

<b>Item No.</b> 23.	<b>Classification</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 7 December 2021	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Youth New Deal Progress Update	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Jasmine Ali, Children, Young People and Education	

**FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION**

What is the purpose of our Youth New Deal? It was launched with one simple goal. To enable our council to support young people to have positive lives now and in the future.

It has been one year since I brought our Youth Review to Cabinet stating our ambition for young people. As a Cabinet we made the commitment to ensure that the young people of Southwark lead happy, secure, enriched lives and successfully transition to adulthood.

*‘We are committed to ensuring that young people have positive lives now and in the future – we will do this by placing young people at the heart of future service design to ensure that young people influence decisions affecting their lives. We will ensure that our facilities are young people friendly, that services meet their needs and enable them to fulfil their potential*

We agreed that I would establish and lead a joint Member and Officer working group to bring together different departments in the council to deliver for young people. The group launched a Youth New Deal that is in the spirit of the youth review – putting young people at the centre of the design of services for young people.

The attached report provides an update on our cross-departmental work with young people to deliver the New Deal. Linking Leisure, Education, Local Economy, Children’s Services closely together to deliver for our young people. I want to thank Cabinet and their teams who have positively contributed to this work, in particular Cllr Jason Ochere and his Local Economy team who worked to recession-proof job opportunities for young people. Thanks too to Cllr Akoto with her work on health and her commitment to prevent youth violence.

The Youth New Deal is now an excellent example of cross-council departmental working. There is now in place a new Youth Parliament. We opened up a free mental health drop in for children and young people during the first lockdown. We have organised a mental health outreach into schools where needed.

Our progress report also updates on the new digital platform, which will give real time information about education, training and employment opportunities.

We also have updates on the relaunch of the Positive Futures for Young People Fund and new opportunities for young people to be involved in the commissioning of youth services. We see great work on youth space including with young people on the Brandon Estate facilitated by urban creatives We Made That and Chocolate Films. Young people are taking back spaces that have for far too long been associated with youth violence.

We will now increase the cross council partnership to include representatives from the drug and alcohol prevention team.

Southwark is a youthful borough with a large diverse population of children and young people who make up 20 percent of the population. We have 50,000 children and young people between the ages of five and 19. But we also have the most deprived population of children and young people in London and we rank in the second highest quintile in England for deprivation.

This last year was marked by the global Covid-19 pandemic where young people have suffered disruption to their education, are twice as likely to have lost their jobs and are more likely to say that their mental health has suffered. So while we have much to build on we also have much to do.

I ask Cabinet to note the progress recorded in this report and to take the opportunity to reinforce our effort to ensure that no young person in Southwark is left behind.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Cabinet note the progress made in delivering the Youth New Deal, in summary:
  - a) The setting up of cross departmental governance for the Youth New Deal programme delivery
  - b) The launch of a new Youth Parliament made up of 43 young people and their priority areas for the year: Mental health, Knife Crime, Black Lives Matters and Disability Inclusion
  - c) Delivery of “Summer of Play” a summer programme of activities attended by over 380 children and young people
  - d) The launch of a new Positive Futures for Young People’s Fund
  - e) The appointment of a provider to develop a new Digital Hub
  - f) The completion of a youth review of facilities in the Brandon Estate
  - g) The progress made on developing a Sure Start for Teenagers service
  - h) The expansion of The Nest, a mental health support service for young people
  - i) The progress made on pathways into employment and enterprise for young people
  - j) The collaboration with the arts and creative sector in order to broaden the scope of activities and opportunities available to young people.
  - k) Work undertaken to look into the feasibility of a new, state of the art youth facility in Southwark.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. The Youth New Deal aims to raise the profile of services for young people in Southwark so that no young person is left behind. It is the culmination of months of engagement with young people and puts young people's voices at the heart of service delivery.
3. The New Youth Deal was announced at the Council Assembly meeting in February 2021, when it was agreed to commit significant investment (£1m capital funding, alongside £500k revenue funding, including both one off funding and ongoing revenue support) to enable the delivery of innovative and exceptional services and opportunities for young people in Southwark.
4. The Youth New Deal is the council's response to rising challenges that young people face including unemployment, mental health issues, and crime – all of which have been exacerbated by Covid- with those under 25 in the UK over twice as likely to have lost their job due to the pandemic as those over 25s.
5. The Youth New Deal also recognises that young people have been hit with a growing mental health crisis, with one in four in the UK currently feeling 'unable to cope', according to the Prince's Trust. Hundreds of young people have accessed Southwark's new free mental health drop-in service for children and young people, The Nest, since it opened online in April and physically opened the doors in August 2020.
6. The Youth New Deal builds on last year's Youth Review and places young people at the heart of future service design to ensure that they can influence decisions affecting their lives. This includes ensuring that council's facilities are fit for purpose, of high quality and young people friendly and that services meet their needs and enable them to fulfil their potential.
7. This is a progress update report outlining the substantial work to implement the Youth New Deal that has taken place at pace in 2021.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

