

# Children & Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee Agenda



To: Councillors Jan Buttinger (Chair), Sean Fitzsimons, Sue Bennett, Maria Gatland, Patricia Hay-Justice, Bernadette Khan, Andrew Rendle and Maddie Henson

Reserve members:

Councillors Kathy Bee, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Sherwan Chowdhury, Humayun Kabir, Andrew Stranack and David Wood

Co-optees:

Parent Governor Representatives:

Mr James Collins

Teacher Representative:

Dave Harvey

Diocesan Representatives:

Mrs Elaine Jones

Mr Leo Morrell

A meeting of the **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Tuesday 20th June 2017** at **6:30pm** in **The Council Chamber, The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX**

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9 June 2017

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. If you require any assistance, please contact the Scrutiny team as detailed above.

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be recorded for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website at <http://www.croydon.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

PRE MEETING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY Room F5 at 6.00pm  
Committee Members are expected to attend.

If on the day you are delayed or unable to attend please contact 0208 726 6000 x62683 or the Town Hall Reception - Direct line 0208 760 5525

## **AGENDA - PART A**

### **1. Election of the Chair**

To elect the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee

### **2. Appointment of the Vice-Chair**

To appoint the Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee

### **3. Apologies for absence**

### **4. Disclosures of interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to register disclosable pecuniary interests (DPs) and gifts and hospitality in excess of £50. In addition, Members and co-opted Members are reminded that unless their disclosable pecuniary interest is registered on the register of interests or is the subject of a pending notification to the Monitoring Officer, they are required to disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests at the meeting. This should be done by completing the Disclosure of Interest form and handing it to the Business Manager at the start of the meeting. The Chairman will then invite Members to make their disclosure orally at the commencement of Agenda Item 5. Completed disclosure forms will be provided to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion on the register of Members' Interests.

### **5. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 (Page 1)**

To approve the minutes as a true and correct record.

### **6. Urgent Business (if any)**

To receive notice from the Chair of any business not on the Agenda which should, in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

### **7. Exempt Items**

To confirm the allocation of business between Part A and Part B of the Agenda.

### **8. Committee membership (Page 7)**

The report confirms the nominations of appointments to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee made at the Council meeting on 22 May 2017.

**9. Youth Engagement Strategy and Championing Children in Croydon (Page 9)**

To examine the council's plans for youth engagement in the borough

**10. [The following motion is to be moved and seconded as the “camera resolution” where it is proposed to move into part B of a meeting]**

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

**AGENDA - PART B**

None

## **Children & Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in The Council Chamber  
at the town hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX**

### **MINUTES - PART A**

**Present:** Councillor S Bennett, Councillor M Bird, Councillor J Buttinger,  
Councillor S Fitzsimons, Councillor M Henson, Councillor B Khan,  
Councillor A Rendle

**Absent:** Cllr Sherwan Chowdhury

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Mario Creatura, James Collins,  
Dave Harvey and Elaine Jones. Cllr Margaret Bird stood in for Cllr  
Mario Creatura.

#### **A10/17 Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th February 2017**

The minutes were agreed.

**RESOLVED THAT:** the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February  
2017 be signed as a correct record.

#### **A11/17 Disclosure of Interest**

None.

#### **A12/17 Urgent Business (if any)**

None.

#### **A13/17 Exempt Items**

None.

#### **A14/17 Children's Social Care**

The following officers were in attendance for this item:

- Barbara Peacock, Executive Director (People)
- Ian Lewis, Director, Child and Family Early Intervention and  
Children  
Social Care

The Director outlined the new vision for Children's services which is

as follows:

‘Children and young people in Croydon will be safe, healthy, happy and will aspire to be the best they can be. The future is theirs.’

Members were given an overview of the key priorities in the division’s improvement plan:

- Early help services
- Assessments
- Performance management
- The use of data
- Engaging children and young people

They were pleased to hear that the division’s application to the innovation fund had reached the second stage.

Questioned about the role of the police in safeguarding children and young people, the Executive Director stated that this agency was engaging well with the council on issues such as child sexual exploitation, gangs and missing children. Joint work is also taking place on clarifying the two agencies’ respective roles in addressing risks.

Members were advised that the division had initiated a review of Section 20 cases and that managers were ensuring that a plan was set up for each of these cases. In answer to a question, officers explained that the challenge they faced was the rise in the number of care procedures.

Officers were questioned on the sharp increase in assessment cases. Officers explained that they had actually decreased from 800 to 600 in the last two months.

Questioned on the turnover of staff, officers explained that the borough had once been the worst performing in London, but that turnover of permanent staff had now fallen to 15% per year.

Members questioned officers on the work of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). They were advised that this partnership group had no backlog and that cases were dealt with promptly despite the high number of contacts, about 5000-6000 per quarter. Performance monitoring has also improved with a new suite of Key Performance Indicators.

