

Update of the Cabinet Member for Young People & Culture

Children, Schools and Families Committee – 9 November 2023

1. Purpose of the Cabinet Member update

- 1.1 This paper provides a short round of updates from across the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture. It presents an opportunity for the cabinet member to speak directly to the CSF Scrutiny Committee and highlight key pieces of work, both to share successes and identify challenges and opportunities in the coming months.
- 1.2 The Committee are invited to consider the information below and ask questions of clarification at the meeting, subject to the Chair's discretion. Requests for additional information can be addressed to the relevant director/s outside of the meeting. The Committee may also use the cabinet member updates to inform their scrutiny work planning for the coming year.

2. Camden's Youth Justice service – The Youth Justice Plan and priorities for 2023 – 2025

- 2.1 Camden's Youth Justice Services (YJS) works with its key partners - police, children's Services, health services, probation, community safety and voluntary and private sector providers. The Youth Justice Service works across 3 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
 - Reducing first time entrants to the Youth Justice System
 - Reducing Custody and
 - Reducing Re-offending.
- 2.2 The National Youth Justice Board also requires the Youth Justice Service to look and address children from groups who are over-represented, prevention, diversion, education, restorative approaches and victims, detention in police custody, remands and constructive resettlement. Camden have been assessed by the Youth Justice Board oversight framework as strong performance, the highest rating.
- 2.3 Each year the Youth Justice Service is required to complete a Youth Justice Plan demonstrating its achievements over the past year and its prioritises for the coming year as a condition of its grant from the National Youth Justice Board (YJB). For the first time, the YJB have noted this needs to have full Council sign off, when previously this was signed off by the Exec Director – this will be discussed at December Council meeting. The Youth Justice Plan covers the 2023-25 period and will be reviewed in 12 months. It supports We Make Camden ambitions by ensuring that Camden actively tackles injustice and inequality, creating safe, strong and open communities where everyone can contribute, and supporting the Youth Mission where every young person has access to economic opportunity that enables them to be safe and secure

by 2025. The plan outlines the revised YJS, which have been agreed in partnership with staff, children, families and the Board are:

- Maintain and continue the work on tackling Disproportionality
- Improve and increase Education Training and Employment opportunities/interventions
- Continue to invest in the staff teams' development and wellbeing
- Evaluate and evidence Camden interventions and approaches
- Continue to use feedback from children and families to improve the service
- Strengthen the Prevention Approach provided within the YJS
- Responding to social inequality where possible by offering practical advice, vouchers for food, exploring links with housing colleagues to signpost families.

2.4 The National Youth Justice Board also has a Youth Justice Oversight Framework which monitors how local Youth Justice Services are performing. It focuses on ensuring priorities across the delivery of YJSs and wider system partners are aligned, identify effective practice or where individual YJSs may require support, providing an objective basis for decisions about when and how intervention is needed and driving improvement across the youth justice system through supporting the promotion of practice that delivers effective practice.

2.5 As mentioned, Camden has been assessed by this framework as Performance Quadrant one – strong performance. This is the highest ranking. Camden are in the top quartile nationally of relevant oversight metrics, have strong plan and standards, financial compliance Youth Justice terms and conditions and a good or outstanding inspection outcomes. As a result of this, Camden are subject to the lightest oversight arrangements and are encouraged to share our work with peers and partners.

3. Update on Children Looked After and Disproportionality Action Plans

3.1 Camden are committed to tackling injustice. Camden finalised our protocol to prevent unnecessary criminalisation of children in care in June 2022 – this outlines the responsibilities across services and the monitoring measures in place to ensure effective implementation.

3.2 This item has been discussed by Camden's Corporate Parenting Board twice in 2022, and will be reviewed again in 2024. Currently, there are 10 care experienced young people in custody and 6 children looked after open to YJS. 1 YP was recently remanded to the care of the LA. The Local Referral Pathway is now open and available as an option to custody – we have referred one young person since this opened.

3.3 A bid was also submitted to the Department of Education in August for £330,000 for mentoring of care-experienced young people, which will include

those coming out of custody. Support will include practical support, including buying trainers and tracksuits, haircuts and wider support with Employment, Education and Training to prevent further engagement with CJS

4. Youth Safety Steering Group

- 4.1 On Tuesday 17th October, the Youth Safety Steering Group met for its quarterly meeting. The meeting was the first time Camden's new Executive Director for Children and Learning, Tim Aldridge, joined the meeting.
- 4.2 The Steering Group featured items from Camden's Director of Public Health, Kirsten Watters, outlining the public health approach to Youth Safety and wider upcoming work with young people including the co-created Executive summary of the Annual Public Health Report, where young people across the borough have taken part in an 8 week training programme. Young people involved in the work will be paid London Living Wage for their time, and every member of the working group will receive an advanced project management qualification equal to a GCSE 9-6. The launch event will include key local stakeholders, including the Leader of the Council and is taking place on Tuesday 28th November.
- 4.3 Colleagues from the Integrated Youth Service provided an update about their summer programme and some key data, which shows a decline in violence against the person, weapon offences and robbery since 2016, when Camden's Youth Safety work started. IYS colleagues also gave an update about the Regents Park Champions and Guardianship Programme. The community-based and community-led initiative aims to explore how members of the community can come together to provide a safeguarding role for children and young people in their local area. It's delivered through the Champions programme run by Fitzrovia Youth in Action with the guardianship element led by Camden Detached Youth Team & IYSS. The work from March 2022 to January 2023 has focused on training in safeguarding, presentation and event planning and ended with the Regent's Park Community Festival held across three sites and attended by an estimated 1300 residents. The next steps are focused on integrated Guardianship, and facilitating a collaborative approach within the community to identify pathways for a unified response. The Steering Group also heard an update on Camden's work on Early Help and Information and Guidance in the Community.
- 4.4 The next Youth Safety Steering Group is taking place in December, and will feature a visit to Honest Grind and will be focused on the annual review and reflections, key messages and forward planning for 2024.

