



COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 pm Wednesday, 20 November 2024
At Council Chamber - Town Hall

Members of the Council of the London Borough of Havering are advised that a meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place on the date and time shown above. An indication of the business to be dealt with is given below. The final agenda, which forms the official summons for the meeting, will be published in due course, in accordance with the meeting timetable.

Gavin Milnthorpe
Monitoring Officer

For information about the meeting please contact:
Anthony Clements tel: 01708 433065
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Please note that this meeting will be webcast.

**Members of the public who do not wish to appear
in the webcast will be able to sit in the balcony,
which is not in camera range.**

Under the Committee Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the meeting may exercise the powers conferred upon the Mayor in relation to the conduct of full Council meetings. As such, should any member of the public interrupt proceedings, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room and may adjourn the meeting while this takes place.

Excessive noise and talking should also be kept to a minimum whilst the meeting is in progress in order that the scheduled business may proceed as planned.

Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

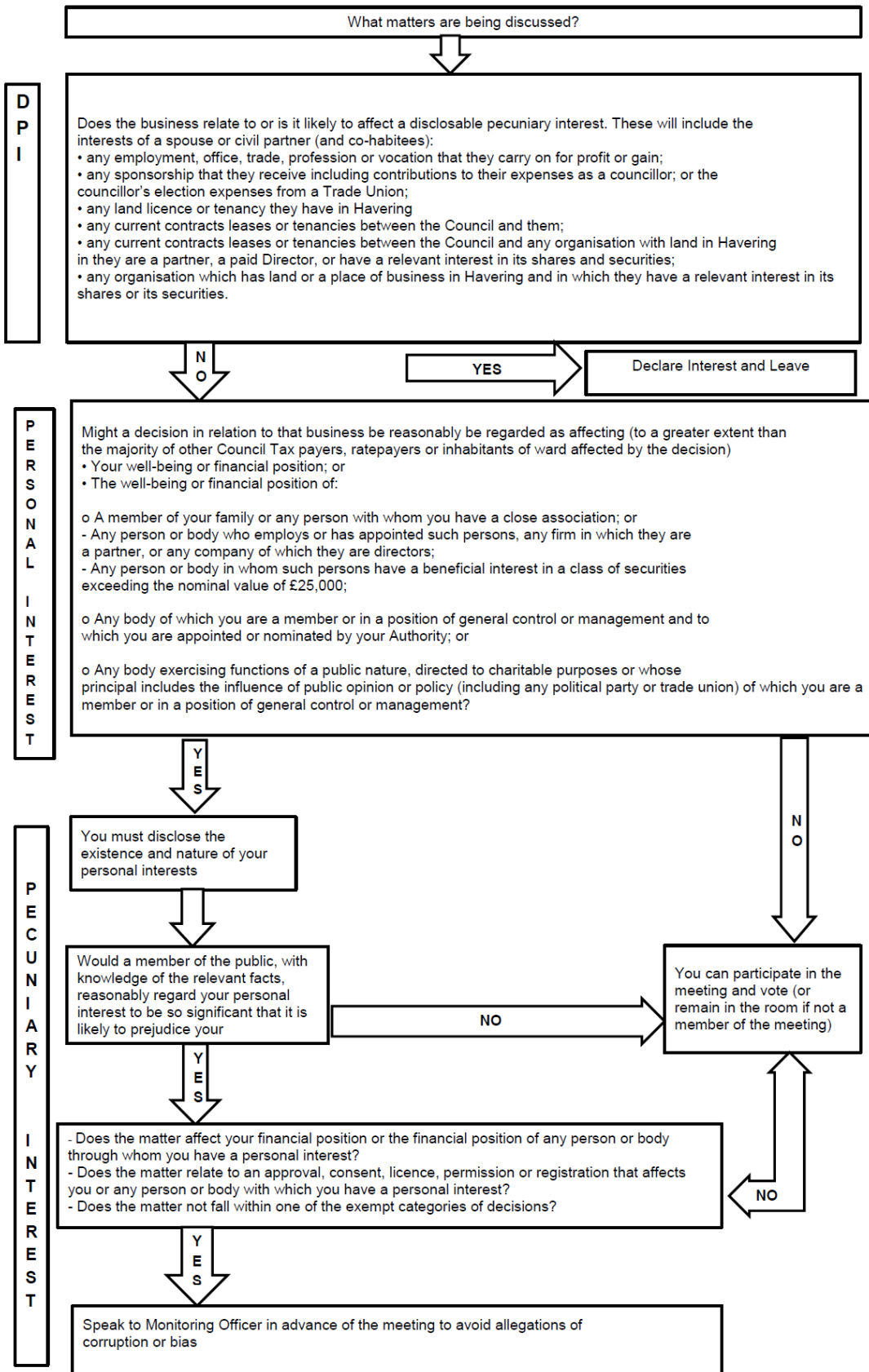
- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