Members asked whether telephone lines to the MASH were always manned or whether there was sometimes a delay in responses to callers, many of whom were school staff reporting safeguarding risks. They were given assurances that the MASH had a sufficient number of operators and that callers were responded to directly. Indeed, feedback from head teachers regarding the work of the MASH was improving.

Members discussed access to child and adolescent mental health services. They were reminded that these services had recently received additional funding, including resources from NHS England

to implement the borough's transformation plan. As a result, more children and young people in Croydon were getting access to mental health services. Officers added that Looked After Children received specially commissioned mental health services, with a much shorter waiting time before accessing them.

Members discussed missing children. Officers acknowledged that Croydon had one of the highest numbers of missing children in the capital. Officers monitor developments through daily missing children reports to children's social care staff, six weekly summary reports, regular "missing children's panel" meetings and "return home interviews". Unfortunately, 50% of children and young people decline to take part in such interviews on their return.

Asked how they could find out why the children went missing if they refused to take part in a return home interview, officers explained that social workers were skilled at communicating with children and persevered in their efforts to ascertain the causes of absences even if this was not through a formal "return home interview".

The Director explained that many children and young people going missing were placed in Croydon by other local authorities after involvement in child sexual exploitation, gangs and other issues, with a view to protecting them from such risks in future.

Members discussed adoption figures in the borough and were advised that the capital performed somewhat worse than the rest of the country in this respect. Officers explained that it was hoped this would be addressed through the new regionalisation approach. At the moment, 33 local authorities are recruiting adopters independently from the same pool. Regionalisation aims to carry out the recruitment more systematically. So far, 26 local authorities have formally signed up to participate in these arrangements while 2 others, located on the edge of the capital, have chosen not to.

Officers highlighted two areas which needed improvement:

- engagement with children and young people
- providing help to children in need at the right time

The Chair of Scrutiny offered to contribute to discussions on improving the engagement of children and young people. The Executive Director welcomed this offer. She announced that a new director post had been created which included a youth engagement responsibility, and that the officer recruited to the new post had been tasked with establishing a youth engagement strategy. She added that Scrutiny might contribute their ideas to this work.

The Committee stated that it was impressed with the work carried out on children's social care and thanked officers for their fulsome replies to their questions.

## The 0-25 SEND Service

The following officers were in attendance for this item:

- Barbara Peacock, Executive Director (People)
- Alison Farmer, Head of 0 to 25 SEN and Disability

The recently appointed Head of 0 to 25 SEN and Disability gave a presentation on the service. This included information on the following:

- The drivers for change, which included new legislation, increasing demand, financial constraints and the outcome of the SEND Local Area Inspection.
- The growing demand for SEND services in Croydon, with autism spectrum disorders, moderate learning difficulties and Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties being the most common primary needs
- The 4 key outcomes the service is working to bring about
- Progress made so far to integrate the 0-25 SEND service
- Risks and issues

Cllr Maddie Henson announced a declaration of interest in view of her involvement in Speech and Language Therapy.

Members thanked the officer for her presentation and commented on the primary needs list, stating that there are likely to be significant co-morbidities. The Head of the new service stated that there was a very well documented trend that young people with speech and language problems often also had Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties.

Members reported that primary schools anecdotally provided more support to children with special needs in the school setting, and that reduced support at a secondary level led to a spike in Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in the early years of secondary school. In response to a member request, officers undertook to send further information on the numbers of EHCPs in primary and secondary school in the last 12 months.

Members were advised that many EHCPs were set up early in the lives of children with complex needs. However, officers were now seeing a new trend of applications for young people aged 16 and above, who were anxious about the forthcoming transfer to adult services. Unfortunately, some of these applications were rejected if the applicant was not progressing onto further education. The officer added that if the educational outcomes of a young person were successfully achieved at the age of 19, he/she did not require an EHCP to the age of 25. Instead, a programme of activities was organised for the individual, which could include steps to achieve employment.

Members highlighted the anxiety of parents as their SEND children approached adulthood and support was about to change. They stressed that better communications needed to take place to give



parents assurances about a smooth transfer to adult services and continued services and support.

The officer stated that Croydon needed to improve capacity for its post 16 provision, particularly for most challenging ASD and complex needs cases, and that it should endeavour to provide more local services for these individuals. She added that Croydon was a net “exporter” of post-16 cases to other boroughs. She suggested that there was a need for lower level skills training and that St Giles school and Croydon College could work together to develop a programme for young people with complex needs. To improve the prospects of young people with complex needs, a bid with a focus on employment and skills had been submitted for 120-150 children in the borough.

The Head of the 0 to 25 SEN and Disability service was thanked for her answers to Members’ questions.

#### **A16/17            Review of the 2016-2017 work programme**

Members agreed that the work programme for the following year needed to be more strategic, with less topics and more in-depth scrutiny.

