

Report of: Leader of the Council, Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 12th January 2023

Ward(s): All Wards

Fairer Together, Early Intervention & Prevention Strategy

1 Synopsis

1.1 The Fairer Together strategy and delivery plan is designed to provide a shared vision for how we will work with communities to deliver high quality early intervention and prevention as a means of tackling inequality in Islington.

2 Recommendation

2.1 To approve and adopt the Fairer Together Early Intervention and prevention strategy attached in Appendix A to this report.

3 Background and Context

3.1 Islington has a long history of commitment to and investment in early intervention and prevention. Fairer Together developed in 2019, as an evolution of the earlier Localities programme, to bring partners together around a shared ambition to use early intervention and prevention to shape integrated approaches to tackling inequality.

3.2 Since then, first through Covid and then through the establishment of the Fairer Together Directorate in 2021, we have been testing new approaches to delivery of early intervention and prevention in conjunction with partners. Key highlights include:

- The development of the We Are Islington Covid response
- Putting tackling inequality at the heart of the Council's mission through the Challenging Inequality programme and then the new *Islington Together: for a more equal future* strategic plan
- Increased outreach from Bright Start and Bright Futures into community centres, places of worship and alongside food distribution hubs
- Establishing Bright Lives coaching for adults in the borough who need additional support
- Development of a new Fairer Together Hub offer in each of our three localities with two of these due to open in January 2023
- Securing additional funding to transform the way we support Young Black Men and Mental Health
- Creation of a new locality-based approach to Community Partnerships
- Let's Talk Islington as a mass community engagement exercise reaching over 6,000 residents

3.3 Over the last few months, we have drawn together learning from these various developments to inform the ambition for early intervention and prevention going forward, in line with *Islington Together: for a more equal future*, and set this out in this out in the Fairer Together Strategy attached at Appendix A.

3.4 Overview of the Strategy

3.5 Fairer Together is a strategy for delivering high quality early intervention and prevention services in partnership with the community to tackle endemic inequalities. It is designed to provide a compass for the Council and partners to come together to deliver a shared vision and ambition for early intervention and prevention under the Fairer Together banner with clear principles to direct our collective efforts and a clear description of what we will deliver. It articulates four bold aspirations for our residents: **equity, well-being, security and belonging** and is divided into five distinct sections:

1. Sets out our shared ambition, vision, strategic context, our rationale for this strategy and a case for change
2. Outlines our joint aspirations for Early intervention and prevention for the future and what we want to be different for Islington residents in 2030
3. Articulates how we will work together as a collective coalition to drive forward and deliver on our ambitions
4. Sets out importantly 'how we will achieve our ambitions' with a clear description of each of the transformation delivery programmes aims, objectives and outcomes
5. Provides the governance and monitoring framework of how we are going to make this strategy happen in practice

3.6 Delivering our ambitions

3.7 Alongside the strategy is a transformative delivery plan that exemplifies how we will prioritise activities that will deliver system change and accelerate impact where it is needed the most. The plan for delivery is cut across three Fairer together workstreams:

1. **Delivering Early Help Services:** we will provide support to residents before or as soon as issues arise
2. **Empowering communities:** we will enable communities to have control over their lives
3. **System change & innovation:** we will transform how we work together by consistently evaluating and improving our practice

Each delivery programme is underpinned by a theory of change clearly articulating its aims, key activities, outputs, impact and outcomes as well as an evaluative framework illustrating key performance measures and evidence of impact. An action plan and impact dashboard will be developed for each individual programme with clear outcomes, accountable leads and timescales for implementation that will be monitored through Fairer Together governance arrangements.

3.8 Engagement methodology & approach

3.9 The Fairer Together strategy was developed in collaboration with partners, stakeholders and residents in a series of design workshops which enabled opportunities for cross sector fertilisation of new ideas, harnessing multidisciplinary expertise and a space for creation of shared aspirations for the future. The draft strategy in Appendix A is reflective of the collective insights and efforts of the partnership.

