



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission	13 March 2025
Executive	26 March 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Children and Young People Update

Report of: Community Services and Safeguarding Manager

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Recommendations

That Scrutiny:

2.1 Acknowledges and endorses the content of this report.

2.2 Acknowledge and endorse 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 Acknowledges and endorses the work undertaken to ensure children and young people have the opportunity to influence matters which affect them.

3. Background to the report

3.1 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 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 Services and Safeguarding Team. Councillor Robin Webber-Jones is the council's Children and Young People Champion.

4. Young People's Strategy 2023-26

- 4.1 The council has a current Young People's Strategy 2023-26, provided at Appendix 1, which sets out the work we will do to support young people in the borough to meet their full potential. The priorities in the current strategy were developed in consultation with teams across the council and with young people.
- 4.2 A wealth of work takes place across the council and with partners to help enable children and young people to gain employment; be work-ready; be empowered to make positive choices and shape their future; be able to enjoy access to activities; be safe and feel safe; and to be physically and emotionally healthy.
- 4.3 Progress on achievements against the strategy are collated on an annual basis. Achievements against the strategy for 2023-2024 are summarised in Appendix 2 and displayed on the infographic at Appendix 3.
- 4.4 Each year the Young People's Strategy is refreshed to ensure accuracy. Young people were consulted on the strategy in December 2024 at the council's Youth Conference and their views will be incorporated into the annual refresh of the strategy for 2025-26.

5. Children and Young People Voice and Participation Work

- 5.1 The council works with young people in a variety of different ways to ensure as many young people as possible have the opportunity to influence things that matter to them.

The council has a variety of different methods used to gather young people's voices.

Our youth voice group is for young people aged 11-19 and up to 25 years old for those with special educational needs or disabilities who live in or go to

school in the borough. The group gives young people an opportunity to have a voice on a variety of different topics.

We also engage with young people through school student council sessions. This allows us to meet with students to discuss projects they have been working on. It also gives young people the opportunity to understand more about local and national government, looking at various council services and whether they would be looked after by parish councils, borough councils, county councils or parliament.

Young People's voice is also captured via any commissioned services such as youth outreach and used to inform and adapt services to suit their needs.

5.2 The council's Children and Young People's 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:

- During Recycle Week in October the council facilitated a joint litter pick event for local schools and businesses. The litter pick saw 22 students attend from two schools within the borough.
- The Market Bosworth School student footprint group attended the Rural Conference to talk about the climate change work they have been doing.
- Local Community Safety Survey distributed to young people via schools, colleges, youth groups, youth outreach teams and other young people networks.
- 150 pupils at one of our primary schools designed front covers for the Mayor's 50th anniversary booklet of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.
- One of Leicestershire Police's campaigns being developed around Violence Against Women and Girls presented a co-design opportunity for young people which was sent to all of our secondary schools.
- Serious Violence Live Safe Campaigns and resources shared with all schools.

Alongside projects that young people can get involved with, we also are in regular communication with our schools and other young people's groups providing information regarding council and partner training, service offers, events and competitions related to young people.

5.3 In December 2024, the council held a successful Youth Conference aimed at 12 to 15-year-olds. 69 students representing nine of the borough's secondary schools attended.

The conference was opened by the Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth and Young Person's Champion Councillor Robin Webber-Jones and in addition to the interactive activities, Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety Councillor Michael Mullaney delivered a presentation on what the council has achieved over the last 50 years. The young people were then given a chance to put forward their ideas about what they would like to see achieved in the next 50 years.

The conference offered young people a varied and interactive programme of activities, including workshops on preventing serious youth violence, climate change, and health and wellbeing. There were also table discussions with councillors involving young people's suggestions about what works well within their communities and suggestions for improvements.

All of the views shared by young people at the conference have been collated and shared with partners. They will help refresh the council's Young People's Strategy and inform the work that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) carries out.

Feedback on the event from the young people has been extremely positive and a small sample of the young people's feedback is shown below:

- Workshops were 'Three topics of very cool interest'
- 'Workshops were entertaining and informative'
- 'We were able to express our own options and our voices were allowed to be heard without judgement'
- 'Range of discussions and the strong ability to take on feedback and listen to young people views'
- 'Kept engaged throughout'
- 'Learnt new things also things that I thought I wouldn't be interested in'
- 'Enjoyed meeting the councillors'
- 'I really liked how inclusive it was in the discussions'

6.0 Work with schools, colleges, and other young people settings

6.1 We have collaborative local relationships with schools and education providers. We work with schools, colleges and other educational provisions to help ensure young people gain the knowledge they need to make positive choices and shape their future, 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.

