


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: ALL
REPORT TITLE: Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Young People & Culture: December 2023	
REPORT OF: Cabinet Member for Young People & Culture	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee	DATE: 19 December 2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT: The Cabinet Member for Young People & Culture here provides the Committee with their annual report for discussion. This year's report includes key updates from relevant teams in the portfolio who serve our young people and bring Camden's cultural offer to all our communities.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information: No documents that are required to be listed were used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Nathan Koskella, Cabinet Officer Camden Council, 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG Nathan.Koskella@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATION: The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.</p>	

Signed: 
Councillor Sabrina Francis, Cabinet Member for Young People & Culture
Date: 6 December 2023

Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1. This report covers approximately the calendar year of 2023, since my last annual report to this Committee in January. Our residents, businesses, and voluntary organisations are continuing to feel the bite of the cost-of-living crisis. Camden Council is committed however to ensuring that our youth support and cultural services offer continues to play a hugely important role in bettering the lives of our residents.
- 1.2. Below you will find status reports, policy updates, annual highlights and other examples of the hard work delivered this year by Camden's youth teams,

libraries and culture staff. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our hardworking Council officers.

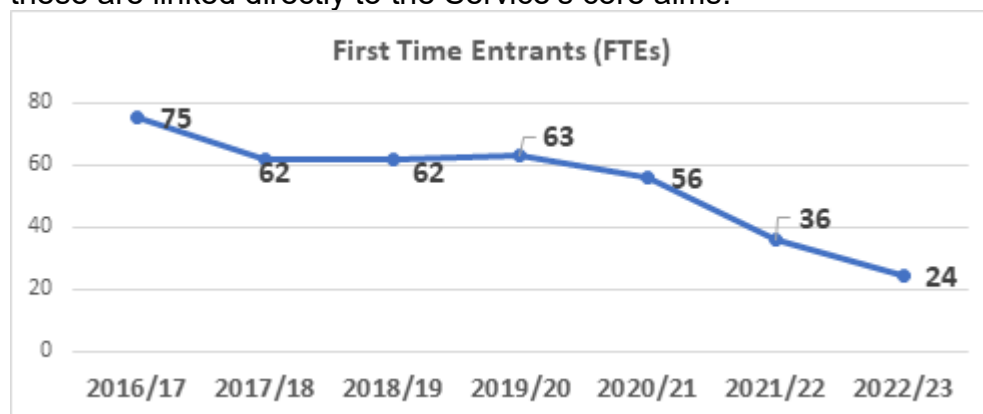
- 1.3. I believe the work highlighted in this report demonstrates Camden's commitment on behalf of our residents to be the best place to grow up in the United Kingdom. Camden is a cultural capital of the nation, and I am proud to continue this work.
- 1.4. I will continue to advocate for and work hard on behalf of our children, teens and those of all ages in Camden seeking out the great culture, libraries and more that our Borough has to offer.

Section 2: Our Camden Integrated Youth Support Service

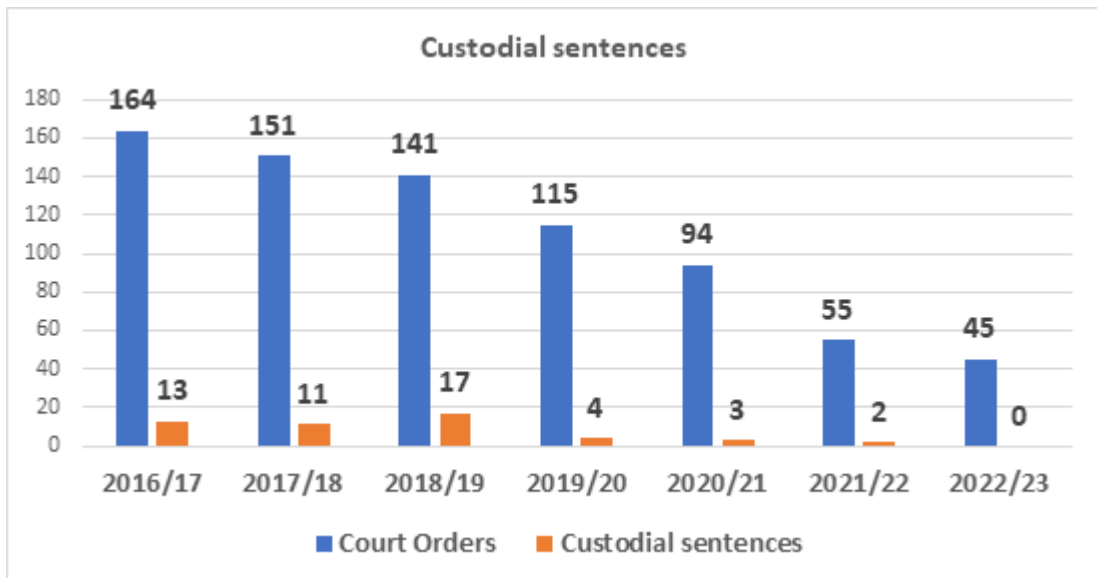
- 2.1. Our Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) is at the heart of Camden's approach to working with young people. The service offers a wide range of projects, services and opportunities to young people in the Borough from universal to targeted and specialist interventions.
- 2.2. It is organised into four main service areas, promoting a holistic approach to service delivery: the **Youth Justice Service (YJS)**, **Youth Early Help (YEH)**, the **Progression & Participation** team, and our team for **Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation**. Key updates this year from across IYSS follow in this section.

The Youth Justice Service (YJS)

- 2.3. The overall effectiveness of the YJS continues to be monitored by the Government against three key National Indicators: reduction in First-time Entrants (FTEs); reducing re-offending; and reducing the use of custody, and these are linked directly to the Service's core aims.



- 2.4. For the first 2 quarters of 2023/24 (April – October) there are 8 FTEs, leaving the YJS on track to sustain low levels.



2.5. There are no custodial sentences in the first 2 quarters of 2023/24.

2.6. 2023 YJS key achievements:

- Sustained reduction in FTEs, custody, and remands, as well as reduction in seriousness of reoffending.
- Disproportionality work continues: Both the Board and cabinet have endorsed the YJS disproportionality action plan which has seen operational and cultural changes within the service.
- Improved ETE working partnerships, including Kings Cross Estates paid work experience project, and the launch of the Coffee Employability Project, Honest Grind.
- New Peer Advocates in post.
- Feedback on priorities and performance was gained from partners, staff, children and parents through the Stakeholder Engagement Event on 23rd May 2023.

2.7. The YJS Service Priorities for 2023-2025 are to:

- Maintain and continue work on tackling disproportionality
- Improve and increase ETE 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.

2.8. The Youth Justice Board have a new oversight framework in place for all Youth Justice Services, Camden has been graded 'Quadrant 1' meaning Camden is a 'Strong Performer'. Performance against the oversight fields is considered strong; the YJS is in the top quartile nationally of relevant oversight metrics; we have a strong Youth Justice plan and Standards for

children in justice delivered well across the board with a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' inspection outcome from HMIP.

Youth Early Help (YEH)

2.9. In 2022/23, Youth Early help supported 550 young people across all casework programmes. These programmes included: family casework; Triage Intervention Programme, FWD Young people's Drug and Alcohol Services; and our Engage Youth Diversion Programme.

2.10. **YEH Family Casework:** The following are some of the key performance indicators from 2022/23 family case work.