8. The below is a summary of each of the Youth New Deal cross-departmental programme workstreams. It also reflects how corporate priorities such as Southwark Stands Together and the Climate Emergency have been built into its delivery.

### Governance

9. In March 2021 the Deputy Leader & Cabinet lead Children, Young People established a member and officer group ('commission') to oversee the delivery of the Youth New Deal and make sure that its commitments to young people are moved on at pace. At the same time the Strategic Director

of Environment and Leisure established an officers' cross-departmental working group, to facilitate the necessary collaborative work required to make a success of this programme.

10. Both groups have been meeting regularly and have been key in ensuring joint working and a seamless corporate approach to deliver this agenda.

### Youth Parliament

11. A new Youth Parliament was launched in September with the aim of giving young people influence on council decision-making and to work alongside council officers and elected members.
12. Officers from the youth service, communities and education teams worked closely to set up the new Southwark Youth Parliament, which replaced the previous Youth Council. This included liaison with the Southwark Association of Secondary Head Teachers (SASH).
13. A number of events for young people took place over summer and attracted over 80 young people who had a chance to learn about the Youth Parliament and the New Youth Deal, as well as hearing from inspirational speakers, including the Mother of The House of Commons RT Hon Harriet Harman QC MP. At these events, they further shared their views on the future of the council's youth service offer. These events were organised in partnership with the Southwark Young Advisors and promoted widely on social media.
14. Over the month of June young people in the borough aged 14 to 19 were invited and encouraged to submit their candidacies to represent their school or local area on the new youth Parliament. The nomination period closed with 81 eligible candidates which included applications from 18 secondary schools and academies, SILS, youth centres and local areas. This was an outstanding result building on the previous Youth Council schools coverage, which saw 11 schools represented.
15. Elections took place between 19 and 25 July with over 1,200 young people taking part in the voting. 53 candidates stood for the parliament, from which 45 young people were successfully elected. Induction and training took place over the month of August and the first Youth Parliament meeting took place on the 15 of September 2021.
16. The Youth Parliament will be the cornerstone of the Youth New Deal Implementation as well as ensuring that young people's voices are included in wider council policy and decision-making. The young parliamentarians now meet every other week supported by council officers and will be focusing on work to advance their chosen priority areas for the coming year: Black Lives Matter (BLM), Mental Health, Knife Crime and Disability Inclusion.