5. Detached team

- 5.1 Detached youth work is a model of youth work practice targeted at young people, which takes place on young people's own territory such as streets,

cafes, housing estates and parks, at times that are appropriate to them and on their terms. It begins from where young people are, and is characterised by purposeful interaction between youth workers and young people, and utilises a range of youth and community work methods. The borough is split into 3 areas North, Central and South and work takes place 3-4 afternoon and evenings a week in different areas, often linking in with partners in Schools, Youth Hubs, Community Safety and Voluntary Sector Organisations.

- 5.2 The Detached team follow a model where they start with reconnaissance, building a picture of the area. Then the team make contact with individuals and groups – their face is more familiar and this enables them to build relationships. Once a trusting working relationship is established, interventions can take place including project work, multi-agency approaches and information and guidance. Once the intervention is completed, an evaluation is conducted to determine if further work is needed, and which agency is best placed to provide this.
- 5.3 The detached team ran Regents Root Festival on 29th July 2023, which was attended by over 2000 residents including 15 young guardians/champions, 20 adult guardians/champions, 20 young people from local estate volunteering on the day and 25 adult residents from the local estate volunteering on the day. The team also ran a football tournament, attended by over 100 young people from 10 different organisations in partnership with KCBA, Coram's Field, Camden Unit, Fitzrovia Youth in Action, Pro Touch and the Police's Youth Engagement Team. The team also took 19 young people to a residential to Avon Tyrell. Young people have provided a range of positive feedback about the events – including one young person aged 13 said *'the best youth I've gone to and the best staff they are so nice and fun'*, and one parent said *'Thank you honestly for giving him a better summer than I could have'*.

6. The London Borough Apprenticeship Awards

- 6.1 The London Borough Apprenticeship Awards took place on Monday 11 September 2023. to celebrate the achievements of the of London local government apprentices. Camden nominees were shortlisted for five of the six categories and three Camden apprentices met with success:
- One of our Project Support Apprentices (Inclusive Economy) won 'Apprenticeship of the Year.' Having arrived in Camden as an Afghan refugee, he overcome significant obstacles to access and sustain his apprenticeship but has used every opportunity to serve residents and support other refugees facing similar challenges.
 - Another one of our apprentices won 'Best Apprentice working in the Supply Chain'. She was recruited by Camden Apprenticeships team for PACE, a Camden based charity providing play and childcare services. She stood out due to her ability to sensitively consider individual and complex needs of the children in her care. A clear natural with pre-schoolers, The

apprentice has since moved to a permanent role and the team are keen to recruit another apprentice.

- Another apprentice was highly commended for 'Best Progression by an apprentice'. Now a fully qualified Registrar, she started her apprenticeship after being out of the workplace for 19 years, bringing up her children. Her rapid progress illustrates the value apprentices bring to their workforce as well as the excellent career opportunities they offer to residents.

6.2 This year marks 13 years since the awards began and saw a particularly diverse cohort of winners who have excelled in enriching and empowering their local communities. This year's winners also went above and beyond in championing the apprenticeship programmes in their boroughs by raising the profile of apprenticeships, particularly around disadvantaged families, strengthening apprenticeship services, and inspiring companies to hire more apprentices.

7. A New Met for London community event – 05th September 2023

7.1 The New Met for London Turnaround Plan provides an important opportunity for the Met to demonstrate a commitment towards re-engaging and connecting with communities across Camden/London. The plan sets out core policing activities to ensure effective delivery of the Mets mission. Nine priorities have been identified in the plan to improve policing activities, reduce crime and deliver More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards. These priorities focus on rebalancing the Met's activity to give more emphasis to proactive capabilities and increasing efficiency.

7.2 The community event took place at Crowndale centre on 05th September. This was an opportunity for the Met Commissioner and Superintendents aligned to Camden and Islington BCU to present the new Met priorities. There were between 50-60 people in attendance including a large number of young people. There was good partnership working and the session consisted of a presentation and table discussion on Met priorities and a panel where people were able to ask questions.

Key points covered:

- The Met stated their mission is to deliver More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards.
- Commitment to build a New Met for London where communities know their local officers, help to shape their policing priorities and work with them to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- That when victims call for help, they are satisfied with the response.
- There will be a focus on reducing disproportionality when crime and the use of police powers fall unevenly across Camden community.

Community crime fighting:

Pledge to -

- Work within communities to fight crime and anti-social behaviour. Invest in our local neighbourhood and crime – fighting capability, recognising the pressures they're fighting.
- Recruit additional Police Community Support officers (PCSO's) and put them in local neighbourhoods to deliver the priorities for London.
- Protect neighbourhood teams and reduce caseloads so officers can focus on cutting the crime that matters most to Londoners.
- They will maintain a bespoke set of crime priorities for each ward.
- Use data to better understand the demands the Met face and make sure that they are delivering against the priorities for Camden.
- Make it easier for residents to contact the Met, by phone, digitally or face to face. Each borough will have at least one 24/7 front counter.
- Continue to work with partners to ensure individuals in need of care and non-crime help get supported by the right agency, freeing up officer's time to tackle crime.
- Create a Victim Focus Desk to provide better support and advice.