



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission      16 March 2023

Wards affected:              All wards

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### Children and Young People Update

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Report of: Director Community Services

#### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To update Scrutiny on work undertaken in relation to children and young people.

#### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That Scrutiny notes the content of this report.

2.2 That Scrutiny notes the work undertaken by the authority to support young people in the borough to meet their full potential and be protected from harm.

2.3 That Scrutiny notes the extensive work undertaken to ensure children and young people have the opportunity to influence matters which affect them.

#### **3. Background to the report**

3.1 The council has a current Young People's Strategy, shown at Appendix 1, which is currently being refreshed for 2023-26.

The priorities in the current strategy were developed via consultation with teams across the council and in consultation with young people.

3.1.2 Progress on achievements against the strategy are collated on an annual basis. Achievements against the strategy to date are summarised in Appendix 2.

- 3.1.3 A wealth of work takes place across the council and via work with partners to help enable children and young people to gain employment and be work ready, be empowered to make informed choices and shape their future, be able to enjoy life, to be safe and feel safe, and to be healthy, both physically and emotionally.
- 3.2 Article 12 of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child identifies that children and young people have a right to have their views taken into account in decisions made about matters which affect them, and that adults, in a position to help them, have a duty to provide them with support. Any professional that works directly or indirectly with children and young people has a responsibility to ensure that children and young people are listened to and that their views are acted upon, where appropriate, when making decisions which affect their lives.
- 3.2.1 Children and young people's participation in decision making is not just about taking part. It is the process in which children and young people are asked what works, what does not and what could work better so that their voice can influence decision making and bring about change. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are committed to upholding children and young people's right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives and strive to embed a culture of participation.
- 3.3 Children and Young People's work is coordinated by the Community Safety and Safeguarding Team. Councillor Robin Webber-Jones is the council's Children and Young People Champion.

#### **4. Children and Young People Voice and Participation Work**

- 4.1 The council facilitate a Voice Forum for young people aged 11 to 19 years who either live in or attend a school/college in the borough, and are passionate about local politics and making a difference to the community they live in. The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month and aim to provide young people with a place to express their views, as well as giving them opportunities to make a difference to their community. The Voice Forum has been running since 2020 with online meetings monthly and face to face meetings every 6 months.

We share links with Leicestershire County Council, particularly its youth services, and help promote the Make Your Mark ballot which provides an opportunity for young people to raise awareness of local and national issues which are then raised at Youth Parliament. We aim to support any young people looking to use their voice.

- 4.1.2 Voice Forum members are supported to identify and work on priorities important to them, whilst considering themes identified by the 'make your mark' ballot results (ran by the British Youth Council). The forum is also given the opportunity to have their say on current consultations, priority themes and website, document, and policy content.

More information on 'make your mark' can be found at <https://www.byc.org.uk/uk/uk-youth-parliament/make-your-mark>

#### 4.1.3 Some examples of the work undertaken by the Voice Forum are listed below:

- Young people took part in a session with Leicestershire Police's local Children and Young People's Officer where they had an input and were able to discuss county lines
- Young people gave feedback on ways the Census could be promoted to young people in Nov 2020
- Young people's views on COVID and its effect on young people were gathered and shared with the County Incident Management Meeting which included the Director of Public Health
- Young people completed a bullying project and made a bullying presentation that was shared with schools
- The Violence Reduction Network attended the forum and young people gave feedback to them about a questionnaire they were producing for young people around crime and violence
- Young people gave their views on the draft Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's climate change web pages and gave feedback that was incorporated
- Young people gave their views on the draft Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's 'What's Going Down' brochure which were then incorporated into the final document
- One young person on the forum became a Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Health ambassador
- Young people had an input on volunteering opportunities open to them and other young people
- Young people from the voice forum attended a Violence Reduction Network workshop to give their thoughts about a campaign to reduce youth violence and improve mental health
- Young people created climate change posters which were sent to all borough schools to provide them with ideas to enable them to become more eco friendly
- A young person from the forum spoke on BBC Radio Leicester with our Children and Young People's Champion about the voice forum and the projects they had been involved in
- Young people chose to make videos on health and mental health (which were posted during mental health awareness week), homelessness and isolation
- Young people created stress relief posters – which were shared with all borough schools before Year 6 SAT's and GCSE's to provide young people with information on how to relieve stress and where they could get support
- Young people were consulted on the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council employment and careers booklet
- Forum members created Christmas campaign videos – young people chose to focus on the current 'cost of living crisis' and made videos on

warm spaces and foodbanks in Hinckley and Bosworth to increase awareness of these schemes

- Young people gave their views on messages to send out for internet safety day and ideas on where to promote to reach young people
- Forum members gave their views on messages to send out for Childrens Mental Health Week and ideas on where to promote to reach young people

Some upcoming work over the next 2 months includes:

- Young People to give their views to the NHS's Young People's Engagement Team about the proposed changes to hospital facilities in Hinckley
- Young people to have their say on the council's draft Young People's Strategy 2023-2026
- Voice Forum members invited to attend the rural conference and the Voluntary Community Sector forum to present the videos that they have made and talk about their volunteering experiences