- 112 young people were offered 1:1 casework/targeted support in 2022/23; the figure for 2021/22 was 113.
- The most common presenting needs identified amongst young people were Youth Offending issues, parenting issues and young person's mental health. YEH has been working very closely with Child Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS), and the team have been offered 1:1 consultation from CAMHS clinicians.
- Of the family casework cohort 35% were females and 65% of males.
- Majority of young people who accessed family casework programme were from a Black, Asian, Mixed and other ethnic background: 25% White British, 22% Black or Black British, 21% Mixed, 13% Asian or Asian British, and 17% Chinese or other ethnic group and 3% unknown ethnicity.
- In 2022/23, from the family case work cohort, a total of 99 young people's cases were closed. Of these, 30 (30%) were closed after a short period of time (Brief Closure) where the assessment was started but not completed. In these instances, some work will have been done to engage the families, however they either no longer needed support or declined to engage further. The remaining 69 (70%) children went on to receive continuous support.
- Of the family case work cohort, 40 (58%) children from 23 families of closed were stepped up to social services due escalating needs. Of the remaining 29 children, 16 (55%) successfully completed their programme.

2.11. **The Triage Programme:** Triage is an intervention programme aiming to deter young people who have committed a low-level offence from committing further crime and getting a criminal record. The Triage programme contents include direct work with young people around following topics:

- Crime and consequences
- Rights and responsibilities
- Respect for the Law, Self, Community and others
- Offending-behaviour work
- Victim awareness, including Impact
- Positive relationships
- Peer pressure issues
- Engagement in positive activities

The following are the key statistics relating to 2022/23 Triage cohort:

- 11 Triage disposals were issued by the police at the Out of Court Disposal panel, which is significantly lower than 2020/21 (26). Since February 2023. (The Youth Justice Service is delivering the triage programme instead of YEH.)
- The most common offences committed that led to young people receiving a Triage disposal were Theft (23%) and Violence: Common assault (23%). Drugs (15%) was the second most common offence committed.
- Of the Triage casework cohort, 18% were females and 82% males in 2022/23 and 36% were White British, 9% Black or Black British, 27% Mixed, 18% Asian or Asian British and 9% Chinese or other ethnic group.
- 7 (64%) of young people completed their programme successfully in 2022/23, compared to 89% in 2021/22. However, more young people partially completed their programme 27% this year than compared to 5% last year 1(9%) were Triage given but withdrawn due to family bereavement.

2.12. **The Engage Youth Diversion Programme:** The Camden ENGAGE project has a target to engage 200 young people following their arrest.

2.13. In 2022/2023 ENGAGE youth workers made 261 initial contacts for 229 individual young people. 25 young people were taken to custody on more than one occasion within the year. Contact included carrying out welfare checks, completing Edinburgh Warwick Wellbeing and Score 15 Family Functioning Screening Tools, offering information, advice, guidance, and signposting young people to their local support services.

2.14. Of the 229 individual young people met at the police custody suites, which include Camden, Islington and out-of-borough young people, presented at Holborn and Islington police custodies, 37 (15%) were female. This year has seen an increase of females taken in custody compared to 2021/22 based on all borough young people 195 (85%) of young people seen were male. We continue to see more males in custody than females. For Camden residents, the number of young females presented at custody in 2022-23 remain same as in 2021-22, which stood at 14%.

2.15. Of the 229 individual young people, 72 (31%) were white, 94 (41%) were Black or Black British, 24 (10%) Asian or Asian British, 24 (10%) Mixed and 11 (5%) Chinese or other ethnic group, 3 (1%) ethnicity not disclosed. The data suggests, BAME young people are disproportionately represented in the custody data set, representing 154 (67%) of the overall cohort individuals.

2.16. Camden Engage programme has proven to be a success, and as a result the VRU is rolling out the Engage programme across all 12 BCUs in London.

2.17. **Reducing Reoffending Rates amongst YEH cohort:** A key measure in Youth Early Help Service is to reduce re-offending rates for young people in Camden. To measure this, we have taken the cohort of young people who completed their family case work and Triage, Engage Youth Diversion programme and the Family case work cohort in 2021/2022 and we have tracked each young person for twelve months following their engagement with YEH Services. The below data evidence the impact of YEH work on reducing reoffending amongst young people.

- **Family case work:** In 2021/2022, 113 young people were working with YEH for family casework. Of the 113 young people that were engaging with the service, 3 (3%) went on to offend, which means 110 (97%) did not offend within the following 12 months during 2022-23.
- **Triage:** In 2021/2022, 26 young people completed their Triage programme and of these 2 (8%) young people re-offended within the following 12 months of closing their case. This means that 24 (92%) of the cohort who engaged with Triage programme did not re-offend within the following 12 months i.e., 2022/23.
- **Engage:** In 2021/22 Engage cohort consisted of 87 individual Camden young people, of these 13 were known to youth justice service previously. Of the remaining 74 young people who had no prior youth justice outcome, 69 (93%) have not received any youth justice outcomes i.e., have not reoffended following their involvement with Engage. 9 (7%) young people have received a substantive outcome after receiving ENGAGE and/or other early intervention and prevention services.

2.18. FWD is a specialist young people's substance misuse service, offering preventative, targeted and treatment services to raise awareness, increase knowledge and reduce harm caused by substance misuse amongst young people aged up to 25 in Camden.

FWD offer Tier 1 – 3 services directly and signpost to Tier 4 services. Tier 1 services are aimed at raising awareness of substance misuse issues and educating children, young people and their parents on the potential risks and possible harm posed by drug and alcohol use. Also, to raise awareness amongst professionals to identify young people who are at risk of or are misusing substances. Tier 1 interventions include: information, advice and guidance, training and Sign posting and training.

Tier 2: is prevention and early intervention. Tier 2 interventions are open-access and targeted at engaging those children and young people who are particularly vulnerable to substance misuse, for example those in the care system, criminal justice system those who have been excluded from education or those transitioning into adult services. Interventions includes Advice and Information; Targeted group work/workshops with vulnerable young people and one to one intervention.

Tier 3 interventions are specialist, non-medical services targeted at children and young people who have substance misuse problems and may have other related issues such as housing, education and health problems. The service aims to reduce the harm to the young person through a programme of intervention and care management. Intervention and treatment include:

- Assessment, care and intervention programmes
- Review of programmes and care plans
- Psychosocial interventions
- Harm reduction support
- Relapse prevention work
- Diversionary activities
- Access to pharmacological intervention (via the adult substance misuse treatment service)
- Referral to Tier 4 services

In 2022/23, FWD engaged with 210 young people directly through 1:1 casework and structured group work sessions. They also delivered substance misuse awareness-raising workshops to 225 young people and parents and, 106 to professionals.

- 2.19. In 2022/2023 the agencies to make the most referrals were Children and Family Services (27%) which are composed of Early Help and Social Services, YP housing (16%) and Education Settings (15%). In 2022/23 Cannabis was the most common substance that resulted in young people receiving tier 3 interventions, with 60% of young people receiving treatment for cannabis. 21% of the young people referred used alcohol as their main choice of substance. Most clients who present to FWD are polydrug users and therefore need intervention to address more than one type of substance at any one time. FWD has seen an increase of tier 2 referrals for vaping which has become very popular amongst the younger cohort of young people between the ages of 13-17 years old.
- 2.20. In 2022/23, of the young people who accessed the service (55%) of young people were from a Black, Asian, Mixed and other ethnic background and (43%) were from a white background. Of the FWD casework, more male accessed FWD service in both tiers with 54% being male 46% being female.
- 2.21. 88% of young people were discharged in a planned way (i.e., did not drop out of the programme)
- 2.22. 100% of 'Looked After' and 'Pathways' young people were screened and offered FWD services.
- 2.23. FWD continued to work with young people with dual diagnosis, mental health (52%) being the most predominant factor affecting young people who are referred to FWD with substance misuse needs. In addition, two other common issues disclosed by YP were, self-harming (17%) and housing (15%).
- 2.24. There has been no re-representation of young people FWD worked with following the case closure.

