

For General Release

REPORT TO:	CABINET 18 October 2017
SUBJECT:	Youth Engagement Strategy and Championing Children in Croydon
LEAD OFFICER:	Barbara Peacock, Executive Director People David Butler, Director of Education and Youth Engagement
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Alisa Flemming
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: Ambition Priority 3: Liveability Develop strong thriving communities by working with our residents and partners This strategy outlines how the Council intends to strengthen our engagement with children and young people, and our partners who support them, in order to make Croydon a place that is child-friendly and meets the needs of all children and young people, including the most vulnerable.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT The cost of implementing the youth mayor proposals detailed in this report is approximately £20k in the first year. Given that this is a mid year proposal there is no specific budget within the People Department for this and for the first year the cost will be funded from the Community Priority fund. Future years costs need to be funded from the People department revenue budget.	
KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: N/A	

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to

- 1.1 Agree to the proposals set out in this paper
- 1.2 Note that there are additional financial resources required in order to fully implement the recommendations made

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 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.

3. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY AND CHAMPIONING CHILDREN IN CROYDON

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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. Through this strategy we would seek to ensure that all children and young people, from whatever background or situation, are represented and engaged and that the delivery and commissioning of services reflects the diverse needs and circumstances of all children and young people in the Borough.

- 3.3 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. Croydon Council’s strategic intent is for children and young people to achieve better outcomes and has already put in place initiatives such as “Best Start”. However, having the voice of children and young people (the process of engagement) is central to defining and achieving these outcomes.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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 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.

- 3.10 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.

4 A Child-Friendly Borough

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.

5. Youth Congress

5.1 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 therefore held our first Youth Congress in July 2017 to start the process of gathering these views which will be used to co-design a plan for the future. This event was designed by and for young people and was be the start of the “conversation”. All Croydon secondary schools and special schools with secondary aged children were represented at the event and there were also representatives from targeted groups including, but not exclusive to, Looked After Children, Care Leavers, young carers, young people who are electively home educated, LGBTQ, Croydon Youth Arts Collective, 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. We will focus particularly on the top three priorities identified, but will also be mindful of all the feedback received. Working with young people, schools, colleges, statutory partners and third sector voluntary organisations we will aim to address the issues raised. The top ten priorities identified by those who attended on the day were:

1. Jobs, how to be successful and financially secure
2. Crime and Safety
3. Mental Health issues and support
4. All forms of discrimination
5. More youth activities
6. More life skills support
7. Child abuse, including domestic abuse and trafficking
8. Better relationship with the police
9. Sex and relationship support

10. Social media issues

- 5.2 However, participation and engagement is a process, not a one-off activity. It is therefore proposed to make Youth Congress an annual event and to hold smaller consultation events with young people in localities around the Borough in the coming year. We believe this is important as without good engagement participation will falter. Similarly, it will be important to engage with children and young people to understand the outcomes they would like to see and to co-design the solutions. In order to achieve this it will be necessary for all central Council and commissioned services to have processes in place to ensure children and young people are having their say about the services offered.

6. Children and Young People's Charter

- 6.1 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.

7. Youth Council, Cabinet and Mayor

- 7.1 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.

7.2 Locality Youth Forums

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, seeking additional membership from engagement events to be held in the Borough over the coming year, 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.

7.3 Youth Cabinet

Each Youth Forum will elect, as now, representatives to the Youth Cabinet. In addition, we propose to ensure representation at Cabinet from groups such as the Children in Care Council so that all children and young people are represented at this level. 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.

7.4 **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).
- 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.

8. Cultural Context

- 8.1 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.

9. Children in Care Council (Strengthening Corporate Parenting)

- 9.1 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 autumn 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 Autumn 2017)
- Update Corporate Parenting Panel on changes and developments (Nov 2017)
- Launch new CiCC during October half term 2017
- Establish regular meetings with good attendance (by December 2017)
- Co-design plan with children and young people for CiCC long term (by December 2017)
- Six month review after start of re-invigorated CiCC
- Managers and SLT are invited to communicate regularly with CiCC, as requested by children and young people (starting October 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

10. OnSide Youth Zone

- 10.1 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.

11. UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award

- 11.1 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.

12. Investors in Pupils Award

- 12.1 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.

13. Young People's Takeover Challenge

- 13.1 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. Commitment to join us in this challenge has already been given by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and Borough Commander.

14. Engagement with Partners

- 14.1 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. The chairs for our locality providers networks come from partners who already make a strong contribution: Palace for Life Foundation, CDI (Croydon Drop In), Methodist Churches of Croydon, Reaching Higher and PlayPlace Innov8 CiC. 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.

15. Branding

- 15.1 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 with young people.

16. Mentoring

- 16.1 We know that mentoring can play a significant part in supporting young people to achieve their ambitions. We therefore propose to explore avenues to engage mentors both for children and young people who need additional help, support and guidance, and those who would benefit from the support of a mentor from a particular business sector or industry focus. In addition, we will seek to draw on the best practice that already exists within many of our schools to expand the mentoring offer within education settings. In order to achieve our ambitions in this area we will build links with voluntary sector organisations, business, government departments and specialist groups to ensure as many of our children and young people receive the right support at the right time as possible.