4.2 The council's Children and Young People Service supports service areas across the council and partner agencies to involve children and young people in decision making and to participate in a number of projects and workstreams. Some examples of recent work where we have supported partners and council teams include:

- Local Community Safety Survey distributed to young people via schools colleges, youth groups, youth outreach teams and other young people networks. Consultation completed directly at college Fresher's Fair and Green Tower's sports group
- The planning policy team at the council held a workshop to gain young people's views about what in Hinckley and Bosworth needs improving, for example transport, green spaces, high streets, access to services, priorities for their area and where they would like to see development of both housing and employment opportunities
- Public Health vaping survey shared with all schools, colleges, and our young people contacts
- Make your Mark ballot shared with all schools, colleges, and our young people contacts
- Physical Activity and Wellbeing Residents' Survey shared with all schools, colleges, and our young people contacts
- Young people involved in litter pick during great big green week
- Children and young people and schools involved in 9 tree planting events
- St Martins School Eco Group attended the rural conference to talk about the climate change work they have been doing.

## **5.0 Work with schools, colleges, and other educational provisions**

5.1 Key to our work with children and young people is our increasingly strong relationship with schools, colleges, and other educational provisions. We work

with schools to help ensure young people have the knowledge to make informed decisions, have the knowledge and opportunity to inform decisions that affect them, are safe and protected from harm and early interventions are put in place where needed to give young people the best chance of positive outcomes going forward.

- 5.2 The service delivers a wide range of workshops to primary and secondary schools and other young people settings on topics such as exploitation, drugs and alcohol, diversity, safe driving, knife crime, mental health, anti-social behaviour, and healthy relationships. In 2021-22 we engaged with 3350 young people in Hinckley and Bosworth and between 1 April 22 – 31 December 22 we have already engaged with 2055 young people.
- 5.3 This year we have introduced the delivery of three new workshops: one with school student councils, one focusing on climate change and one on wellbeing. The new climate change workshop asks students to think about what activities they do that emit carbon, the students are also asked to think about what activities happen in school that emit carbon. They then look at how they could reduce the amount of carbon they emit at home and at school. The new student council workshop allows officers to meet with school student councils to discuss what projects they have been doing and look at various services and whether they would be looked after by parish councils, borough councils, county councils or parliament. A new wellbeing workshop delivered by cultural services and community safety staff for Year 6 and Year 9 students has proved a welcome addition for schools with the workshop already being delivered to 485 pupils. Now more than ever it is extremely important for young people to be offered the appropriate support for their general wellbeing.
- 5.4 The service shares relevant updates from the council and partner agencies with schools, colleges, and other educational provisions including support pathways for young people and parents, training, funding opportunities, information on emerging threat issues for young people, volunteering opportunities and voice and participation opportunities.
- 5.5 We have developed a Youth Joint Action Group (Youth JAG) in Hinckley and Bosworth which builds on our partnerships with schools to work together jointly with schools and other partners towards positive outcomes for young people who may be involved in anti-social behaviour or other behaviours that cause concern. The Youth JAG runs monthly, is well attended and currently has 9 active cases.
- 5.6 Mentors in Violence Programme (MVP) is a peer mentoring programme run by the Violence Reduction Network that gives young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin violence and bullying. It addresses a range of behaviours and uses a 'by-stander' approach where individuals are not looked on as potential victims or perpetrators but as empowered and active bystanders with the ability to support and challenge their peers in a safe way. Council staff have also been trained on MVP so that they can aid delivery and it is now being delivered in 2

schools in Hinckley and Bosworth and work is underway to increase the number of schools involved.

## **6.0 Careers and skills**

- 6.1 The Council have developed a branded 'Working with us' setup showcasing the careers available in local government. A career guide has been developed that aims to provide an overview of the type of work local people could become involved in and the directions a career could go in through working for the council. This will be used at local jobs fairs and school career fair events. We have recently expanded the offer by creating apprenticeship case study videos with HBBC employees talking about their experience showing first-hand the success and what it can lead to. These were also used for promotion during National Apprenticeship Week.
- 6.2 The Council's Employment and Skills Taskforce officers are regularly engaging with local schools and academies and attend events such as the South Charnwood United Business Alliance (SCUBA). SCUBA aims to strengthen relationships between South Charnwood High School and businesses in the community. Educating the 'workforce of the future' working together with local businesses to ensure our young people have the right skills and attributes for the world of work.
- 6.3 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council provided information to young people around career/volunteering opportunities within the sports/health and wellbeing sectors through the 'Speakers for Schools' programme. The programme was aimed at young people in secondary schools and colleges who were looking for career opportunities.
- 6.4 Annual TeenTech events have been held with cross-border partners (North Warwickshire Borough Council and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council) at MTI (Mira Technology Institute). TeenTech events are highly interactive and designed to inspire young teenagers and their teachers about the contemporary world of Science, Engineering and Technology.
- 6.5 Working in partnership with Primary Engineers, the council have funded 17 primary schools, 7 early years providers and 2 secondary schools training 50 teachers to carry out CPD (Continuing Professional Development) teacher training. This training has allowed teachers to deliver engineering projects in the classroom while being partnered with a professional engineer for support.
- 6.6 Since 2019 there have been 36 school work experience placements at the council and 1 legal internship.