- 2.25. **Engagement of young people in Camden Youth Services:** Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 3,571 young people of all age ranges up to 25 inclusive of SEND) attended youth projects across the borough.
- 2.26. Of these, 1,946 young people were considered participants in 2022/23. Of those classed as participants, 1,513 achieved a recorded outcome i.e., gained new skills, raised money for charity, volunteered in the community, gained development teambuilding skills.
- 2.27. 1,091 achieved an accredited outcome i.e., Duke of Edinburgh Awards, AQA Award Units, Food hygiene certification, as a result of their engagement with youth services in Camden.
- 2.28. Through informal learning opportunities created by young people Youth services in Camden is helping to raise young people's aspirations and prepare them for work.

Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation

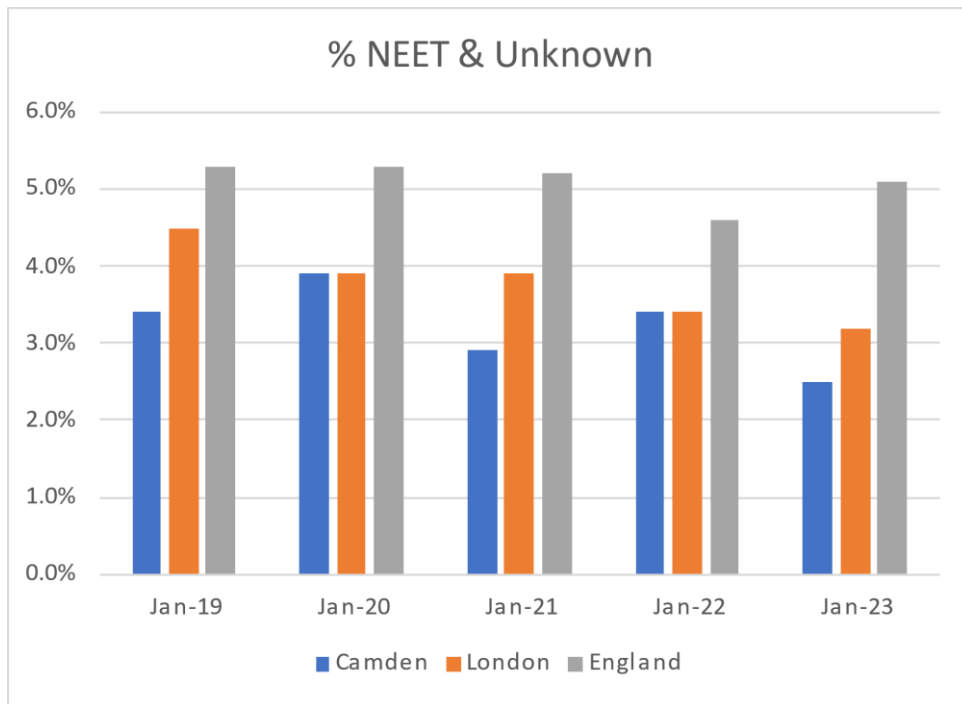
- 2.29. In 2022-2023 a total of 23 referrals were made to Evolve, a similar amount to 2022-23. 21 were accepted and offered support, and 2 were declined due to not meeting the referral criteria. The most common referring agency was the National Probation Service, which is a direct result of the multi-agency work of the Camden Gangs Partnership. Of the 21 accepted referrals: Most were male (90%); the most common ethnic group was Black or Black British (38%); the mean age was 19 but the modal age was 17, reflecting how Evolve bridges the transitional safeguarding gap between children's and adults' services. If a young person does not meet the criteria for Evolve, the relevant Camden Team Manager will refer them to other support services, including our VCS partners, to find the most suitable support provision for the young person's needs.
- 2.30. A new part-time Counselling Psychologist joined the team in 2023. The Psychologist provides 1:1 CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) support to young people working with Evolve. In addition to this support for individual young people, the new Psychologist also provides clinical consultation with the Evolve case managers in order to help all involved with understanding their caseload.
- 2.31. In 2023 Camden's Detached Youthwork Team (DYT) had contact with 169 young people and 39 received accredited outcomes.
- 2.32. DYT's groupwork on the Ampthill Estate is an example of the success of the detached model. DYT built relationships with a group of 23 young people, eventually holding weekly meetings together. DYT identified the need for NEET support and so invited to Connexions Service to deliver workshops with the group. DYT also co-developed a personal development programme with the young people to enhance their employability and life skills.
- 2.33. In 2022-23, DYT delivered workshops in more schools than ever before. A total of 366 pupils were reached. The workshops covered a range of topics including Helping Hands and Playing it Safe for Primary Schools, and the Choices Weapons Awareness Programme for Secondary schools. DYT

delivered the Choices Programme to 366 pupils, 290 of whom received an accredited outcome.

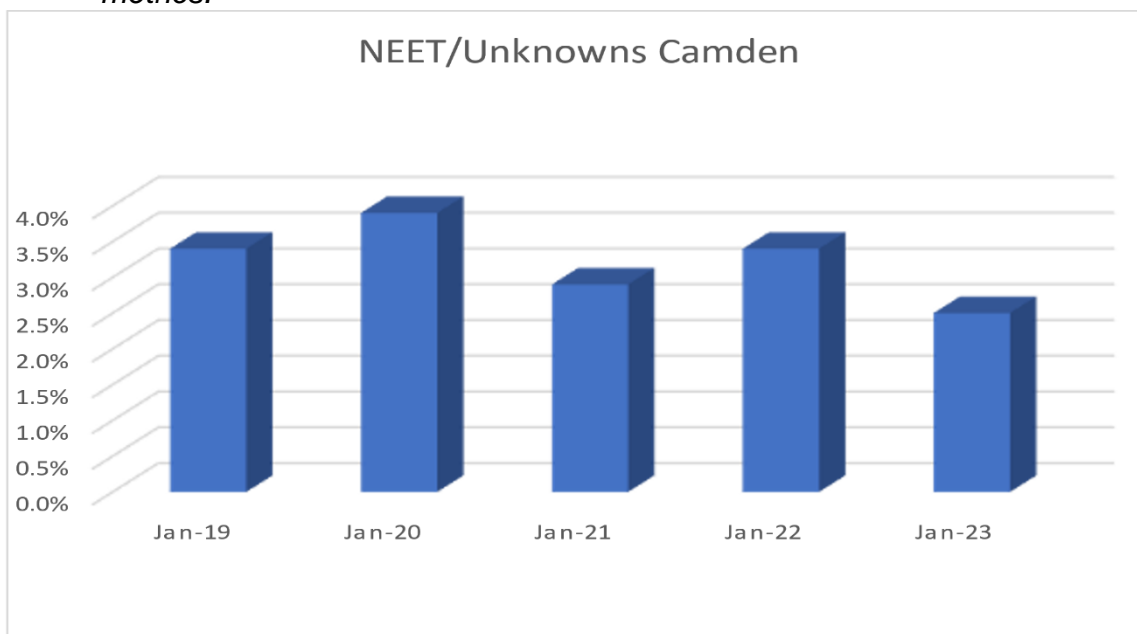
- 2.34. Summer 2023 DYT were instrumental in Camden's FIFA World Cup PlayStation Tournament. The tournament was organised in conjunction with Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association, Coram's Fields, Pro Touch and Camden United FC, and served as a celebration of culture, diversity and community unity. 44 young people participated in the tournament.
- 2.35. DYT's collaboration with Street Doctors has yielded remarkable success. A total of 168 young people and 15 Adult Guardians received First Aid training, spanning across schools, community groups, youth clubs, and alternative education settings. This initiative has undoubtedly made a significant and positive impact on our community, underscoring the impact of this ongoing partnership.
- 2.36. In 2022-2023, 39 young people were brought to Resettlement Panel. This multi-agency panel brings together partners to effectively plan for the release for gang-affected young people into the community, from a young offenders' institute (YOI) or an adult establishment (His Majesty's Prisons). This is an increase of 54% on 2021-22, meaning even more young people received a tailored response from partners prior to their resettlement back into the community. These young people were discussed a total of 127 times, a 154% increase on the previous year. This highlights the robust and thorough response from partners, as cases were brought back to panel multiple times to ensure all necessary action was taken and all options were explored.