The out of hours service and new schools were suggested as possible topics for the following year’s work programme. Officers also put forward the regionalisation of adoption as an item for pre-decision scrutiny but warned that the timeline was out of the committee’s control. It was suggested that this could constitute a topic for a mini-review.

The Chair thanked the sub-committee and officers for their contributions to Scrutiny over this municipal year.

### **MINUTES - PART B**

None

The meeting ended at 8.47 p.m.

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For general release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 20 June 2017</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jacqueline Harris-Baker, Director of Law and Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>

<b>ORIGIN OF ITEM:</b>	To confirm the nominations of appointments to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee made at full Council on 22 May 2017.
<b>BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:</b>	To note the nominations of appointments to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report confirms the nominations of appointments to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee made at the Council meeting on 22 May 2017.

## 2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### **Majority group members:**

Sean Fitzsimons  
Bernadette Khan  
Patricia Hay-Justice  
Andrew Rendle  
Maddie Henson

### **Reserves:**

Kathy Bee  
Sherwan Chowdhury  
Humayun Kabir  
David Wood

### **Minority group members:**

Jan Buttinger  
Sue Bennett  
Maria Gatland

### **Reserves:**

Simon Brew  
Margaret Bird  
Andy Stranack

**Co-opted Members:**

James Collins  
Parent Governor Representative

Elaine Jones  
Diocesan Representative

Leo Morrell  
Diocesan Representative

Dave Harvey  
Teacher Representative

**3. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY  
SUB-COMMITTEE**

3.1 To note the nominations of appointments to the Sub-Committee.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Ilona Kytomaa  
Members' Services Manager

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None

For general release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b><i>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</i></b> <b><i>20 June 2017</i></b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><i>Youth Engagement Strategy and Championing Children in Croydon</i></b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b><i>David Butler, Director of Education and Youth Engagement</i></b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b><i>Councillor Alisa Flemming</i></b>
<b>PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:</b>	<b><i>David Butler</i></b> <b><i>Director of Education and Youth Engagement</i></b>

<b>ORIGIN OF ITEM:</b>	<b><i>This item is contained in the sub-committee's agreed work programme.</i></b>
<b>BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:</b>	<b><i>To examine the council's plans for youth engagement in the borough.</i></b>

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines the proposed approach to ensuring children and young people in Croydon are championed through a youth engagement strategy, ensuring they have a genuine voice that is heard and shapes what we do.

## **2. Youth Engagement Strategy and Championing Children in Croydon**

### **Background**

- 2.1 In a recent interview on BBC1 the editor in chief of a local publication said "as long as people can only vote from the age of 18 young people's voices will not be heard." One of our aims of the Youth Engagement Strategy is to place Croydon on the map and at the forefront of leading a different engagement with young people.
- 2.2 Croydon has the largest child population in London at just over 93000 aged 0-18, 57500 of whom are of statutory school age (5-16), the proportion of children compared to the rest of the population is growing, and the 0-18 population is projected to continue to grow. Our children come from diverse backgrounds: approximately 57% of children in Croydon are from an ethnic minority (Census 2011), we have the largest Looked After Children population in London, and one of the highest number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

populations in the country. Our children also come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, with a high percentage living in wards with high levels of deprivation. At the same time we are also a Borough with many opportunities ahead due to the regeneration of the town, and the resulting growth in employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities.

- 2.3 We know that our children and young people have talent, huge potential and enthusiasm. However, the “image” of children and young people in Croydon is sometimes negatively viewed by the wider public. We will seek to alter this perception.
- 2.4 Our aspiration, through our strategy for Youth Engagement, is to ensure our children and young people feel part of the Borough, know they have a say in its future, are engaged with democracy and are given opportunities, both universal and targeted, in order to meet the aspirations and overcome barriers they may face. We aim to ensure that the talents and potential of our children and young people are recognised and that they are recognised by the wider public for the positive contribution they can make. Building on the work already being undertaken by the Council and its partners through a wide range of activities and programmes we will aim to ensure Croydon’s children and young people are prepared to be engaged and responsible citizens of the future who are able to share in all the opportunities regeneration will bring.
- 2.5 There is already much positive work being done with our children and young people, both through our Youth Engagement Team, through partners from the voluntary sector, through schools and through our three locality teams based in the north, south and east locality areas. Details of this work can be seen in Appendices 1, 2 and 3. It is important to note that the majority of this work is funded through short term monies and not from the core base budgets.
- 2.6 In addition, we have the exciting prospect of the OnSide Youth Zone opening in late 2018 which will bring additional resource and valuable opportunities to children and young people in the Borough. Our strategy will help to focus and target our work effectively, maximising the impact all partners can have in order to ensure the best outcomes.
- 2.7 There are many challenges facing children and young people today and we would like to work with them to identify those challenges, co-design solutions and work together to deliver and evaluate the impact of what we do.
- 2.8 We want children and young people to be proud of their Borough and for the Borough to be proud of our children and young people.
- 2.9 We wish to ensure, through this strategy, Croydon is a child-friendly Borough: a safe place to live, a place where their voices are heard and influence decisions being made that affect them, and have access to services and activities that meet their needs and aspirations. Our vision is that “children and young people in Croydon will be safe, healthy, happy and will aspire to be the best they can be. The future is theirs.” We need to recognise children as partners and as individual human beings, rights-holders and equal, active citizens.