## Summer of Play

17. Teams across the Environment and Leisure Department put on a variety of exciting activities and events as part of this year's 'Summer of Play' programme. It was vital that children and young people were given the opportunity to have fun and relax during the summer holidays, after what has been an especially stressful year for many, due to the COVID pandemic. A working group was set up with key 'Summer of Play' leads who met regularly to develop the offer. The working group included staff from the youth service, play service, libraries, culture, sports & physical activity, public health and the communications team.
18. Key highlights from the 'Summer of Play' programme included the 'Create and Play sessions' that took place in Southwark parks during August for children and young people aged 6 – 16 years old. Three organisations were commissioned by the culture team which resulted in over 260 participants. The sessions included screen-printing, painting on bags and t-shirts, weaving with exciting materials, experimental drawing, movement life drawing with dancers and musicians, clay modelling, mural painting, and gardening and plant-based workshops.
19. Another highlight was the Summer of Food and Fun scheme which the Sport and Physical Activity Team helped to deliver. The aim was to help local families who were in need of additional support to get free, healthy food and enjoy a wide variety of fun sport and physical activities. 11 sports were offered ranging from horse riding and paddle boarding to inclusive yoga and skateboarding. In total over 120 young people took part with 319 attendances recorded over the four weeks. They received really positive feedback from the providers and some are now seeing young people attend regular sessions at those clubs.
20. The 'Summer of Play' activities were uploaded onto Southwark Presents under a new 'Summer of Play' category. This promotion resulted in over 16,600 clicks; marketing colleagues confirmed that this is by far the highest web traffic they've seen on Southwark Presents webpages apart from Southwark's fireworks night event. The Summer of Play working group will mobilise again ahead of Easter 2022; following that the group will work together in the build-up to summer 2022.

## Positive Future for Young People Fund and Young People's Fund

21. The previous Youth and Play grants scheme and Positive Future Fund have been merged under the Positive Future for Young People Fund (PFYPF). This ensures that there is a streamlined grants programme, which has been shaped by young people, and will deliver activities for young people in Southwark.
22. The PFYPF programme consists of £1,085,994 to commission activities for young people for the period 2022/23 and 2023/24

23. Fundamental to the new commission was ensuring that young people helped shape the programme content, so that programmes will be delivered that reflect young people's key interests. Over 400 young people were consulted with, and their feedback was used to establish the priority activities criteria for the grant programme.
24. Over 100 applications were received from potential programme providers, resulting in 23 organisations being shortlisted and 21 receiving grant funding to deliver an exciting and wide ranging offer of activities. Young people formed part of the grants panel selected the successful providers – and the process included a Dragons' Den, where potential providers had to pitch their programmes and ideas to the panel, which included young people. The new activities and services will go live in April 2022.
25. Officers are also currently working on setting up a £60,000 Young People's Fund (over 2 years), to give young people the opportunity to apply for funding and enable them to access certain activities, where barriers such as affordability and accessibility are an issue. This fund will launch in April 2022.

#### Development of digital information hub

26. Officers have been working on developing a new Youth Services Digital Hub which will be easily accessible and ensure the rapid provision of comprehensive, up to date and relevant information about activities and services for young people and their families.
27. The new Digital Hub will create clearer pathways for young people to access information around careers advice, emotional wellbeing and personal development.
28. A tendering exercise for the IT portal/web development works took place over the summer, with a supplier appointed in October. Work is now underway involving young people, to create a flexible, user-friendly, interactive and future-proof portal. The Digital Hub will respond to the feedback that young people, their parents and carers, and external organisations gave during the youth review.
29. Officers are working with colleagues in other departments, e.g. economy, IT, inclusion and advice service etc. to develop a streamlined solution that meets young people's needs.

#### The Nest: Mental health and wellbeing support for young people in schools

30. The Nest, funded by Southwark Council and delivered by charity Groundwork London, is one of the key components of the council's commitment that 100 per cent of children and young people in Southwark have access to emotional wellbeing and mental health support.