Progression and Participation

- 2.37. The "Careers and Connexions" service performance is strong and is measured by a combination of NEET and 'Unknown' data (unknown refers to young people whose current engagement is unknown often because they have moved and are therefore difficult to trace). This year's data is presented here:



- *The Graph above shows the percentage of young people aged 16- to 18-years old who are either Not in Education, Training or Employment, or whose participation is not known.*
- *Camden has significantly reduced the numbers of young people who are NEET or Unknown over the last five years. The Camden performance over the last 5 years continues to hold up well against London-wide and national metrics.*



- *The numbers of NEET and Unknown Young Camden residents have remained low and have continued to fall over the last five years.*

- *This is due to The Careers and Connexions service's diligent tracking and our drop-in services (both face to face and virtual), which allows our immediate engagement with young people as soon as we know they are NEET.*
- 2.38. **Camden Summer University** (CSU) offers a wide range of free activities to any young person 13-19 for 5 summer weeks. This past summer it offered young people a chance to enrol onto a summer programme consisting of 83 courses across 18 venues across Camden. The courses ranged from graphic t shirt design with award winning design studio We Are Art and Self-Portraiture at the Courtauld Gallery, Film Project with London Film School and Creative Design at Central School of Speech and Drama as well as our staple popular courses in First Aid, Caribbean Cookery, Manga Art and Basketball. We also included three specialist courses for young people engaged with our Disability Project.
- 2.39. 647 young people enrolled on courses of which 80 were registered as disabled and 240 were on free school meals.
- 2.40. Other highlights of CSU included two new courses at the Courtauld Gallery, our second year of Animal Conservation programme at London Zoo – a programme unavailable for free for any other group at this time - and the Inspiring Black Figures poetry and spoken word masterclass at The British Museum which will produce our now annual calendar. Our media and public speaking courses were further highlighted in the annual CSU Film Show at the British Museum.
- 2.41. The **Camden Youth Council** are a group of volunteers who represent the youth of Camden. The current group consists of around 15 young people plus the elected youth MPs.

Youth MPs:

- Samir Qurashi (Camden School for Girls 6th Form)
- Aya Elgool (Regent's 6th Form)

Deputy Youth MPs

- Hdayet Otaky (Former Regents High, now in college outside of Camden)
- Zara Loyas (Regent's 6th Form)

- 2.42. The Youth Council's priorities for 2022-2024 are as follows:
- Youth Safety (led by Aya): Creating an inter-school community to connect all Camden schools. Strategies include personal and health education and tutor time sessions to educate students and working with youth clubs and community centres.
 - Education and Opportunities (led by Rebecca): Education on life skills (e.g., how to pay taxes and set up businesses) Plans include working with organisations like the Black Curriculum to implement a more culturally diverse curriculum; and making use of schools' and organisations' facilities (e.g., football pitches).
 - Mental Health and Support (led by Samir): Providing free gym memberships for young people; mentoring between different year

groups; mental health days off school; providing young people with access to life coaching.

- Environment and Climate Change (led by Hdayet): Educating young people and increasing their awareness of reusing and recycling. Hdayet's strategies include opposing building on green spaces; improving green spaces and parks; and raising awareness around the environment and natural ecosystems (with support from the London Zoo).

2.43. The Youth Council have participated in several high profile surveys this year including the Skills for Life Survey and Mental Health Survey. They also hosted their annual Shout Out Event on 2nd May 2023. The outcomes of these were presented to Martin Pratt in July and then at the Secondary Head Teachers Forum in September. The current Youth MPs' term is coming to an end. Recruitment for candidates will begin shortly and elections will take place in Spring 2024.

Section 3: Children's Commissioning Work Updates

- 3.1. **Integrated Front Door:** One of our key developments in youth mental health this year was the launch of our Integrated Front Door (IFD). Partners across mental health, primary care, children's services, commissioning and IT, have been working together to develop an integrated referral system for mental health and early help support for Camden's children, young people and families.
- 3.2. The new system means that when a child is referred for either mental health or early help support, **a discussion can be held between clinicians and family support staff to ensure the right services are offered to the family**, rather than via multiple referrals or assessments. The shared referral process is intended to:
- Improve access for families to the most appropriate service at the right level of need
 - Improve partnership working and shared decision-making
 - Improve experience and outcomes for children and families
 - Widen engagement and access to our community and VCSE support services
- 3.3. Six GP practices trialled the new referral process to allow for any challenges to be addressed. All GP services at these 6 practices subsequently transferred to the new process in October 2023.
- 3.4. It is planned that all practices will have fully transferred over to the new process by the end of 2023. It is also intended that this new referral process will be available across more community partners from 2024.
- 3.5. The IFD will be rolled out to all venues from Spring 2023. Engagement with GPs, schools, families and VCSE providers will continue to take place throughout the development. CAMHS services continue to work alongside our

Early Help and Social Care teams to ensure access to clinical services and also provide case consultations with teams.

- 3.6. **CYP Social Prescribing Pilot:** In the past year, Camden has established a Children and Young People (CYP) Social Prescribing Pilot, working with young people referred from GPs, schools, Early Help and the Camden Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Many of the young people referred are socially isolated or not engaging with education.
- 3.7. Link workers employed by The Brandon Centre and Fitzrovia Youth in Action support young people to identify and participate in activities to enable them to develop their confidence, self-esteem, and social connectedness. An individual budget is also available if needed for equipment or sessions—e.g., swimming costume and lessons—resulting in young people developing friendships, learning new skills and transitioning into employment or training.
- 3.8. Local organisation Catch 22 also support young people to create and commission their own groups and activities, delivered at The Hive. These have included first aid, cooking and self-defence.
- 3.9. **Minding the Gap:** Camden continues its innovative approach to supporting 16- to 25-year-olds with their Mental Health. Our nationally recognised transitions service, Minding the Gap, has been recommissioned to work with young people in Camden who are making the transition from children's services to adult services who have continuing mental health needs or who may have had difficulties engaging with traditional clinical services previously.
- 3.10. The Young People's Service at the Camden and Islington NHS Trust is closely linked with Minding the Gap, and includes dedicated workers in their core teams, as well as coordination of transitions meetings. Their vanguard programme works in a trauma-informed way with young people affected by violence in their community or engaged with the youth justice system, including psychology with specialist youth work and co-production.
- 3.11. **Our expanded work with the Brandon Centre:** The Brandon Centre was able to utilise some initial funding for suicide prevention services to work with care leavers, including many unaccompanied asylum seeking children, with dedicated staff providing therapeutic support. In addition, The Hive have a specific post for supporting Care Leavers and significant resource has been focused on young people who may have more vulnerabilities to being negatively impacted by mental health.
- 3.12. The Brandon Centre also delivers our 'Ground Up' programme which provides supervision, group support and training to VCSE providers and youth workers to enable them to better support young people's mental health needs through capacity building of skills in community services. This work is developed through strong and collaborative partnership working and continued engagement and coproduction with young people and the community.
- 3.13. **Camden Project 10/10:** Following a review of sustainability and strategic fit post-pandemic, the Health and Wellbeing Department and Integrated Youth

Support Service have extended the Public Health Grant funding for a further 2 years, committing £130,000 to fund the operational leadership for the project. Camden Project 10/10 is a partnership between Camden and Islington Foundation Trust and Coram's Fields. It uses an outreach, peer referral and co-production model to reach young people who are not currently accessing services, are marginalised, and are affected by peer-group related antisocial, illegal, and violent activity.

- 3.14. The project provides intensive, integrated youth work and psychological support in an accessible way to small groups of 18- to 25-year-olds, for whom relationships in general come with complexity and risk because of their past experiences. Over time, previously excluded young people are enabled to build trust in professionals, to disclose needs and ask for help, and to accept therapeutic and practical assistance that help them to make positive change.
- 3.15. The project is influential on policy and best practice, for example as a key contributor to Camden's Youth Safety Taskforce and the NHS Vanguard initiative, as well as bringing a trauma-informed approach to its community partners.