- 2.10 Our ideas are founded on the principles of the UNICEF Rights of the Child Charter and the UNICEF “Child Friendly City” initiative. This approach has been adopted successfully in other areas of the UK, for example Leeds, Newcastle, Glasgow and Tower Hamlets.

### **3 A Child-Friendly Borough**

- 3.1 We strongly believe that everyone in Croydon has a part to play, which is why the aspiration to become a child friendly Borough is at the heart of our Plan. If we all do what we can to ensure our children and young people are heard, involved and respected at home, at school, in their communities – wherever they are in Croydon, whatever their background or circumstances, and whenever decisions affect them – it sends the right message about how important their welfare is to us and how important they are to our future.
- 3.2 The voices and views of children and young people are at the heart of making Croydon a child friendly Borough. In order to begin our engagement with our children and young people we are establishing a Youth Congress, designed and planned by and for young people, in order to establish their priorities: what matters to them. We are also re-launching the Children in Care Council so that the voices of our Looked After Children are informing the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel, the professionals who work directly with them and the Borough’s strategy and planning for all of our children in care. Both of these are outlined in greater detail later in this paper.
- 3.3 Putting children’s views and interests at the heart of planning and service delivery means that children will have ownership and hopefully recognise how their contributions have helped. A child rights-based approach provides a set of values and principles which supports reflective practice, enabling adults to actively listen and make sense of situations through the eyes of a child. A culture of listening to and considering children’s views can reinforce relationships, reduce inequalities and ensure continuous quality improvement. Taking into account the views of childhood from a child’s perspective can be innovative and inspirational.
- 3.4 In a time of austerity, services must be targeted and delivered appropriately. A child rights-based approach enables people who use services, including children and young people, to tell providers what they need to help them to reach their potential as well as being able to influence solutions to difficult decisions about what matters to them.
- 3.5 Often, when we are faced with making challenging decisions about service delivery, we base our choices on an adult’s view of the world. Everyone has a say about childhood, as it is a time we have all lived through and therefore have an opinion. Understanding childhood through a child rights-based approach opens up new possibilities. Children’s rights are the same for all children, regardless of their circumstances – for example a child living in a children’s home has the same rights as a child living with their family. So equality is fundamental to a child rights-based approach.
- 3.6 A Child Friendly City is committed to the fullest implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

So a Child Friendly City guarantees the right of every young citizen to:

- Influence decisions about their city
- Express their opinion on the city they want
- Participate in family, community and social life
- Receive basic services such as health care, education and shelter
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Walk safely in the streets on their own
- Meet friends and play
- Have green spaces for plants and animals
- Live in an unpolluted environment
- Participate in cultural and social events
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability.

We propose to work with UNICEF UK to realise our ambition.

#### **4. Youth Congress**

4.1 The voices and views of children and young people are fundamental to making Croydon a child-friendly Borough and is a legal obligation under article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is therefore essential that we take time to find out what they think: what would make Croydon a better place for them to live, learn, play and work, what their priorities are for improvement, what concerns them and what they are proud about. We will, therefore, be holding our first Youth Congress in July 2017 to start the process of gathering these views and to use what we are told to co-design a plan for the future. This event is being designed by and for young people and will be the start of the “conversation”. All Croydon secondary schools and special schools with secondary aged children have committed to send representatives to the event and there will also be representatives from targeted groups including, but not exclusive to, Looked After Children, Care Leavers, young carers, young people who are electively home educated, LGBTQ, CYAC, uniformed organisations, faith groups and young people with SEND. The outcomes from this event will help us to identify the most important “wishes” our children and young people would like to see fulfilled and will help us to prioritise our work together.

4.2 However, participation and engagement is a process, not a one-off activity. It is therefore proposed to make Youth Congress an annual event as without good engagement participation will falter.

#### **5. Children and Young People’s Charter**

5.1 As a result of the Youth Congress we propose to continue to engage with young people to agree a Children and Young People’s Charter for the Borough, outlining their agreed “wishes”, priorities and an agreed strategy for engagement and co-working.