31. Under the Youth New Deal, the council approved £200,000 to take the service directly into schools to help ensure young people's mental health and wellbeing needs are met, especially in light of the extra challenges caused by the pandemic. The funding is for a 12 month period. Whilst the funding is time-limited, the service is aiming to evidence ongoing tangible benefits beyond this time.
32. The Nest has recruited a dedicated staffing team to deliver the support into schools with a focus on awareness raising, transitions and working with children who are at risk of or have been excluded.
33. The service is for free support packages that are bespoke for primary and secondary schools in Southwark, focusing on attending assemblies, workshops for students, and staff training. The Nest also offers a booth during parents' and open evenings to chat to parents, guardians and other caregivers about any concerns they have and what The Nest can do to help their young person.
34. During September 2021 the service shared session plans with schools to promote the support packages, generate interest and book in sessions. On 4 October 2021 the service commenced delivery of support. By 19 October 2021, thirteen schools had expressed an interest in the programme, made up of six primary and seven secondary schools.
35. It is believed that the uptake at this stage is due to the impact of the summer holidays and the focus from schools on the new student intake in September 2021. Additionally, pre-pandemic, schools have been supporting the mental wellbeing of pupils, students and staff with a share of the council's ring-fenced £2 million investment.
36. The Nest will utilise the feedback from schools who have had sessions to encourage more schools to take advantage of the support offer. Officers will support the Nest to promote the offer through means including e-newsletters to, and partnership meetings with, schools.
37. Apart from the workshops, described below, the support packages includes pop up stands at a parents' evening and 1-2-1 assessments with year 7s to support them with their transition to secondary school.
38. During October The Nest delivered 14 workshops with an anticipated reach of 387 children. Workshop topics have included 'Mental Health 101' with Year 12s, 'Stress Management' with Year 11s and 'Combatting Mental Health Stigma' with Year 10s.
39. Officers continue to work with schools to promote this free service and encourage more to sign up to the programme. Groundwork London are providing performance data to the council about the support undertaken and the outcomes it has achieved.

## Sure Start for Teenagers

40. The Sure Start programme developed as a Universal Service Offer and flagship Labour policy in 1998. The area-based programme targeted delivery of services and support to young children and their families in the 20% poorest wards in England. Intended to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, school failure and social exclusion by enhancing the life chances for children growing up in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
41. The Core Purpose of the Sure Start Programme was to promote:
  - Child development and school readiness;
  - Parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
  - Child and family health and life chances.
42. Officers have been undertaking a needs analysis to inform the development of new provision for adolescents and those who parent and care for them, which mirrors the original core purpose of the Sure Start programme.
43. Data Analysis has been undertaken to review population level concerns affecting the health, development and wellbeing of adolescents in Southwark, focusing on those in areas of most deprivation. Using Public Health, ONS, and multi-agency data sources from Social Care, Police, Youth Offending Services and NHS.
44. The needs analysis highlights that adolescents are more likely to live in areas of deprivation than all other age groups in the Borough. A number of further key issues have been highlighted in the needs analysis which will form key areas of focus for the new provision:
45. Sexual health remains a significant issue for adolescents in Southwark with the rate of diagnosis of a Chlamydia infection being significantly higher for young people in Southwark than the national average. For all other STI diagnoses excluding chlamydia in under 25s, Southwark is the 4th highest Borough in London and significantly higher than the national averages. This has been a consistent upward trend over the last decade with rates rising by roughly 40%. It is important to note however that screening and testing rates for sexually transmitted infections are significantly higher in Southwark than nationally.
46. Issues relating to healthy weight management is an outlier in Southwark. Over 25% of the Year 6 school population is identified as obese or severely obese. This equates to over 650 children. Roughly 1,000 or 41.5% of all children in Year 6 were recorded as overweight in 2019. Approximately 7% or 160 children were identified as severely obese.
47. Whilst Southwark's Young People continue to outperform comparators in almost all educational outcomes, there is an increasing inequality gap

between disadvantaged pupils and their own Southwark Peers for Level 2 qualifications. However, this gap is significantly smaller than national. The inequality gap is mirrored for Level 3 qualifications at age 19, though has seen some narrowing in the last two years. Despite the positive overall educational outcomes for Southwark young people across cohorts, there remains a significant equality gap for Looked After Children, children who have been identified as in need of Help & Protection and those with a Statement of SEND or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