Section 4: Camden Culture Service Updates

- 4.1. **Background:** The Culture Service brings together the arts and events teams who are responsible for event management of community festivals and civic events; manages the film office and the generating of income through venue hire and public realm activations; the work of strategically growing and protecting arts and culture in the borough; and leading the Cultural Partnership—Cultural Camden—to help deliver and champion the Council's cultural framework's vision.

2023 Cultural Programme

- 4.2. The 2023 cultural programme was developed to create projects and events that celebrate the borough's heritage, uncover and platform hidden histories and explore the borough's future identity.
- 4.3. At the heart of the programme has been the aim of bringing the community together through activations in the public realm, commissioning new work and developing a talent pipeline for the future. 2023 has been a year of significant milestones and that has provided an anchor to develop high quality cultural programming, exploring new partnerships with the community and cultural sector. *Below is a list of key programmes delivered.*
- 4.4. **Little Amal:** On Sunday, 2 April 2023, Little Amal came to Camden to celebrate with members of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in a year where the festivals of Passover, Easter and Ramadan all coincided. Little Amal's Gathering was her first return to London since 2021 and was a welcoming celebration of London Borough of Camden's multiculturalism and an interfaith celebration. Delivered in collaboration with JW3, The Walk Productions, University of the Arts London, London Irish Centre, the Roundhouse, Argent and residents associations from Somers Town and Alexandra and Ainsworth estates, Little Amal met with 4,200 residents

throughout the day at JW3, Rowley Way, British Library, Somers Town (procession) and Granary Square. 192 artists were engaged in the design and delivery with 518 residents and community groups engaged in workshops. The event ended with a community Iftar on Granary Square, delivered by the Ramadan Tent project, with more than 1,000 people participating.

- 4.5. **Community Festivals and His Majesty the King's Coronation:** The Culture Service manage and distribute the Community Festivals Grants programme. This year, 57 community festivals received grants of up to £2,000 to deliver activities across the borough. The events team provide event management to ensure the events run safely and smoothly. On 8 May the Culture Service led the borough's King's Coronation celebration event in partnership with St Giles, Lab Tech, Argent, and Waitrose. This included a barge trip for up to 120 volunteers and family members in recognition of their volunteering efforts across the borough; cultural entertainment at Labtech, St Giles and Granary Square; as well as "Big Lunch" events and 32 coronation street parties, eight of which were funded from the community festivals grants programme. The Community Festival agenda has grown, and 190 separate events have taken place across the Borough in 2023, engaging more 100,000 residents and visitors.
- 4.6. **Windrush 75 'The Homecoming':** 22 June 2023 marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of *HMS Windrush* in 1948. This was a significant milestone: it was a last chance to honour the living pioneers but to also open a wider public conversation about the past, present and future of the UK. Throughout June, the Culture Service delivered a programme that uncovered the borough's Windrush story, which included:
- A partnership with the British Museum and Lin Kam Art to celebrate the sound-system culture from the Windrush generation and highlight its significance as an integral part of British history. The day included a sound-system takeover on the lawn, DJ and dance workshops, performances, talks and film screening.
 - The launch of the inaugural Pitt Lecture at the British Library in recognition of David Pitt, Baron of Hampstead. David Olusoga delivered a keynote speech reflecting on David Pitt's achievement, how it has changed society and how we take this legacy into the next 50 years, followed by a conversation with David Olusoga and Darla-Jane Gilroy (daughter of Beryl Gilroy), chaired by Cllr Sabrina Francis, Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture.
 - Camden Windrush Tales, delivered in partnership with Camden Black British History community hub: a three-part podcast series that explores the borough's Windrush generation, past, present and future. The podcasts, hosted by BBC 1Xtra's Swarzy Macaly, feature interviews with 12 Windrush descendants, community leaders, activists and experts to explore the history of the Windrush generation, the injustices they faced, and their ongoing struggles for justice. Throughout July, the podcasts toured across our Camden libraries and will have a permanent home in the borough archives.

- Kentish Town Library hosted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra musicians and legendary Trojan Records guitarist Trevor Brown to compose a new piece for Windrush, performed as part of a free Windrush celebration concert along with a workshop.
- A Private View of The Claudia Jones Exhibition, curated by the Arts Development team, the exhibition which celebrates Claudia Jones' life and work from her early years in New York to her death in Camden in 1964. This was unveiled at the Town Hall in the Claudia Jones room.
- The council raised the Windrush Flag on the 22 June at the Town Hall and at Crowndale for one day in honour of Camden's Windrush generation whose contributions changed the face of multiculturalism in the UK.
- The Caribbean Front Room became a powerful symbol of unity and community, a space where people gathered, shared stories, and upheld their cultural traditions. In partnership with Camden Black British History Community Hub in Kentish Town, the Culture Service curated an installation of the Caribbean front room, inviting the public to reminisce and celebrate the crucial role it played in bringing the Windrush community together.
- The Homecoming Celebration at Talacre Town Green took place on Sunday, 25 June, a family event celebrating the borough's collective Windrush story and showcasing Camden's Caribbean heritage and communities. The first time the council has delivered a community festival of this scale, the location of Talacre Town Green was significant because Camden's Windrush pioneers settled in Kentish Town in the 60' and 70's and Jerry Williams, Camden's first Black Mayor, was instrumental in securing Talacre Town Green as public open space. This was the flagship event of the programme, attracting an audience of up to 2000 throughout the day.

4.7. The Windrush 75 programme was the first time the council has delivered a Windrush programme of this scale and visibility. The programme was positively received by the community and attracted a minimum audience of 6,000 people, with an average of 70 paid opportunities for artists, producers and young people.

4.8. **Pride Activation:** The events team supported the delivery and programming of London's Pride Family Zone on 1 July. The location was St Giles Gardens, and the activations included a face painter, drag queen storytellers and musical entertainment, which complimented the stall holders, workshops, and other activities. This event has grown in status and popularity, with 2023 being the largest attendance count yet as more than 2,000 children, carers and parents enjoyed the day. The events team also produced a welcome to London activation, 'We Make Camden Proud,' with a saxophone player and face painter positioned outside of King's Cross and St Pancras stations. More than 50 Camden Council colleagues and family members marched shoulder to shoulder in support of Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer-Plus (LGBTQ+) equality on behalf of Camden.

- 4.9. **NHS 75 ‘Who Cares For Camden’:** To celebrate the achievements and contributions of the NHS and their staff, the Council partnered with photographer Rankin Creative, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH), London Metropolitan University, the London Irish Centre and Outernet London, to create a photo exhibition of the diverse communities in Camden who have worked or currently work for the NHS. Titled ‘Who Cares for Camden?,’ the exhibition explored the different forms of care, including who gives care, what it means to care, what motivates people to help others, and how communities can care for the NHS. More than 100 members of staff from across UCLH applied to participate in the project with 20 selected by UCLH staff (with support from the arts team). The photo shoot took place at Rankin Studios where oral histories were also recorded. The images and audio have been made into a six-minute visual installation. The exhibition was hosted at Outernet in Tottenham Court Road, **home to the largest digital exhibition space in Europe from the 4-9 July attracting and audience of 200,000**. The exhibition will have a permanent home at the Camden People’s Museum.
- 4.10. **South Asian Heritage Month ‘Stories To Tell’:** Taking place between Monday, 18 July and Wednesday, 17 August 2023, the month is an opportunity to celebrate the impact and contributions made by South Asian cultures and commemorate South Asian history in the UK. **2023 was the first year** of a public-facing cultural programme which has been delivered in partnership with cultural organisations and the community. More than 1,850 attended the following events which celebrated the borough’s South Asian communities through the following:
- An evening of poetry with the Daytimers’ Mehfil, a collective that uses parties and more to change perceptions of South Asian communities across the UK.
 - Regent’s Roots, a one-day festival taking place in the streets and open spaces of the Regent’s Park Estate surrounding Old Diorama Arts Centre (ODAC). The culture service commissioned: two dance performances; ‘Pravaas’ from Camden-based Akademi Dance; a promenade performance inspired by the climate migration of people from the Sundarbans across India and Bangladesh was commissioned for the festival; and ODAC’s Through our eyes!, performed by ‘Your People’ which shared personal histories across generations from South Asian countries, through storytelling, poetry, dance and music
 - Kilburn-based ‘Other Cinemas’ delivered a short film exhibition at P21 Gallery on Chalton Street. Films from all over South Asia were shown continuously from 12 to 6 p.m. at the gallery. The festival concluded with a panel discussion featuring the filmmakers, followed by an evening networking session.
- 4.11. **World Cup Football Finals Screening:** The Culture Service led on the organisation and delivery of the screening of the England versus Spain World

Cup Football Finals on Sunday, 20 August. The screening took place on Talacre Road where up to 300 residents came out to watch and enjoy the match.