## **6. Youth Council, Cabinet and Mayor**

6.1 We have existing local and Borough-wide engagement with young people. However, there is much scope to strengthen the work of these groups with elected members, ensuring the views of young people are routinely taken in to consideration in debate and decision making. In addition, there is the opportunity now to expand this through the annual election of a Youth Mayor – a “First Citizen” for the children and young people in Croydon, raising their profile and being a positive, high-profile “standard bearer” for those whom they represent.

### **6.2 Youth Council**

We currently run three Locality Youth Forums in the north (based in South Norwood), East (based in New Addington) and South (based in Purley). These are run in conjunction with external voluntary sector partners, including, for example, the Palace for Life Foundation, who bring much additional resource and expertise to our work. It is proposed to continue to run these forums, but to rename them Youth Councils, from whom representatives will be voted, as now, to serve on the Youth Cabinet. In this way young people will be able to have local representation at the same time as the structures mirroring those of the adult Council structures and enabling direct links with elected members and officers at all levels.

### **6.3 Youth Cabinet**

Each Youth Council will elect, as now, representatives to the Youth Cabinet. It is proposed that each Youth Cabinet member “shadows” an elected member, both representing a portfolio and learning more about the work of the elected member. Each Youth Cabinet member will be responsible for representing the views of Youth Cabinet to their elected member, keeping the young people’s agenda at centre stage. Youth Cabinet members will also be able to work alongside senior officers, informing and scrutinising policy as it affects young people. We would proposed that in future relevant Full Council Cabinet Reports should indicate how the views of young people have been taken in to account.

### **6.4 Youth Mayor**

There are more than 20 Young Mayors in the UK (e.g. Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool), and the first scheme was started in Middlesbrough in 2002. Our proposal is to trial this idea in Croydon, with the first Youth Mayor to be in post from March 2018.

Typically a Young Mayor is a secondary school or college age pupil who lives in the borough. They will have written a manifesto and will have run an election campaign with the support of their friends and volunteers. They will be elected by their peers in a borough wide election. Typically they will have a one year term of office and in that year they will have a small fund to carry out their election manifesto promises. They will be supported by a small number of council officers.

We proposed that on voting day, each class of pupils in every school and college in the borough votes over several hours. The school and the council will provide volunteers to help pupils vote and to take responsibility for the ballot box. As with all other elections, we propose that the Chief Executive acts as the Returning Officer.

We hope that the benefits of having a Youth Mayor will include:

- Increased political engagement among young people.
- Increased awareness and involvement in public service and the role of public services.
- Young people as positive role models among their peers and in the Croydon community.
- Raised visibility of issues affecting young people.
- Young people are influencers on local and national issues.
- Personal development benefits for those young people involved in the scheme. (Campaigning, public speaking, handling a budget etc.).
- Can support local councils to be better connected to young residents and can provide positive challenge to modernise and think differently.
- Politicians benefit from the views and profile of the Young Mayor.

As a new scheme we would propose:

- To roll out a scheme open to all 16-18 year olds (post GCSE) who live in Croydon to stand for election and open to all young people aged 11+ to vote for a candidate.
- To roll out a limited pilot, rather than a full scheme, to test the water and gain experience.
- To agree to review the pilot and if proving successful consider extending the age range and reach of the scheme.
- Consider voting under an Electoral College system (to be agreed and defined by Electoral Services and lead politicians) to allow the whole borough to have a fair method of electing a Young Mayor. The alternative option is to have a popular vote or a school-by-school vote.
- To elect a Young Mayor with a one year term of office. To provide her or him with a fund to carry out their manifesto (suggest £25k).
- To elect a Deputy Young Mayor with a one year term of office (who achieved the second highest election result).
- To create a Croydon Youth Council made up of all the other candidates and members of existing youth groups that the council currently supports.
- In addition to achieving their manifesto, to give the Young Mayor a genuine voice, influence and visibility.
- To use regular comms and social media for messaging and visibility.

## **7. Cultural Context**

**7.1** We recognise that different methods are sometimes needed for different people and particular groups. We will target where necessary: given the diversity of the population, promoting participation sometimes requires targeted campaigns designed to encourage involvement. Participation work should always try to promote inter-cultural learning. A method that works well with one group might just as well create a new challenge to another. Opportunities for individuals to contribute are important too; some people want to express their views in private. Individual-oriented methodologies might be essential in accessing these perspectives: we will seek to develop our digital presence in order to ensure engagement with young people is as accessible as possible.

## **8. Children in Care Council (Strengthening Corporate Parenting)**

- 8.1 We recognise that the Children in Care Council needs to be strengthened so that it better reflects the views and aspirations of children for whom we are the corporate parent, and in order that the Corporate Parenting Panel is better able to carry out its important work. We therefore plan to reorganise and strengthen the Children in Care Council over the course of the next year.