AGENDA

1 PRAYERS

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Councillors Ray Best and Joshua Chapman.

To receive any other apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 24)

To sign as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 September 2024 (attached).

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still disclose any interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To receive announcements.

6 PETITIONS

Notice of an intention to present a petition has been received from Councillors Philippa Crowder, Robby Misir, Laurance Garrard, Matt Stanton, David Taylor, Dilip Patel, Judith Holt and Sarah Edwards.

To receive any other petition presented pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS (Pages 25 - 118)

NOTE: The deadline for amendments to all reports published with the final agenda is midnight, Monday 18 November 2024.

A.To consider a report of the Governance Committee on the Polling Station and District Review (attached, subject to approval by Governance Committee);

B.To consider a report of the Director of Starting Well on Havreing's Integrated Starting Well Plan (2024-27): Happy, Healthy Lives (attached);

C.To consider any other report or motion presented pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(h).

8 ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS (Pages 119 - 128)

To receive the Annual Report of the Member Champion for Young People (attached).

9 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Pages 129 - 132)

Attached.

10 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (Pages 133 - 136)

Attached.

Note: Any amendments to motions will be published in a supplementary agenda once approved by the Monitoring Officer.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 4 September 2024 (7.30 - 10.33 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Gerry O’Sullivan) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors Mandy Anderson, Robert Benham, Patricia Brown, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Brian Eagling, Gillian Ford, Oscar Ford, Jason Frost, Laurance Garrard, James Glass, David Godwin, Martin Goode, Judith Holt, Jane Keane, Paul McGeary, Paul Middleton, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, Stephanie Nunn, Sue Ospreay, Dilip Patel, Nisha Patel, Keith Prince, Philip Ruck, Timothy Ryan, Carol Smith, Christine Smith, Matthew Stanton, Natasha Summers, David Taylor, Katharine Tumilty, John Tyler, Bryan Vincent, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson, Jacqueline Williams, Darren Wise and John Wood

12 Members’ guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

The Mayor advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

31 **PRAYERS (agenda item 1)**

The Mayor’s Official Chaplain – Reverend Ken Wylie of St Andrew’s Church, Hornchurch opened the meeting with prayers.

32 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ray Best, Joshua Chapman, Sarah Edwards, Jacqueline McArdle, Trevor McKeever, Viddy Persaud, Christine Vickery, Frankie Walker and Damian White.

33 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 July 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

34 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

There were no disclosures of interest.

35 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (agenda item 5)**

The Mayor gave his apologies for his absence from the previous meeting due to illness and thanked the Deputy Mayor for chairing the meeting.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that they should respect the Mayor and the meeting process. Any repeated examples of poor behaviour would be discussed with the relevant Group Leaders.

36 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

The following petitions were received:

From Councillor Darren Wise re the possible closure of Harold Wood Library.

From Councillor Darren Wise re the possible closure of Gidea Park Library.

From Councillor Matt Stanton re secure parcel storage in the New Green development.

From Councillor Mandy Anderson re possible library closures.

From Councillor David Taylor re the possible closure of Gidea Park Library.

37 **VACANT POSITION (agenda item 7)**

Councillor Matt Stanton was **ELECTED** as Vice-Chair of Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee, without division.

38 **RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS (agenda item 8)**

A report of Cabinet proposed the approval and endorsement of the Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2027. The plan set out the strategic direction of Havering's youth justice service through Havering's vision and priorities.

The report was **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That Council approves and endorses the Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2027 and associated actions.

39 **ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS (agenda item 9)**

The following annual reports were received by Council:

Member Champion for the Armed Forces
Member Champion for the Over 50s
Member Champion for the Voluntary Sector

It was noted that the report of the Member Champion for Young People would be presented at a future meeting.