- 4.12. **Inverness Street Block Party:** Launching the 2023 Block Party with the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop culture, the culture service presented a one-day family friendly event to celebrate, educate and reflect on the impact of hip-hop culture over the last 50 years and its roots in Camden. Camden-based Mandala Productions worked with the Culture Service on the curation and delivery of the event which set out to celebrate the borough's history. Up to 800 people experienced the event with a constant 300 at any one time.
- 4.13. **Camden Music Walk Of Fame:** Supported by the Culture Service, the Music Walk Of Fame stone-layings and festival took place between 4 and 9 September 2023. During the week, 11 stones were laid for Harvey Goldsmith, Janis Joplin, UB40, Paul Trouble Anderson, Gordon Mac, Sugar Hill Gang, Eddie Grant, The Kinks, The Buzzcocks, Billy Bragg and Shalamar along Camden High Street. The 2023 inaugural Camden Music Festival took place on Saturday, 9 September, from 12 to 8 p.m. with the programme presented over two stages, one on the High Street and the other on Hawley Crescent. Community and visitors attended with audiences of up to 20,000 throughout the festival.
- 4.14. **Re-presenting Bloomsbury:** A pilot project to test Camden's approach to interpreting sensitive and contested heritage stories was delivered by the Culture Service in 2023. The project comprised independent research into the biographies of Noor Inayat Khan (Gordon Square Gardens), Bertrand Russell (Red Lion Square), and Virginia Woolf (Tavistock Square). 130 residents came together with historians and curators to explore the lives of these individuals and make a meaningful creative response. This interpretation will be available to visitors through QR codes and will also **form an exhibition at Swiss Cottage Gallery in January 2024**. In addition, the Camden People's Museum website is being developed to provide a 'home' where visitors of the website will be able to access our research and work to represent individuals memorialised through statues.
- 4.15. **Black History Season:** Camden's Black History programme will run from October to December 2023. This is Camden's fourth Black History Season since extending Black History Month in 2020, which will dedicate three months to celebrating the incredible and wonderful achievements and contributions of Black people across Camden and the UK. This year's themes are 'Saluting Our Sisters' and 'Black Resistance.' There are up to 45 events across the season, 28 of which are delivered by the council with 17 from partner organisations that include the British Library, British Museum, Bloomsbury Festival and the Roundhouse. Key cultural commercial organisations such as Outernet, House of Koko, Samsung KX, Coal Drops Yard and Labtech have collaborated with the council to provide spaces for artists to platform their work. The programme launched on Friday, 29 September at Coal Drops Yard in partnership with Black Owned London and their first ever 'BOLO Fest'. BOLO, Black Owned London, is dedicated to the economic empowerment of Black-owned businesses and fostering a strong

sense of community. To date, the programme has attracted an audience of more than 3,000 to Council-run events and a tally of about 200,000 in footfall to the Outernet's 'From The Lens To The Runway' digital installation.

Our Cultural Sector Support

- 4.16. **Culture Education Learning Support Fund:** In March 2023, Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a Cultural Education and Learning Support Fund to support the delivery of education and learning programmes.
- 4.17. £300k has been ringfenced over three years to enable Camden-based cultural organisations to deliver cultural education and learning projects that promote engagement in free-to-access, high-quality cultural experiences in the borough through grants of up to £25,000 cash per project.
- 4.18. Round 1 opened in June 2023, and seven organisations (Scene and Heard, Old Diorama Arts Centre, Creative Health, Cockpit Arts, Donmar Warehouse, Steel Pan Music and Camden Art Centre) were awarded funding to deliver programmes free of charge, including dance and art workshops, art visits and theatre shows in schools, to support more local children and young people access and experience arts and culture in Camden. The next round will open on 8 January 2024 with awards being made in March, with the third and final round opening in January 2025.
- 4.19. **Deliberative Cultural Conversations:** Over the period April to July 2023, the Culture Service curated four roundtable conversation to create space for collaborative thinking and ideation around the challenges the sector faces while providing opportunity to shape the development of a new long-term collectively owned cultural vision for Camden.
- 4.20. Delivered in partnership with Cultural Camden, the sessions looked at how the sector navigates financial challenges, ways to grow the cultural and creative economy, nurturing skills for the future through participation and cultural and creative learning and exploring what a cultural vision for Camden look like over the next ten years. Representatives from 47 of the borough's cultural organisations attended along with 13 year-12 students, who attended the final session as part of their Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Work Experience.
- 4.21. **Artist Network:** In February 2023, the Camden Artist Network and Database was launched. This is an ever-evolving 'register' of artists who live, study and/or work in Camden. There are currently 140 artists and creatives registered on the database and we continue to promote the network through Love Camden and other platforms on a rolling programme basis.

Learning and Development

- 4.22. **Camden Spark STEAM Work Experience Week:** Camden Spark is the borough's Cultural Education Partnership, an initiative bringing together schools and cultural organisations to ensure that all young people in Camden can access cultural experiences and creative careers. Supported by the Culture Service, Camden Spark delivered a week-long programme as part of the council's STEAM Work Experience week, in partnership with Ambassador

Theatre Group, the Roundhouse, Camden Art Centre, Donmar Warehouse, Central Saint Martins, Bloomsbury Festival, and London Film School.

- 4.23. The programme was designed to give 20 year-12 students a better understanding of how cultural venues operate and how they can access the creative and cultural industries through education and training. The feedback from students was excellent, citing development of a range of valuable skills & learning over the week along with increased confidence, suggesting their experiences during the week have had a transformative impact.
- 4.24. **Set Ready:** In February 2023, Film Fixer (our film office contract providers) delivered the Set Ready course, providing training and employment opportunity will see them gain skills in film location service. Upon completion of the training, all cohort members are invited on paid placements with productions filming in the borough.
- 4.25. **Generator Project:** Film Fixer also led on our Generator Project, highlighting research and recommendations for a more sustainable and eco-friendly approach for the Filming and Events industry. The Culture Service are also working with colleagues in our Air Quality team and have partnered with Film Fixer to embrace and encourage this journey.
- 4.26. In February 2023, Film Fixer and the Culture Service hosted the second 'Clean Air: Power conference' which attracted over 70 people from the events and film location sectors to debate and progress this important agenda examining alternative energy solutions and current practice.