### **What are we trying to achieve?**

- Re-invigorate the Children in Care Council for children (8-13) and young people (14-21) who are looked after by Croydon Council
- Give children and young people a chance to have a say about the things that really matter in their lives
- Give children and young people the chance to shape and influence the corporate parenting that they receive
- Help to shape the strategies for looked after children and young people in Croydon

### **Who do we need to work with?**

- Social Care – management and teams
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Virtual Schools team
- Independent Visitors team
- Croydon Safeguarding Children Board
- Other youth voice and young people's participation groups
- Lead Member for Children's Services

### **What will we do?**

- Run two CiCC's for children and young people monthly starting in the summer of 2017
- Co-design the monthly sessions and annual planning with children and young people
- Play in a Week for CiCC during summer holidays, July 2017

### **What does success look like?**

- Children and young people feel connected to decisions that are made about their care
- Children and young people are able to communicate their involvement in co-production of services in the borough
- Children and young people being able to communicate with managers, SLT and Corporate Parenting Panel in a supported, planned and knowledgeable way

### **Milestone(s)**

- Recruitment of children and young people for the two CiCC groups during April – Sep annually
- Review The Pledge for looked after children (in May and June 2017)
- Update Corporate Parenting Panel on changes and developments (June 2017)
- Establish regular meetings with good attendance (by Oct 2017)

- Co-design plan with children and young people for CiCC long term (by Oct 2017)
- Six month review after start of re-invigorated CiCC (Oct 2017)
- Managers and SLT are invited to communicate regularly with CiCC, as requested by children and young people (starting July 2017)

### **Monitoring**

- CiCC will work in partnership with the Corporate Parenting Panel quarterly/bi-annually; with members of the panel attending the CiCC or through interactive reports and communications
- Annual reviews by children and young people, Executive Director of People (DCS), Corporate Parenting Panel, Director of Education and Youth Engagement and Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care, relevant Heads of Service and delivery staff
- Sessional recordings updated by delivery staff on Upshot system and impact reports completed termly

## **9. OnSide Youth Zone**

- 9.1 There will be many opportunities to engage with children and young people through the OnSide Youth Zone initiative. Young people are already engaged successfully with this project through the OnSide Young People's Group, who have chosen the name for the centre (Legacy) and who are working with both the project leads from OnSide and elected members

## **10. UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award**

- 10.1 Supporting the wider ambitions of the Borough, schools will be invited to become "Rights Respecting Schools". We already have several schools in the Borough who have been recognised in this way, but we would like all of our schools to consider the standards exemplified in this award. The Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award supports schools across the UK to embed children's human rights in their ethos and culture.

The Award recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve well-being and help all children and young people realise their potential.

The award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The initiative started in 2006 and schools involved in the Award have reported a positive impact on relationships and well-being, leading to better learning and behaviour, improved academic standards and less bullying.

Details of this Award, and the criteria that need to be met in order to achieve it, will be disseminated to all schools in the Autumn Term 2017.

## **11. Investors in Pupils Award**

- 11.1 We will work with our schools to encourage them to engage in the Investors in Pupils Award. This programme provides a unique pupil participation framework for all schools and education settings nationally. Investors in Pupils is a simple concept that builds on the principles of Investors in People, to empower all pupils, increase motivation and contribute to raising achievement across the Key Stages. The programme offers schools a framework for involving pupils in decision making, and developing responsibility and leadership in relation to their learning, behaviour, attendance, classroom management and induction. It aims to develop a positive ethos where pupils learn about how the school is run, and, in turn, understand how they themselves can contribute to the running of the school. Pupils commit to common goals and teamwork – together with each other and with staff. Schools that achieve the Investors in Pupils award demonstrate a commitment to all members of its learning community, they are committed to listening to, involving and actively engaging pupils in their learning and wider school community.

Schools will be encouraged to register for this award in time for the beginning of the Autumn Term 2017.

## **12. Young People's Takeover Challenge**

- 12.1 Each year in November the Children's Commissioner invites us to the challenge of allowing young people to take over for the day. She describes it as "a fun, hugely successful and exciting engagement project which sees organisations across England opening their doors to children and young people to take over adult roles. It puts children and young people in decision-making positions and encourages organisations and businesses to hear their views. Children gain an insight into the adult world and organisations benefit from a fresh perspective about their work." We propose that, as a Council, we will join in with this annual challenge, and that we will encourage our partners and businesses to do the same.

## **13. Engagement with Partners**

- 13.1 We are fortunate to benefit from good engagement with voluntary sector partners: they support locality meetings, run regular participation sessions and are keen to do more. We need to ensure we give feedback in a systematic and organised way. We also need to celebrate the contribution made by our partners: such celebration will motivate them to contribute more when they can and will help them understand where their contribution can have the most benefit, based on the identified and stated needs of young people.

However, there is more scope to be considered in this area. In a Borough growing rapidly and with record levels of inward investment and business interest we need to consider ways to engage the business community: this will be an essential component of realising the ambition of becoming a child-friendly Borough.

