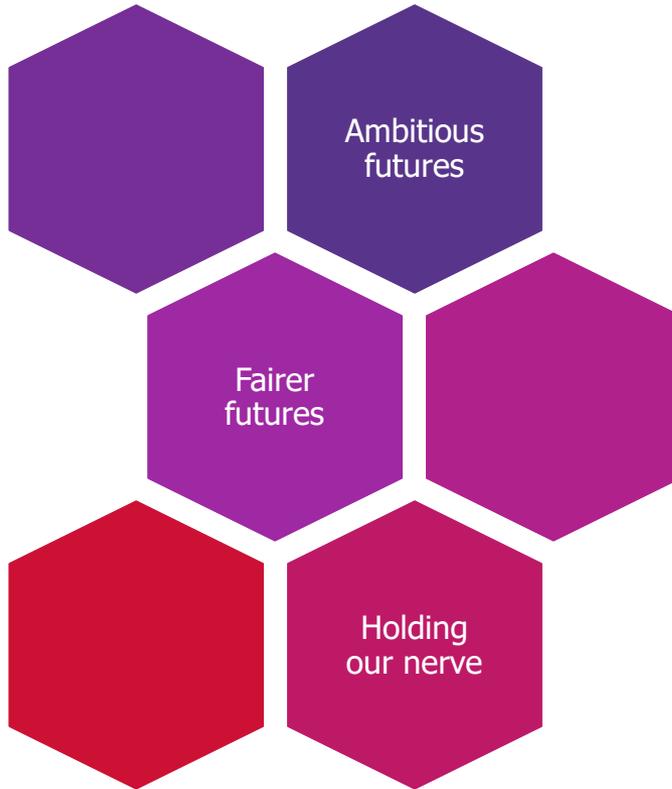
Ignite



A Fair  
**Islington** for  
Children and  
Young  
People

Ensuring children are  
safe, cared for, succeed  
in learning and thrive  
post Covid19

# Children and young people at the centre: grabbing good opportunities from the Covid19 challenges



- Covid19 brought people together to do things differently and join up with children and young people at the centre.
- A 'new normal' means rebuilding back better:
  - A focus on equalities and equities that affect childhoods and life chances
  - Adapting swiftly to change to support children and families
  - New understanding of children and their families and their connection to everyone working with them
  - Care leavers – more we can do as a council that reduces isolation and opens up avenues for them
  - Learning from the device rollout - increasing digital access and internet connectivity
  - Strengthening participation and involvement of children and parents
  - All parts of the safeguarding system stepped up and we need to keep this
  - Strengthening relationships with external stakeholders to improve children's outcomes through individual actions e.g. headteachers.
  - Funding and income across services and support for children and young people in a post-Covid Islington



### **Lifelong learning and enrichment**

To enable and empower children, young people and adults with the learning and skills for life, work and the future of work supported by a high quality and high performing, inclusive education and skills system



### **Early Help and Working Together for A Safer Islington**

To enable and deliver system-wide approaches with local partners to intervene early and prevent problems from escalating among children, young people, their families and the wider community.

- Enrichment Strategy implementation

- Children's Social Care Transformation – Prevention
- Holiday Activity and Food Offer
- New universal youth work offer
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy
- Preparation for Youth Justice inspection



### **Care, choice and control**

To empower children, young people and adults to have choice and control over their care and support based on what matters to them, their individual strengths and needs and within systems that builds on the expertise of people, families and communities



### **Maximising independence**

To enable young people and adults who need support to either transition to and/or live healthy, independent and fulfilled lives with strong networks

- Children's Social Care Transformation Programme - In house fostering recruitment and new models of care, housing
- SEND Review and preparation for local area inspection

- Lifelong corporate parenting



## **Reinvent and rebuild**

To mobilise the talents of our staff and learning from Covid19 to design forward differently as Islington - the place and people - recover

- School organisation and planning
- Working in partnership with schools to identify and facilitate their work to support children in a post-Covid community
- Early Years, Childcare and Bright Start: The take-up of places for early years and childcare recover to pre-Covid levels and high levels of face to face Bright Start activity is in place for families with young children