48. Social Care data show's a direct correlation between levels of deprivation and the likelihood of children being subject to statutory intervention and support; for example 67% of all Referrals to Children's Services in the last 12 months related to children living in the bottom 30% of deprived areas. Rising to 82% for the bottom 40%. 69% of children protection plans started from 1st January 2020 – October 2020 were for children living in the bottom 30% of deprived areas. Rising to 87% for the bottom 40%.
49. Officers are now undertaking a Borough wide consultation exercise to further inform the needs analysis with the voice and lived experience of our adolescents and their parents and carers, which will inform the detailed design of the new provision.

#### Youth led review of facilities – Brandon Estate

50. The Youth Service commissioned the organisation 'We Made That' to develop a youth led review of facilities and public spaces on the Brandon Estate. An audit led by 15 young people over four consecutive workshops took place in May. These culminated in a film screening and Q&A on 24th July at Brandon Youth Centre.
51. One key finding from the review was that young people want, and need, to be part of the decision-making process and involved in the design of the youth offer in the borough. Another related finding is the need for appropriate "young people friendly" spaces. Young people told us that they want to have ownership of, and feel safe in different spaces around the borough. As a result, one of the specific recommendations from the review is to, 'Deliver a young people led review of facilities on the Brandon Estate.'
52. An innovative process to engage young people took place which included the production of a short film made by young people. A report with recommendations and a toolkit has now been produced and shared with relevant officers across the council.
53. Out of a total of 41 recommendations, 30 fell directly on council land (11 fall to private land and Lambeth). Of those, 22 recommendations have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. The rest are being looked at with wider community stakeholders.

### Pathways into employment and enterprise for young people

54. The covid-19 Pandemic has had profound and long lasting changes on Southwark's local economy. Young people, ethnic minorities, and those living in poverty have been particularly affected.
55. In response to these challenges, we have developed an economic renewal plan with immediate, short, medium and long-term priorities, set around four key themes of employment & skills; business; high streets and town centres, and wellbeing.
56. A Focus on Young People is at the heart of the council's economic renewal plan. We will focus our efforts on supporting young people to navigate the challenges of the post pandemic labour market, through access to information and guidance, education, training and employment support.
57. The pathways into employment and enterprise for young people work stream embeds the work of the economic renewal plan into the Youth New Deal and seeks to create clear pathways for young people to access good quality internships, apprenticeships and job opportunities available locally. It also includes development opportunities to support young entrepreneurs who may wish to start their own business.

### Supporting young people into employment

58. The most significant contributor to delivering employment support is Southwark Works, which has in place a network of specialist providers who provide tailored employment support to Southwark residents. Specialist support is available for clients with a range of complex barriers including vulnerable young people including care leavers, people with mental and physical health issues, and those in contact with the criminal justice system.
59. Building on learning from its 15 years of successfully supporting many thousands of Southwark residents into employment, Southwark Works has a greater focus on support for vulnerable young people, even more effective employer engagement via sector specific provision, pre-apprenticeship support and in-work progression. The service operates through extensive outreach and engagement, and has a base at the hub office on the Walworth Road.
60. A review of Southwark Works has just been completed. The findings of the review will help ensure that the Southwark Works offer continues to meet the needs of Southwark residents in what are now hugely challenging labour market conditions.
61. A significant focus of the review has been responding to the findings of the Southwark Stands Together listening events. Southwark Works has had huge successes in engaging and supporting residents from Black,

Asian and minority ethnic communities, with over 80% of clients engaged and supported into work from these groups.