17. CONSULTATION

- 17.1 This report was the subject of pre-Cabinet scrutiny at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting on 20 June. At this meeting the following recommendations were made:

The Sub-Committee supports the council's ambition to base its youth engagement strategy on the principles of the UNICEF Rights of the Child Charter and the UNICEF "Child Friendly City" initiative, which has been adopted successfully in other areas of the UK.

The Sub-Committee concurs that the effectiveness of the Children in Care Council needs to be strengthened and that its membership needs to reflect the diverse Looked After Children population in the borough, and look forward to receiving reports from the Corporate Parenting Panel regarding progress in this regard

The Sub-Committee supports the proposal to allocate a budget to young people's engagement, including the work of the future young mayor

The Sub-Committee recommends that the Council should develop effective communication methods for encouraging all children and young people in the

borough to engage, using current popular social media such as Twitter, Facebook, etc. , and that officers should report back to the sub-committee within a year on methods used and their effectiveness in engaging all young communities in the borough

The Sub-Committee recommends that Cabinet reports relating to children and young people e.g. school estates, housing, etc., should include a paragraph setting out officers’ considerations on impacts on this age group and indicates how they have been consulted and their views.

18 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

18.1

1 Revenue consequences of report recommendations

The cost of implementing the youth mayor proposals detailed in this report is approximately £20k in the first year. Given that this is a mid year proposal there is no specific budget within the People Department for this and for the first year the cost will be funded from the Community Priority fund. Future years costs need to be funded from the People department revenue budget.

The table below identifies the areas of support required for the implementation of a youth mayor and the proposed funding sources. The scheme will be run as a pilot for the first year, cost and outputs will be evaluated before proceeding.

<u>Estimated costs</u>	<u>Annual cost (£)</u>
Costs of staff to support the scheme. Additional capacity within the Youth Engagement Team for Youth Voice to support the Young Mayor throughout the year, supporting the Youth Cabinet and overseeing all projects on which the Young Mayor leads	£10K
Cost of Young Mayor’s fund This fund enables the Young Mayor to fund and support activities for young people across the borough	£10K + possible additional funding from sponsorship (after the pilot)

2 The effect of the decision

The decision to accept the Young Mayor proposal set out in this report would incur costs of £20k in the first year. These costs will be funded by the Community Priority fund in the first year and work needs to be undertaken to identify funding in future years from the People Department budgets.

Alongside the costs detailed above there are a number of other areas of support that will be provided from within existing Council services, including Electoral services support for the ballot process.

Work will also be undertaken, after the pilot, to secure sponsorship which may lead to a reduction in the need for Council funding.

3 Risks

If additional financial resources cannot be found to fund this aspect of the strategy then it will not be possible to implement beyond the pilot.

4 Options

Explore opportunities for sponsorship to support this proposal.

5 Future savings/efficiencies

Not applicable

6 (Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk

19. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

19.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that there are no legal implications arising from this report.

Approved by: Jacqueline Harris-Baker, Director of Law and Monitoring Officer

20. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

20.1 There are no staffing impacts arising from this report. However there will be opportunities to highlight apprenticeships and career pathways for younger people through strengthening youth engagement.

(Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources)

21. EQUALITIES IMPACT

21.1 The measures outlined in this report seek to ensure all children and young people, regardless of background, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or where they live in the Borough are treated as equal citizens.

22. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

22.1 Not applicable

23. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

23.1 Improved engagement with and provision for children and young people in the Borough, alongside listening to, and acting upon, the needs of our youth population could result in a positive impact on anti-social behaviour and youth violence.

24. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

24.1 It is a key priority for the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership to ensure children and young people are at the centre of decision making, determining priorities and providing services. This strategy seeks to demonstrate how this could be achieved.

25. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

25.1 Not applicable

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

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Appendix 1: Existing Youth Engagement Programmes from External Partners

Appendix 2: Overview of engagement activities (existing and proposed)

Appendix 3: Current targeted community engagement

Appendix 1: Existing Youth Engagement Programmes from External Partners

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:

	Organisation	Name	Delivery (location)
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:
Overview of engagement activities (existing and proposed):**

Name	Details/Scope	Connections/Links	Location	Time of year /Frequency
Annual recruitment (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			
Youth Councils (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
Youth Cabinet	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
CYAC (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
Young Residents Forum	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	Monthly Events throughout the year

			relevant locations	
CiCC (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 services they use	Social care Corporate Parenting Panel SLT/Cllrs Virtual school team Independent Visitors service Croydon Safeguarding Children Board	BWH	Monthly (possibly increase to fortnightly)
Good Citizenship Award	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
Onside young people's group	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
One off consultation events (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
Youth Congress	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)
Youth Oscars	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
Weekly direct delivery sessions	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
Temporary/ Emergency Accommodation work	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
Hotspot/ responsive sessions	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
Young Residents Forum	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
Community events (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 Community Safety team	Across the borough	As and when (approx. 12 per year, mainly summer season)

Holiday provision (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	
Good Citizenship Award	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
Short term issue based work (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
Onside young people's group	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
One off consultation events (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
Youth Congress	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	As identified	Annual (July)

		Cllrs/SLT Croydon Police		
Youth Oscars	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)