Our Events Service updates

- 4.27. The Events team continue their management of the Council portfolio of buildings for events, meetings and conferences, internal, community and corporate. 2023 has seen up to 300 more contracts issued with management from small catering requests to high profile social occasions, as well as the 2023 Wedding Fair at the newly reopened Town Hall. The annual Hindu Durja Puja indoor festival event at Swiss Cottage successfully hosted 8,000 visitors and more over their 5-day residency.
- 4.28. 'Camden is Open for Business' and the Events team contract use of space from small sampling activations to large brand installations. Health and safety, permissions, consultation and licensing advice, including installation of all the borough's festive décor, come under the Events service umbrella and more than 165 bespoke contract agreements will be issued by end of this year.
- 4.29. Our film office, via Film Fixer, continues to manage multiple film shoots in Camden, from student projects to Netflix juggernauts. This year we can boast a minimum of 700 filming days in the borough, all despite the Hollywood film industry strikes which have affected the business. High profile dramas include Netflix's Bridgerton and The Crown; Apple's Slow Horses; an Amy Winehouse biopic film; Olly, a period feature directed by Steve McQueen; Sky TV's Day of the Jackal and a key shoot of Paddington in Peru, to name only a few.

Section 5: Camden Library Service Updates

- 5.1. Camden this year became the first London borough to join the British Library's Living Knowledge Network. This will give our Camden Libraries access to a peer support network with more than 30 other library authorities from across the country belonging to the network, which continues to grow.

Regular webinars take place to share ideas and the network gives Camden access to exhibition panels from the British Library on the theme of their temporary exhibitions, along with access to streamed events from their programme of author events. The first exhibition went live from 27 October and began at Swiss Cottage Library. Poetry and drawing competitions are being planned to engage adults and children with this new opportunity.

- 5.2. The Libraries partnered with the Bloomsbury Festival for the first time this year and hosted exciting events at Holborn Library. This included the Discovery Hub, which saw school classes visiting stalls being run by University College London and other universities, connecting the children with science. The Discovery Hub was at the library for three days and was open to families in the afternoons.

- 5.3. Arts Council England launched its third round of the Libraries Improvement Fund, a capital fund to improve buildings and digital infrastructure. **Camden were successful at expression of interest stage** and were one of 12 London Boroughs invited to make a full application. Camden have requested the full amount of £499,999 and we will find out in March 2024 if the application is successful.

Camden Libraries worked with other teams in the Council including Regeneration, Properties, Sustainability, and Finance, alongside Jan Kattein architects, who supported the project to Stage 3 along with M&E specialist and Quantity Surveyor. The focus for application is Kilburn Library, and community engagement helped to shape the plans which will see the lower ground floor brought back to life and integrated into the library.

- 5.4. Camden Libraries also applied for one of the British Library 'LibraryOn' grants, which were offered to support library services to make their digital offer more accessible. It was a competitive process and **Camden Libraries' joint project with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) was selected.**

The funding has enabled us to pilot the use of a new device called the Envoy Connect, which is a simple to use device onto which the visually impaired can download their electronic audio books. The project included staff training by the RNIB so they can best support the visually impaired person when they visit the library and introduce them to the other activities happening in Camden Libraries.

- 5.5. In June, the Library Service held the LGA Peer Challenge, a virtual session lasting two days and involving discussions with our Cabinet Lead, Executive

Director, Director, library team members, Director of Public Health, Director of Adult Social Care, Ward Councillors, and external partners including the British Library, University of the Arts, Wellcome Trust, Roundhouse, Camden Carers, Social Prescribers.

- 5.6. The two-day process validated the direction of the Service and seven additional recommendations were taken onboard for the Service from the two day process, including developing a 3 to 5 year plan; collaborating with the Knowledge Quarter to explore data insight; and working more closely with Public Health and Adult Social Care to think about cross cutting Champion roles supporting all services to achieve their ambitions.

As part of the creation of the 3-to-5-year plan, the libraries aim to become more “individualistic” in their response to the communities they serve. The library jigsaw (data; team; buildings and IT; promotion and marketing; programming and partnerships; and funding) and the Libraries Connected Universal Offers (reading; health & wellbeing; information and digital; and culture & creativity) have become the key drivers for the service.

- 5.7. The libraries team have the ambition to be more resident-led and this has already begun, with residents approaching us to work with us on, e.g., ‘Life After Hummus,’ a project developing the pre-loved clothes rails at Pancras Square Library; and a resident approaching us to deliver French classes.
- 5.8. During Libraries Week in October 2023, we worked with the Imagination Activists to deliver ‘What If’ sessions to start the conversation about our library spaces and what local people are most interested in. The ideas will be tested in the wider community, and we will move the conversation to what residents might like to share in the library space.
- 5.9. The Libraries team came together in June for the ‘Universally Wonderful’ staff conference, with representatives from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), giving the team the opportunity to feed into the latest national strategy; Libraries Connected, who spoke about the Universal Offers; the Arts Council London Relationship Manager for Libraries, who joined the Q&A panel; the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) who updated the team on their staff development framework; the British Library, which delivered two workshops on the Living Knowledge Network and the British Library services; and the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB, who spoke about the Vision and Print Impaired People’s Promise. This was a great event that brought all staff at all libraries together for the first-time post-pandemic, giving the team an opportunity to share ideas. The aim is to develop a quarterly approach to staff development, which will punctuate between annual conferences. Camden Libraries also hosted the wider London Libraries seminar which was the first in person seminar since early 2020.
- 5.10. As this Committee may recall, our current structure went live in April 2022 and a new Head of Service began in October 2022. During January and February 2023, the Head of Service carried out a Listen and Reflect exercise with the Team and learned what was working well and what was not working so well.

As part of that process, it became clear that the resilience of the frontline service was reliant on our security officers and that the frontline full-time employed staff was insufficient to accommodate annual leave and sickness. With the challenging cost of security officers, **a plan was approved to boost frontline staff numbers** as security was reduced. This new approach is being monitored now.

- 5.11. The Library Service's introduction of LEGO Education has been a success, driven by one of our Community Library Managers. The sessions have been attended by parents and carers who home-educate, a First LEGO League was held, and the Community Library Manager has been successful with several funding applications to the Institute of Engineering Technology (IET). Libraries have been encouraged to become a Discovery Hub to work with schools.

The Libraries Team have also been involved in the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) for the first time this year, and LEGO Education featured here too. Other technological developments include the use of VR headsets and one of our Community Library Managers have been invited to present at Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals' (CILIP) Libraries Rewired conference in November.

- 5.12. The libraries deliver a rich variety of activities and events throughout the year based on the Libraries Connected Universal Offers, which focus on Culture and Creativity; Health & Wellbeing; Reading; Information and Digital and two Promises including the Children's Promise and Vision and Print Impaired People's Promise. Between October 2022 and the end of September 2023, **we delivered more than 2,000 events and 17,245 people attended**. This included a variety of events including virtual headset sessions; crafts; talks; advice sessions delivered by partners; Summer Reading Challenge; What If imagination sessions; chess clubs; events for South Asian Heritage Month and Black History Season and more.

- 5.13. Finally, the Decarbonisation of Libraires in Camden has been recognised at the CILIP Green Libraries Conference, where Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the DCMS, referred to Swiss Cottage as an example of best practice. A blog post was written for the DCMS celebrating the project. It is our plan that 2024 will see two more of our libraries benefit from decarbonisation.

Section 6: Camden Council Takeover Challenge Event 2023

- 6.1. On 24 November 2023, Camden held its latest annual Council Takeover Challenge Event.
- 6.2. Originally launched in 2007 by the Office of the Children's Commissioner as a fun, imaginative and exciting activity to encourage organisations across England to open their doors to children and young people to take over adult roles, the Takeover Challenge puts children and young people into real-life

decision-making positions in organisations. In this way, children gain a valuable insight and gain experience of a workplace, while organisations benefit from a fresh perspective on their work.

- 6.3. In 2023, we invited pupils from primary schools (YR 5 and YR 6) and secondary schools (YR 7, 8 and 9) to participate in workshops and give ideas and present their perspectives to councillors and heads of services on issues important to them and to help shape the council's policies.
- 6.4. This year, the Takeover pupils will provide their feedback on the following topics:
 - Healthy and sustainable meals
 - Mental health and wellbeing
 - Social media and online safety
 - Violence against women and girls

The Council will, as every year, take this important opportunity to hear directly from our young people and incorporate what is learned into all our youth service approaches.