### Apprenticeships and internships

62. There remains a huge council-wide focus on supporting young people into quality apprenticeships and paid internships. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the apprenticeship landscape. The initial onset of the crisis resulted in 44% of apprentices being either furloughed or made redundant by May 2020. Nationally, apprenticeship starts over the course of 2019/20 were down by 12% on the previous year. While the fall in starts slowed in 2020/21, there was a still a further decrease of 7%. Although the easing of restrictions and initial signs of economic recovery present more opportunities for apprenticeship creation, the pandemic has created a very challenging apprenticeship landscape with many employers continuing to experience uncertainty about the future of their business.
63. Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are typically found in lower-level apprenticeships in the hospitality, leisure and retail sectors and employed by SMEs. As the crisis has had a greater impact on businesses in these areas, the negative impacts have disproportionately affected this group of people.
64. In response to these challenges, work was started to commission a pre-apprenticeship support offer as part of the Southwark Works network to help young people access better quality apprenticeships. The new offer will focus on providing inspirational and aspirational careers advice and guidance, which takes into account the needs of the developing sectors in the borough. It will ensure young people are equipped to meet apprenticeship entry requirements whilst providing personalised and intensive support through the application and interview process. The provider will also work closely with employers to ensure their support offer is promoted to prospective apprentices and that placements are of a high quality and are well supported, in line with the Southwark Apprenticeship Standard.

### Youth Opportunities Campaign

65. In response to the impact of the pandemic on young people in particular, the Youth Opportunities Campaign directs young residents to the wealth of local provision that can help them in their journey to work, training, learning or volunteering. The campaign consists of a signposting webpage and a regular e-newsletter publicising opportunities to a mailing list of over 1700 subscribers. As the pandemic continues to ease and businesses are in a position to think about future recruitment, the campaign will look at ways to ensure our young people are considered for emerging opportunities.

### Southwark Pioneers Fund

66. The £2m flagship Southwark Pioneers Fund will provide business and investment support to young entrepreneurs looking to start their own business. Currently under development and planned to launch in Q4 2020/21, the SPF will take into account the emerging and fundamental changes to the local economy through events such as Covid-19, Brexit and the Black Lives movement, and reflect the priorities of the council, including young people as part of the Youth New Deal.
67. Priorities for support under the Southwark Pioneers Fund will include start-up support, support for growing enterprise, support for green businesses and support for social and community enterprises.

### Collaboration with the arts and creative sector

68. Collaboration with the arts and creative sector in our borough is taking place in order to broaden the scope of activities and opportunities available to young people. Officers have continued to build and enhance partnerships with arts organisations so that they can be part of the borough's work to inspire young people and give them positive pathways – including work experience opportunities, internships, and careers guidance. The following paragraphs summarise progress made in this area.
69. Small and large arts organisations are now brought together regularly via the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods & Leisure quarterly Culture Roundtable meetings, which in September had a focus on Youth. This meeting highlighted examples of current work with presentations from young people working with Theatre Peckham and Boundless Theatre.
70. Mountview and South London Gallery are currently developing a new Cultural Education Partnership from which young people will benefit.
71. Active conversations and collaborations with the Globe have included supporting the appearance of The Walk in Southwark – a large-scale puppet highlighting the story of refugees – and a free touring production from the Globe in St Giles' Courtyard.
72. A Culture & Events officer now has dedicated responsibility for youth services liaison and regularly attends the cross-council Employment Opportunities Pathways working group to facilitate join-up with culture and events services. They also share information on culture offers for young people with school team and youth services team for circulation to networks. All culture providers are encouraged to promote their activities for free via Southwark Presents 'what's on' web pages.
73. Participation activity already delivered by all five organisations funded

through the Culture Grants programme (Theatre Peckham, London Bubble, South London Gallery, Southwark Park Galleries and Blue Elephant Theatre) saw 10,612 young people engaged throughout 2020-21 and 7,631 in Q1 2021-22. In addition a PeckhamPreneur Youth Takeover Wellbeing event is being funded through the Cultural Celebrations Fund grants due to take place in March 2022.