40 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 10)**

Fifteen questions were asked and responded to. A summary, including of the supplementary questions and answers given, is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes.

41 **PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

A procedural motion that Council Procedure Rule 11.9 be suspended to allow all remaining motions to be debated was **NOT AGREED** by 27 votes to 17 with 2 abstentions (see division 1).

A procedural motion that Council Procedure Rule 11.9 be suspended to allow debate to continue until 10.30 pm was **AGREED** by 34 votes to 12 with 0 abstentions (see division 2).

42 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (agenda item 11)**

A. PROPOSED LIBRARY CLOSURES

Motion on behalf of the East Havering Residents' Group

The members of this Council call upon the Administration to immediately call a halt to the closure of any libraries in the Borough and to convert the libraries under threat into multi-use venues for existing Council services.

(Received, 6/8/24, 1500)

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

The Members of this Council call upon the Administration to immediately call a halt to the consideration of the proposed closure of any libraries in the Borough until all public and private financial means and opportunities are examined to keep them open and the outcomes of the public consultation are known. The Administration to also review whether any proposal to convert libraries into multi-use venues for existing Council services is a viable option.

(Received, 21/8/24, 0929)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents' Association Group

The Members of this Council recognise this Administration is considering all options before any closure of libraries in the Borough, including the conversion of libraries under threat into multi-use venues for existing Council services.

(Received, 23/8/24, 0817)

Following debate, the amendment by the Labour Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 8 votes to 6 with 32 abstentions (see division 3); the amendment by the Havering Residents' Association Group was **AGREED** by 25 votes to 21 with 0 abstentions (see division 4) and was **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division. It was **RESOLVED**:

The Members of this Council recognise this Administration is considering all options before any closure of libraries in the Borough, including the conversion of libraries under threat into multi-use venues for existing Council services.

B. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PARKS

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Chamber recognises Havering has reached unacceptable levels of antisocial behaviour in our parks. Council calls on the Administration to produce a detailed plan to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour, and to present a proposal at the meeting of Council.

(Received 15/8/24, 1945)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents' Association Group

The Council recognises some levels of antisocial behaviour in our parks. The Council calls on the Administration to report to the Council, details of ongoing work to combat and further reduce levels of anti-social behaviour.

(Received, 23/8/24, 0817)

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

This Chamber recognises Havering has antisocial behaviour in parks, despite most residents' respect for and enjoyment of our social green spaces. Council calls on the Administration to produce a detailed plan of action that is to be implemented to prevent and reduce levels of antisocial behaviour and present this at the appropriate overview and scrutiny meeting.

(Received, 23/8/24, 2002)

With the agreement of Council, this motion was withdrawn by the Conservative Group.

C. BUILDING SAFETY

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Chamber recognises the publication of the Grenfell Inquiry report and reaffirms our commitment to ensuring the safety of residents across the borough. The Chamber calls for the Havering Local Plan to be updated to include stricter building safety requirements, going above and beyond those required by law, as achieved by Kensington and Chelsea.

(Received 15/8/24, 1945)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents' Association Group

This Council recognises the publication of the Grenfell Inquiry report and reaffirms our commitment to ensuring the safety of residents across the borough. This Council calls for the forthcoming review of the Local Plan to consider stricter building safety requirements for major developments and tall buildings, going above and beyond those required by the current London Plan reflecting legislation already laid and yet to emerge.

(Received, 23/8/24, 0817)

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

This Chamber recognises the publication of the Grenfell Inquiry report and reaffirms our commitment to ensuring the safety of residents across the borough. The Chamber calls for the Havering Local Plan to be updated to robustly evidence minimum regulatory building safety requirements and as

far as practicable, go above and beyond those required by law, as achieved by Kensington and Chelsea.

(Received, 23/8/24, 2002)

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents' Association Group was **AGREED** by 24 votes to 22 with 0 abstentions (see division 5) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division.

RESOLVED:

This Council recognises the publication of the Grenfell Inquiry report and reaffirms our commitment to ensuring the safety of residents across the borough. This Council calls for the forthcoming review of the Local Plan to consider stricter building safety requirements for major developments and tall buildings, going above and beyond those required by the current London Plan reflecting legislation already laid and yet to emerge.