## 14. Branding

- 14.1 We propose to create a strong brand that will cover the direct delivery of services, the strength of partnerships that exist with the CVFYS and the engagement of children and young people through youth voice and community commitment.

There has been a lack of corporate advertising and promotion for youth engagement in recent years and the move to create a Directorate of Education and Youth Engagement seems the right time to improve this.

We are currently reviewing our engagement of children, young people, parents and carers through social media and the website, this is the right time to combine the branding and public face for this work.

For many years there has been a strong community, voluntary and faith youth sector in Croydon, and we believe the work of the Youth Locality Networks should be recognised as a part of the delivery and partnerships that are crucial to youth engagement in the borough.

A strong umbrella brand for youth engagement in the borough will: highlight good work, reinforce positive messages, show the ambition for children and young people and be an access point for information sharing.

Come in line with similar London boroughs and organisations who have strong branding, advertising and communication (Young Lambeth, Young Greenwich, Young Barnet, Young Barbican, Partnership for Young Londoners).

We propose to consult on the branding options at the Youth Congress in July so young people will shape the branding.

## Appendices

1. *Youth Engagement Programmes delivered by external partners*
2. *Youth Voice activities (existing and proposed)*
3. *Targeted Community Engagement*

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** *David Butler, Director of Education and Youth Engagement*

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** **None**

## Appendix 1:

We have a strong and diverse voluntary, community and faith youth sector in Croydon. This has developed over the last few years and the Council is a committed member of this network. This is a transformational partnership and we propose to continue working hard to develop this further.

Examples of existing youth engagement programmes from external partners:

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Delivery (location)</b>
1	Shpresa	Aiming Higher – helping young Albanians reach their potential	Borough wide
2	Palace for Life Foundation	Develop through Sport Community Programme (DTSC Programme)	Borough wide
3	Monk's Hill youth club, St Francis Church	Youth Action for Monk's Hill	Monk's Hill estate only, partnership working in east area
4	The Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre	Provision of an independent domestic/sexual violence advocate in the Family Justice Centre	Borough wide, based at Family Justice Centre (FJC)
5	CDI (Croydon Drop In)	Talkbus Outreach health and information service	Borough wide
6	Sir Phillip Game Youth Centre	SPG wellbeing youth and community – meeting fitness, health and vocational aspirations	Addiscombe area only
7	Play Place Innov8 CiC	The Family Community Fun Programme	Borough wide
8	Play Place Innov8 CiC	Our Space	Borough wide
9	Reaching Higher	Summer Blitz	South Norwood area only, partnership working in north area
10	Reaching Higher	Full Circle Life Skills Programme	Borough wide

11	Oasis Community Hub	Developing Friends of Oasis Groups	Addiscombe area only, partnership working borough wide
12	Metro Centre	Metro Bridge: a holistic service for LGBTQ young people	Borough wide, based in north area



## Appendix 2:

Broad overview of engagement activities (existing and proposed):

Name	Details/Scope	Connections/Links	Location	Time of year /Frequency
<b>Annual recruitment</b> (to all youth participation and youth voice opportunities)	See annual calendar wheel April new projects are full September new work projects start Celebrations January-March			
<b>Youth Councils</b> (locality based - north, south, east)	Participatory opportunities for young people in geographical localities of the borough to have their voices heard and develop themed projects	Other council departments (as and when) Community and voluntary sector groups and organisations	South Norwood New Addington Purley	Monthly Events throughout the year
<b>Youth Cabinet</b>	Young people from each council/forum and other participatory groups who represent the wider and larger community and borough	Other council departments (as and when) Senior managers/directors Community and voluntary sector groups and organisations	BWH	Monthly cabinet meetings Events throughout the year Twice per year with Chief Exec/SLT
<b>CYAC</b> (Croydon Youth Arts Collective)	Youth people's group driving exploration and provision of youth arts in the borough	LSEP Croydon Music and Arts Voluntary sector arts groups and organisations	BWH	Fortnightly One annual event
<b>Young Residents Forum</b>	Parallel group to the All Ages Residents Panel (HRS) supported by the Sustainable Communities team	Sustainable Communities team Influencing HRA funding/decision making	Rotating around the borough on housing estates and relevant locations	Monthly Events throughout the year
<b>CiCC</b> (Children in Care Council)	Forums for young people who are looked after by the local authority For 8-13 yrs. old and 14-21 yrs. old Opportunity for children and young people to influence their corporate parents and shape	Social care Corporate Parenting Panel SLT/Cllrs Virtual school team Independent Visitors service Croydon Safeguarding	BWH	Monthly (possibly increase to fortnightly)