74. Officers expect increasing youth participation activity to result from the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) being developed with Mountview Theatre and Drama School, the Old Vic Theatre and the Central School of Ballet. These SLAs are a result of the council's supportive or enabling role in securing new cultural infrastructure in the borough and are likely to include:
- Provision of weekend, after-school and holiday creative learning activities to local young people pathways into employment in the creative sector
  - A dedicated education studio to transform the opportunities and creative experience on offer to young people and the local community
  - Creative industries employability projects
  - Touring a theme-based immersive popup play to local schools with accompanying workshops
  - Dance Academy workshops for young people aged 4 – 21, discounted tickets to family friendly performances
  - Six month theatre making project for 18 – 25-year olds
  - Schools Club for 14 – 18 year olds offering workshops, backstage tours and free theatre tickets
  - Free tickets offered to local young people
  - Open access to Juniors and Associates dance classes
  - Engagement with local primary schools.

#### New state of the art youth facility in Southwark

75. Officers are also undertaking work to determine the feasibility of a new state of the art youth facility in Southwark. After feasibility has been confirmed, consultation with key stakeholders, and in particular young people, will commence in earnest, before progressing to development and delivery.

#### **Policy framework implications**

76. This work is directly linked to the Borough Plan 2021/2022 commitment to *“Invest in young people in Southwark, ensuring our youth services meet their needs and giving them a stronger voice in decisions which affect them.”*
77. The targets to deliver this commitment are as follows:
- Develop and deliver the appropriate governance structure and take

- forward the recommendations of the Youth Services review
  - Ensure that every young person, carer and professional in the borough has access to up to date and comprehensive information about what is available for young people
  - Ensure young people are central to shaping their provision in the future.
78. The Youth New Deal also links to the ‘Southwark Together’ commitment which promises to *‘Commit to root out inequalities by implementing the recommendations from the Southwark Stands Together work against racial inequalities and injustice.’* The youth service is working closely with the Southwark Stands Together programme on work streams for young people.
79. The council value to *‘spend money as if it were from our own pocket’* is being adhered to while delivering the Youth New Deal.
80. The Youth New deal supports a number of other key strategies, and reviews, across the council:
- Cultural Strategy 2017 – 2022
  - Extended Learning Review on Community Harm and Exploitation
  - Health and Wellbeing strategy currently being refreshed
  - Healthy Weight Strategy 2016-2021
  - Libraries and Heritage Strategy 2019-2022
  - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Education provision Strategy 2018 - 2021
  - Southwark Skills Partnership Delivery Plan 2019-2022
  - Sport and Physical Activity Strategy - Active Southwark 2019 – 2023
  - Refreshed Volunteering Strategy 2021 – 2024
  - Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 2022.

## **Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts**

### **Community impact statement**

81. The updates provided in this report are based on recommendations built on engagement with a wide range of individuals across the community. Young people, parents and carers and our partners who deliver youth work in the borough were involved throughout last year’s youth review; over 550 people participated in some way in the process of developing the Youth Review and Youth New Deal.
82. The Youth New Deal is also the council’s response to rising challenges that young people face including unemployment, mental health issues, and crime – all of which have been exacerbated by Covid- with those under 25 in the UK over twice as likely to have lost their job due to the pandemic as those over 25s.