6.2 The council delivers a wide range of workshops to primary and secondary schools and other educational provisions on topics such as climate change, student councils, littering, careers in local government, health and wellbeing, safety crew, diversity, safer driving, anti-social behaviour and healthy holidays. From April 2023-March 2024, we engaged with 6,695 children and young people.

- 6.3 For the new academic year 2024-25, as well as continuing to offer our workshops to primary and secondary schools and colleges in the borough, we created a specific SEND offer for our SEND education providers allowing them to receive workshops and interventions tailored to the needs of their students.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 We have an active 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.
- 6.6 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 being delivered in 2 schools in Hinckley and Bosworth.
- 6.7 A What's on this Summer brochure is created annually which has activities, information and guidance for children, young people and families. This brochure is shared via our communication team to residents and to all our schools in the borough.

7.0 Careers and skills

- 7.1 The council has a branded 'Working with us' setup showcasing the careers available in local government. A career guide was 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 is now being used at local jobs fairs and school career fair events. Alongside this offer the council created apprenticeship case study videos with council employees talking about their experience showing first-hand the success and what it can lead to. In 2023-24 we engaged with 467 young people via our career's work at local career's fairs and events.
- 7.2 The Employment and Skills Taskforce has good representation from Headteachers of local schools and colleges who are able to network directly with businesses and employers to develop work experience and aspiration raising opportunities for young people.

7.3 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.

7.4 In 2024 the council funded the annual Teentech event in partnership with MIRA Technology Institute which welcomed over 190 school pupils alongside business leaders as part of an event designed to inspire young people to think about careers in science, engineering and technology. This event will take place again in February 2025, with invites for all local secondary schools.

In addition, support is also given to the annual Careers Speed Networking event at MIRA Technology Institute.

7.5 Following on from the work the council did in partnership during the emergency incident in Ratby in early 2024, we have, in partnership with Cadent, developed a work experience project, 'Unbox Your Future', that will be delivered to local schools as part of their life skills (PHSE) lessons. The project is aimed at Year 10 pupils and includes the students being given a brief about an incident, like the Ratby Incident, and then taking on roles to manage the incident. This aims to help them to gain some experience and understanding of different roles in both private and public sector organisations and to understand more about what happens when responding to such an incident. Representatives from both Cadent and the council will support the students to complete the exercise. The first pilot session of 'Unbox Your Future' is due to take place in February/March 2025, with the intention that it will be rolled out to other secondary schools across the borough.

7.6 In 2023-24 there were 12 school work experience placements, 2 T-level students and 10 apprenticeships at the council.

8.0 Protection from harm, safety, and support

8.1 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.

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

8.1.3 In 2023-24 the safeguarding service took appropriate action to protect 121 children.

- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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 and mind and to strengthen attachments.

During 2023-2024 four Healing Together Programmes were delivered, supporting 32 children and young people.

- 8.4 The community safety partnership continues to commission specialist youth outreach and diversionary provision via Streetvibe Young People's Service. In 2023-2024 75 sessions were carried out engaging with 1322 young people.
- 8.5 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. Police attend sessions to build positive relationships with young people. In 2023-2024 39 sessions were delivered to 154 young people.
- 8.6 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 6.5.
- 8.7 In partnership with Hinckley Police and Market Bosworth Police the community safety team visited Bosworth Academy as part of Operation

Sceptre to target knife crime. 500 young people took part in an exercise passing through knife arch detectors to check for weapons, each young person was given a heart shape stress ball reminding them of the need to choose lives not knives

- 8.8 The council works closely with Leicestershire Family Help Service and is actively engaged in the countywide Family Help Partnership Structures.
- 8.9 There are many other areas of work where the council support young people which the achievements detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 evidence.

9. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 9.1 To be taken in open session.

10. Financial implications [CS]

- 10.1 All the work has been completed from existing resources.

11. Legal implications [ST]

- 11.1 None

12. Corporate Plan implications

- 12.1 This report relates to priority ambitions of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2024-28, namely:
- People
 - Place
 - Prosperity

13. Consultation

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

14. Risk implications

- 14.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 14.2 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.

14.3 No risks identified

15. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

15.1 The council delivers its Children and Young People's services with the involvement of young people and relevant stakeholders from across the borough.

15.2 The voice work provides opportunity virtual engagement meaning that access for young people in more rural areas is increased.

16. Climate implications

16.1 Work will be delivered to limit carbon impact where possible, for example virtual methods of engagement and paperless systems.

16.2 Young People are engaged in the council's climate change work, this work is detailed within the report.

17. Corporate implications

17.1 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

Background papers: *Appendix 1 – Young People's Strategy 2023-26*
 Appendix 2 – Young People's Strategy Achievements 2023-24
 Appendix 3 – Children and Young People Work 2023-24
 Infographic

Contact officer: Rachel Burgess 01455 255746

Executive member: Councillor M Mullaney