	services they use	Children Board		
<b>Good Citizenship Award</b>	Recognition for young people who have done something positive in their community to be celebrated by the council and Mayor/Cllrs/SLT	Primary schools, young people in yr. 6	Across the borough	January to May working with schools Event in June
<b>Onside young people's group</b>	Development group for the new building and services that will be part of Croydon Onside Youth Zone (Legacy)	Onside Youth Zones	BWH and in the community for events	Fortnightly As and when for community events
<b>One off consultation events</b> (social care, sexual exploitation, CAMHS, safeguarding etc.)	Opportunities for young people to be consulted on and influence service delivery and issue based work	Social Care and Early Intervention/Help Croydon CCG Health partners Community and voluntary sector partners	BWH Youth hubs Community venues	As and when
<b>Youth Congress</b>	Takeover of the council Congress model for young people, themed ideas taken and developed over the following year Survey and consultation opportunity for annual planning	Council departments (Communities Strategy Intelligence) Schools Community and voluntary sector partners Cllrs/SLT Croydon Police	As identified	Annual (July)
<b>Youth Oscars</b>	Annual celebration event for young people aged 11-18, young people nominated by council staff, Cllrs, vol' sector org's (possibly mirrors staff awards)	Schools Community and voluntary sector partners Council partners Business sponsors	As identified	

### Appendix 3:

Current targeted community engagement:

Name	Details/Scope	Connections/Links	Location	Time of year /Frequency
<b>Weekly direct delivery sessions</b>	Engaging with children and young people on/at estates, open spaces, (shop) parades, MUGA's and anywhere else groups may gather	Sustainable Communities team ASB team JAG Police Local residents	Across the borough (currently 12 locations)	6 weekly reconnaissance sessions and then decision making about continuation
<b>Temporary/ Emergency Accommodation work</b>	Engaging with children and young people living with their families in the temporary/emergency accommodation in the north of the borough	Sustainable Communities team Tenancy and Neighbourhood Services team JAG Local residents Community and voluntary sector partners	North of the borough (mainly around London Road)	Weekly
<b>Hotspot/ responsive sessions</b>	Short term responses to identified tensions which involve young people (ASB, serious youth violence, community disturbance)	Police JAG Sustainable Communities team Community Safety team Local residents Community and voluntary sector partners	Across the borough	6 weekly reconnaissance and then move on to newly identified location
<b>Young Residents Forum</b>	Parallel group to the All Ages Residents Panel (HRS) supported by the Sustainable Communities team	Sustainable Communities team Influencing HRA funding/decision making	Rotating around the borough on housing estates and relevant locations	Monthly Events throughout the year
<b>Community events</b> (estate and school/college based)	Opportunities for young people to be considered and engaged in community events in the areas they live	Sustainable Communities team Tenancy and Neighbourhood Services team JAG Local residents Community and voluntary sector partners	Across the borough	As and when (approx. 12 per year, mainly summer season)

		Community Safety team		
<b>Holiday provision</b> (on estates, in parks and open spaces)	Additional school holiday based extended universal sessions for children and young people on estates, in parks and open spaces across the borough Frequently with community, voluntary and faith youth sector partner organisations	Sustainable Communities team Tenancy and Neighbourhood Services team JAG Local residents Community and voluntary sector partners Community Safety team	Across the borough but focusing on areas with high levels of council resident tenants and leaseholders	
<b>Good Citizenship Award</b>	Recognition for young people who have done something positive in their community to be celebrated by the council and Mayor/Cllrs/SLT	Primary schools, young people in yr. 6	Across the borough	January to May working with schools Event in June
<b>Short term issue based work</b> (with targeted groups of young people met through community engagement)	Interventions in various settings in response to identified community issues (identity, social media, ASB)	Unaccompanied minors and refugees Local residents Community and voluntary sector partners Relevant professional networks Police	Across the borough	As and when but approx. two to five per term
<b>Onside young people's group</b>	Development group for the new building and services that will be part of Croydon Onside Youth Zone (Legacy)	Onside Youth Zones	BWH and in the community for events	Fortnightly As and when for community events
<b>One off consultation events</b> (police, social care, sexual exploitation, CAMHS, safeguarding etc.)	Opportunities for young people to be consulted on and influence service delivery and issue based work	Borough and Pan-London Police Social Care and Early Intervention/Help Croydon CCG Health partners Community and voluntary sector partners	BWH Youth hubs Community venues	As and when
<b>Youth Congress</b>	Takeover of the council Congress model for young people, themed ideas taken and developed over the following year Survey and consultation	Council departments (Communities Strategy Intelligence) Schools Community and	As identified	Annual (July)

	opportunity for annual planning	voluntary sector partners Cllrs/SLT Croydon Police		
<b>Youth Oscars</b>	Annual celebration event for young people aged 11-18, young people nominated by council staff, Cllrs, vol' sector org's (possibly mirrors staff awards)	Schools Community and voluntary sector partners Council partners Business sponsors	As identified	Annual (February)

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