## **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

83. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. The Youth New Deal work includes significant engagement with young people, families and stakeholders. In addition, it builds on extensive consultation which was undertaken in 2020 as part of the Youth Review.
84. This was specifically designed to be inclusive and accessible to all by providing a range of opportunities to engage. Information on protected characteristics was also gathered as part of this.
85. The Youth Review, which the Youth New Deal is built on, was subject to an Equalities and Health Analysis which engaged with young men and women from a wide range of backgrounds, ages, and faiths.
86. We have continued to ensure that the voices of a diverse spectrum of young people are at the heart of delivery and implementation on this work, examples of this are ongoing engagement with young people in delivering and shaping workstreams such as the Youth Parliament, Digital Hub, Sure Start for Teenagers, Brandon Facilities Youth Audit, etc. so that we understand their needs and that the youth offer continues to be relevant and inclusive.
87. The organisations that will be supported under our grant programme will be required to provide monitoring information that demonstrates their commitment to inclusion. In particular, all organisations will be required to provide information on the ethnicity and gender of their participants and staff and demonstrate that they are inclusive and diverse.
88. In summary, the process of engagement as described in this report has been conducted with due regard to the various protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2020 as set out in the Equalities and Health Analysis. There will continue to be due regard to the impact on those with protected characteristics in the ongoing development of the strategy.

## **Health impact statement**

89. One of the main driving forces behind the Youth New Deal programme is to address health inequalities experienced by young people, particularly around mental health.
90. The workstreams referred to in this report afford young people opportunities to become active members of their community, shape council services, feel heard and valued, which is highly beneficial for mental health and plays a key role in wellbeing. Activities such as the

Youth Parliament, Commissioned Activities for Young People, Employment and Training opportunities lead to higher levels of happiness, boost self-confidence and self-esteem and help connect with others.

91. The expansion of The Nest - a free, universal access and confidential mental wellbeing advice and support for young people - is ensuring that young people and families have the opportunities, experiences, and tools to enable them to develop their physical, emotional and social wellbeing. This is particularly important in Southwark, which has higher than average young population suffering with mental health issues and social isolation, particularly following the effects of the pandemic and successive lock downs.

### **Climate change implications**

92. The delivery of services referred to in this report has the potential, like most other service delivery activity, for carbon emissions (i.e. lighting, heating, transport, etc.).
93. In house services are already contributing to the wider council Climate Strategy including any relevant energy efficiency improvements to youth centres and reporting corporately on their contributions to its delivery.
94. In relation to commissioned services officers will encourage successful applicants to develop and implement sustainability policies that align with the council's climate emergency priorities, as outlined in the council's Climate Strategy.

### **Resource implications**

95. The above has been delivered within allocated existing resources.

### **Legal implications**

96. See below supplementary advice from Director of Law and Democracy

### **Financial implications**

97. There are no immediate financial implications due to the implementation of the recommendations of this report.
98. This is just a progress report on the implementation of the youth new deal.

### **Consultation**

99. As noted in paragraphs 83 to 88 significant consultation and engagement work has taken place with young people, parents and carers and youth providers as part of the youth review.
100. In March and July 2021, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for

Children, Young People and Education and the Head of Culture respectively attended the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission to provide updates and answer questions and take feedback in respect of the refreshed plans for Youth Provision in Southwark.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Law and Governance**

101. Cabinet is asked to note progress made in implementing the Youth New Deal programme. As this is a progress report, there are no immediate legal implications arising from the report's recommendations.
102. The aims and intentions of the programme are consistent with the council's statutory duties in relation to making provision for young people's physical and mental health, and access to education and employment opportunities. It is consistent with the council's duty prescribed by the Equality Act 2010 and the report provides details of how the Public Sector Equality Duty under that Act has been complied with in practice. Insert text

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL21/086)**

103. This report is requesting cabinet to note the progress made in delivering the Youth New Deal, as reflected paragraph 1 in the report.
104. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes that there are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.
105. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Title of document Strategic Review of Youth Services 2020	Title of department Leisure Directorate	Eva Gomez Head of Culture 07932379590
<b>Link (please copy and paste into browser):</b> <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s92368/Report%20Youth%20Service%20Review.pdf">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s92368/Report%20Youth%20Service%20Review.pdf</a>		

## **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Jasmine Ali - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure	
<b>Report Author</b>	Eva Gomez, Head of Culture	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	25 November 2021	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	25 November 2021	