Section 7: Youth Safety Update and Camden's Youth Mission

The Youth Safety Steering Group

- 7.1. It is five years since the launch of Camden's Youth Safety Task Force (YSTF), founded by Sir Keir Starmer QC MP and Abdul Hai OBE (former councillor and Cabinet Member for Youth People and Cohesion). Following the YSTF final report in 2019, the taskforce evolved into the **Youth Safety Steering Group (YSSG)**, meeting five times a year to provide strategic direction, with the support of the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture providing the leadership in this space.
- 7.2. As the Committee will recall, a Full Council themed debate was held on 17 July 2023 to update on the progress made and our future priorities for keeping young people in Camden safe.
- 7.3. Youth Safety is and continues to be a top priority in Camden, but it is evolving. Our approach involves an overarching outcomes framework with a delivery action plan to be developed. The following overarching outcomes have been agreed: Reduction in violence involving Camden's young people; an increase in young people feeling safe in Camden; and an increase in trust between young people and those in positions of authority.
- 7.4. These overarching outcomes are carried through across the five original workstreams of Prevent, Identify, Support, Disrupt, and Enforce, based on the following principles:
 - A broad focus on Youth Safety
 - Measuring our impact on those most affected
 - Strong commitment to antiracism
 - Partnership is a key vehicle for change
 - A long-term commitment.

- 7.5. The final meeting of the year of the YSSG takes place in December 2023 and will be focused on reflecting on some key achievements. Other than those highlighted by the IYSS in sections above, these include the following:
- 7.6. **Trauma-Informed Practice in Camden (TiPiC):** The YSTF recommended that all 'Schools, youth workers and other professionals who work with young people should develop trauma-informed practices.' TiPiC is a collaboration between Camden Learning and the Camden Education Psychology Service to create trauma-sensitive schools, impacting on the learning environment, use of language and behavioural intervention approaches. An early identification approach was developed to target specific support and intervention for young people at risk of becoming involved in serious youth violence due to adverse childhood experiences.
- 7.7. The project subsequently secured additional funding to continue the initiative beyond 2021. To date 28 schools have been trained, and we funded an additional 7 schools in 2022/23 through £23,000 of investment. Over 100 colleagues from partner agencies (including the Virtual School, YOS, CAMHS, Early Years Team and local charities) have taken part in the work and mental health professionals from Camden Learning delivered parent/carer workshops to five TiPiC schools and sessions for school governors.
- 7.8. **Camden Reintegration Base (CRIB):** The YSTF report found a correlation between permanent exclusion and youth violence. One response to this in Camden was the creation of the Camden Re-integration Base (CRIB), which was part funded by the Youth Safety Taskforce Fund and the Violence Reduction Unit. Set up at Haverstock School it continues to provide a 12-week re-integration programme for pupils at risk of exclusion from school
- 7.9. Over the last four years, 150 young people have been referred to the CRIB and over 80% of these pupils have successfully re-integrated back into their mainstream school. The CRIB has been highlighted as a national example of best practice in the recent Youth Justice Service inspection.
- 7.10. **Early Help Community Outreach:** Our Early Help team have begun a new initiative providing information, advice and guidance surgeries for families in school settings across five wards in the borough – Regent's Park, Holborn and Covent Garden, Kilburn, St Pancras and Somers Town, and South Hampstead. The programme delivers advice sessions directly in community settings and provides an early offer of support to families before situations escalate and result in a need for a referral. This model is based on the early intervention prevention ethos embedded in Camden.

Youth Safety Week/Fortnight

- 7.11. A key aspect of all youth safety work is about raising awareness and emphasising the message that youth safety is everyone's responsibility. Since 2019, Camden has shone a spotlight on Youth Safety through an **annual Youth Safety Week/Fortnight, showcasing some of the fantastic work carried out by professionals and young people to address youth safety.**

- 7.12. Every year, this features a collection of activities, events, webinars and workshops for young people, parents and professionals, across services and with partners.
- 7.13. **Youth Safety Week 2023** took place in June and focused on 'Keeping Children and Young People in Camden Safe'. As part of the week, we held our annual multimedia competition giving young people a voice to share their views and experiences of safety in the borough via a range of media and arts projects. The joint winners were Maru's charity, with a film about the young people who are supported by the charity, including their hopes, dreams, interests and sense of community and safety, and William Ellis School with Parliament Hill School, whose male and female students jointly produced a film called 'What it means to be a teen in 2023'. This focuses on the pressures and dangers for young people of social media, the safety and wellbeing of young women and girls, toxic masculinity / peer pressure and mental health.
- 7.14. One of the other main events at this year's Youth Safety Week was a **Young People's Citizens' Assembly** on the safety of young women and girls. This was held on 26 June and led by our Youth Service colleagues, in partnership with Camden Safety Net, Strategy and Participation colleagues. More 50 young women aged 13-19 (up to 25 years old with SEND) were in attendance with external speakers sharing their lived experiences with general everyday sexism, misogyny and Violence Against Women and Girls.
- 7.15. Workshops were held to examine what spaces and places young women felt unsafe in, and participants shared experiences of what it is like being a young woman in Camden today. At the end of the assembly, the young women provided feedback on the next steps to take on sharing messages with a wider group of young people and specifically informing young men on how to be allies and active bystander/responders to support their female peers. Further work is being planned for next year and our youth service will continue to engage with the young women involved in the first assembly to codesign future events.

Further Youth Safety Updates

- 7.16. We will be hosting the second Young People's Citizens' Assembly offering later in early 2024, which will provide an opportunity to reflect on and share the findings from the first assembly with a larger group of young women and men. The group will examine how to enable young men to become allies. The Camden Detached Youth Team will continue to engage with the young women who took part in the first event, and they will be part of co-designing the next assembly.
- 7.17. As part of our ongoing commitment to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Camden, the Community Partners Fund has recently been launched. The fund will provide seven-year grants to not for profit VCS organisations who can demonstrate that they are deeply rooted in the neighbourhoods of Camden and the key role they play in addressing and responding to community needs. Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 are available, depending on the size of the organisation and level of impact with expressions of interest due in by midday on 20th September 2023. The Community Partner

Fund is the first of a series of new funding that will launch between now and summer 2024.

Our Youth Mission

- 7.18. Our Borough vision, We Make Camden, was published in March 2022—this partnership vision highlights the big issues facing Camden that we all agree are important, alongside practical ways we can make change together and the change we want to see in the short, medium and long term. There are four missions within We Make Camden, and one of these is Camden’s Youth Mission **that every young person has access to economic opportunity that enables them to be safe and secure by 2025**, led by the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture.
- 7.19. In June, The Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture held the first Members’ Mission meeting, bringing elected members and officer colleagues together. On 9 November, the second quarterly Members’ Mission meeting took place to look further at our priority cohorts.
- 7.20. As well as a strong universal offer, there are five priority cohorts within our mission – care-experienced, young people with EHCPs, school non-attenders, disabled young people and young people in the Youth Justice system. The session on 9 November focused on looking at data for each of these cohorts to understand further the work that is ongoing, what is working well and what more we can do.

Section 8: Required List of Single-Member Decisions Taken by Me, or by Cabinet on my Behalf, Since My Previous Annual Report

Type	Title	Date Taken	Effective From
Single-Member Decision	Commissioning Strategy for Camden Film Office ref: 3890	16/02/2023	25/02/2023

Section 9: Required Notations

- 9.1. Finance Comments:
The Director of Finance has been consulted on the content of this report and has no comment to make at this time.
- 9.2. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor:
The Borough Solicitor has been consulted on the content of this report and has no comments to add.
- 9.3. Environmental Implications:
This report to the Committee should contain no additional environmental implications for Camden. Our policies and strategies which animate the work described in this report, however, are always mindful of and align with the Camden Climate Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy and Clean Air Action Plan.