## **7.0 Protection from harm, safety, and support**

- 7.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure the duty of care for children who are at risk of abuse or neglect across all its services. The council have a legal duty under the following legislation:

-The legal obligations concerning children and young people are underpinned by Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, including as amended by the Children and social work Act 2017. Further guidance is available from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

7.1.2 The council has robust safeguarding structures in place to protect children and young people from harm.

7.1.3 In 2021-22 the safeguarding service took appropriate action to protect 12 children. In the first 2 quarters of 2022-23 the safeguarding service took appropriate action to protect 15 children.

7.2 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council are aware that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can have a negative, lasting effect on the health & wellbeing of children and young people. We are making efforts to embed a trauma informed approach within our frontline services and train our officers on the impact of ACEs. Hinckley & Bosworth also have a Trauma Informed Practice Champion, who is part of the wider Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland network, allowing us to be preventative in our approach, consider inequalities & continue to promote protective factors for young people, when considering trauma.

7.3 Hinckley & Bosworth have a Children & Young Person's Service that offers support to children and young people that have experienced domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 now recognises children in their own right, as victims of domestic abuse and the Children's Service endeavours to work alongside the Domestic Abuse Outreach Service to ensure that children have access to therapeutic support to deal with the trauma they have experienced.

The service is accredited to deliver a trauma sensitive group, created by Innovating Minds, called the Healing Together Programme. This group supports children and young people to learn healthy coping strategies that work for them, build on recognising internal resources & encourages developing individual resilience. Our service also offers a further 'Healing Together' programme suitable for protective parents to attend alongside their child, to promote an understanding of how trauma can affect the body & mind and to strengthen attachments.

7.4 The community safety partnership continues to commission specialist youth outreach and diversionary provision including a mentoring programme via Streetvibe Young People's Service. In 2021- 22 Streetvibe engaged positively with 1043 young people in hot spot areas for anti-social behaviour and between 1 April 22 – 31 Dec 22 have engaged with over 1000 young people.

7.5 In Hinckley and Bosworth work has continued with Leicester City Football Club in the Community who continue to deliver a Kicks outreach project, running 2 sessions a week from Green Towers and an engage mentoring programme at Redmoor Academy. Police attend sessions to build positive relationships with young people.

- 7.6 The council's Endeavour Team continue to work with young people engaged in anti-social behaviour via the tiered approach and have a dedicated prevention officer who works with young people involved in anti-social behaviour. The team look to support young people to change their behaviour and ensure appropriate referrals are made so that young people have the holistic support they need. They also work with schools via the Youth JAG detailed in 5.5.
- 7.7 The council has a Youth Engagement Activator Post which is managed by the Sport & Physical Activity Team and is funded via Leicestershire County Council Public Health team. The Youth Activator works to support children and young people to re-integrate and re-socialise into school and community life following the challenges of the pandemic, through youth engagement, sport, physical activity and well-being opportunities.
- 7.8 The council works closely and effectively with the county Children and Family Well-being Service, more information on the service can be found at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/child-protection-and-safeguarding/early-help>
- 7.9 The council is actively engaged in the countywide Early Help Partnership Structures.
- 7.10 There are many other areas of work where the council support young people which the achievements detailed in Appendix 2 evidence.

## **8. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules**

- 8.1 To be taken in open session.

## **9. Financial implications [CS]**

- 9.1 All the work has been completed from within existing resources.

## **10. Legal implications [MR]**

- 10.1 None

## **11. Corporate Plan implications**

- 11.1 This report relates to priority ambitions of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2022-25, namely:
- People
  - Place
  - Prosperity



## **12. Consultation**

- 12.1 Relevant partners and stakeholders were consulted in the formulation of this report.
- 12.2 Consultation with young people is detailed within the report.

## **13. Risk implications**

- 13.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 13.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 13.3 No risks identified

## **14. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications**

- 14.1 The council delivers its Children and Young People's services with the involvement of young people and relevant stakeholders from across the borough.
- 14.2 The voice forum provides opportunity for both virtual and in person engagement meaning that access for young people in more rural areas is increased.

## **15. Climate implications**

- 15.1 Work will be delivered to limit carbon impact where possible, for example virtual methods of engagement and paperless systems.
- 15.2 Young People are engaged in the council's climate change work, this work is detailed within the report.

## **16. Corporate implications**

- 16.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
  - Community safety implications
  - Environmental implications
  - ICT implications
  - Asset management implications
  - Procurement implications
  - Human resources implications

- Planning implications
  - Data protection implications
  - Voluntary sector
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Background papers: Appendix 1 – HBBC Young People’s Strategy  
Appendix 2 – HBBC Young People’s Strategy Achievements

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