3.10 The Fairer Together strategy was presented at Leadership on 17 October, at Corporate Management Board on 18 October and at the Leader's Policy Group on the 1 November. It is also being discussed at a series of partnership boards and executive boards of individual partner agencies to ensure collective buy in and embed greater co ownership across the Islington system.

3.11 Monitoring progress, impact, and outcomes

3.12 A robust governance framework will be developed to rigorously evaluate outcomes and evidence the impact upon our residents. The establishment of the Fairer Together Partnership Board will bring together key stakeholders across the partnership including Health, Adult Social Care, Police, VCS, Children's Services, Housing etc to oversee the successful delivery of Fairer Together programmes to ensure we are meeting the objectives and aspirations of the strategy. To ensure effective performance monitoring arrangements are in place a performance impact dashboard will be produced to track indicators of success and outcomes for residents. The Fairer Together Partnership Board will report directly into the Islington Togethers Leader Group, chaired by the Leader of the Council.

In recognition of the fact that delivery of this strategy needs to be co-owned by colleagues across the Council and the wider partnership, the Council is intending to rename the Fairer Together Directorate as Community Engagement & Wellbeing. This directorate will continue to have a key role in both coordinating, and contributing to, delivery of the strategy. Subject to consultation, the Corporate Director for Community Engagement & Wellbeing will chair the Fairer Together Partnership Board.

4 Implications

4.1 Financial Implications:

4.1.1 This report is presenting a new Fairer Together Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy. There are no financial implications for the Executive to note in relation to this.

4.2 Legal Implications:

4.2.1 While it is correct to say there is no specific statutory duty to produce a strategic plan, it is a necessary element of good governance. The performance regime established by the Local Government Act 1999 as amended by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 together with supporting legislation, requires the Council to work to achieve continuous improvement and best value. A strategic plan, its objectives and in time how the delivery measures up in terms of outcomes, are therefore one of the signifiers of a well-run local authority.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

4.3.1 We aim to reduce the environmental impact of the council, residents and local organisations and delivering the net zero ambition, including reducing emissions from vehicles and buildings, encouraging a green economy, and improving recycling.

4.3.2 The importance of placed based services and people being able to access community services close in proximity to where they live will be important considerations as the FairerTogether hubs are developed.

4.3.3 In moving staff closer to area-based working this provides an opportunity to work with communities to gain greater insight into the issues that need to be addressed to help children, young people, and their families to thrive. By having services more local / accessible to where people live in communities, this could have an impact on their mode of travel. The aim is that we have a network of community-based provision which enables people to be able to walk, therefore reducing impact on the environmental carbon footprint. Services will be encouraging environmental consideration using sustainable resources, curriculum/activities in sessions, health messaging, so families will have more exposure to messaging such as recycling, travel etc.

4.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

4.4.1 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 Page 3 of 3 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. Our Fairer Together strategy sets out how we will ensure that we work in partnership with our diverse communities to deliver high quality early intervention and prevention as a means of tackling inequality within our borough.

5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The collaborative development of the Fairer Together Early and Prevention strategy has been a mammoth task and is truly reflective of the collective efforts across the partnership. As a council we are striving for greater engagement with our communities, co-producing and working in true partnership, together. We want our communities to have their voices not just heard but amplified. Our bold ambitions are matched by our drive and determination to create radical shifts in doing things differently. As such, it is important that that the Fairer Together strategy's renewed impetus on delivering better outcomes for and with local people is co-owned across the partnership to ensure that change and the power shift is tangible and successfully achieved.

5.2 We are therefore seeking approval from the Executive to sign off the Fairer Together Strategy as a key mechanism through which we will deliver on our strategic priorities to transform the outcomes and experiences of our Islington residents.

Appendices:

- Fairer Together Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy in Appendix A.

Background papers:

- None

Final report clearance:

Leader of the Council, Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Date: 04.01.2022

Signed by: Amy Buxton Jennings

Corporate Director, Fairer Together

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