43 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is attached as appendix 2 to these minutes.

Mayor

FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 4th September 2024

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Visitor Parking Permits

**1) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Judith Holt**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm that the option of paper visitor parking permits is still available in Havering?

Answer

Thank you for the question. Firstly, for information, this year so far 81,188 permits have been issued via the MiPermit platform, compared to 60 requests for paper permits.

I can confirm that in specific circumstances, for example where residents do not have internet access, the option to purchase paper visitor permits remains available. Residents requiring this service, or requiring assistance to apply for a permit online, can contact MiPermit on 0345 520 7007.

A supplementary question asked if this arrangement would continue for the foreseeable future. The Cabinet Member responded that, as sales of paper permits were only at the following levels:

2022 – 96
2023 – 76
2024, to date – 60

it was possible that paper permits would not continue to be offered in the future.

Refurbishment of the A1306 Trunk Road

**2) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)
From Councillor Matt Stanton**

Will the Cabinet Member for Regeneration confirm whether the Council will be taking advantage of the funding opportunities offered by Transport for London to progress the refurbishment of the A1306 Trunk Road?

Answer

Councillor Stanton will be aware that the A1306 Beam Parkway linear park scheme was due to be funded through TfL's Major Schemes programme, which was regrettably withdrawn by TfL following the pandemic.

TfL have recently confirmed that they have no immediate plans to reinstate their Major Schemes programme, but have suggested that Havering Council might want

to consider using its Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding to contribute to the scheme. TfL has also offered support to a Levelling Up funding bid.

I can confirm that Council officers are in the process of preparing a 3-year Delivery Plan for submission to TfL (covering this year's 2025/26 to 2027/28) and will explore the extent to which the Linear Park proposal aligns to the various funding criteria across the LIP programme areas. Officers will discuss any funding opportunities with TfL.

The Council is also exploring other potential funding sources and reviewing the original scope, mindful that the original cost estimate for the full scheme was in the order of £15m, based on 2020 construction costs.

(No supplementary question).

Urbaser Contract

3) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Martin Goode

With the first year's anniversary of the appointment of Urbaser Ltd approaching, would the Cabinet Member please confirm whether or not, this Council is satisfied with the weekly service being provided?

Answer

Urbaser are currently performing well, meeting the majority of their KPIs including missed collections (38 per 100,000 against a target of 60 per 100,000 with lower being better). This places Urbaser well above the performance of the previous contract. Whilst there are still complaints received around particular issues such as repeat missed collections for individual properties, our officers do monitor their performance and Urbaser have put systems in place to monitor and review these. Any issues are discussed at either the fortnightly operational meetings with Havering's contract monitoring team, or monthly meetings with the Head of Service and Assistant Director. This is helping to ensure a robust scrutiny and escalation path.

Urbaser have been providing officers with a monthly performance report, which has gained in detail month on month as the contractor has worked with the authority to tailor it in order to provide information around KPIs, but also to support Havering's climate change action plan and social value objectives. Officers have been working with colleagues in IT to obtain equivalent reports from Dynamics in order to sense check the data being provided by Urbaser and reconcile any discrepancies accordingly.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member was happy with Urbaser's performance on weekly waste collections. The Cabinet Member responded that Urbaser's missed collection rate of 38 per 100,000 was better than the previous supplier.

East Havering Data Centre

**4) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)
From Councillor Judith Holt**

Following the meeting at Top Meadow Golf Club on Monday 29th July about the proposed data centre being built on Green Belt land, please could the Administration confirm what progress has been made in setting up the pledged monthly meetings between the Planning Department and North Ockendon and Uppminster residents?

Answer

Councillor Holt may recall that the commitment to monthly meetings, as necessary, was in relation to meetings with the corporate supporters of the scheme and not the Planning Team with whom only one meeting was committed at this stage.

That meeting will focus on the process that the Planning Team are following, rather than the specifics of the proposal. If Councillor Holt reviews the recordings of the event, then I think she will find that this is what was agreed.

The next planned monthly event with the corporate supporters of the scheme will take place after the intended Planning Team meeting, the date for which is being finalised. Of course, I'm sure other meetings with various parties will take place as and when there is more pertinent information to share.

A supplementary question asked if the Council would commit to informing all residents of the outcomes of the meetings. The Cabinet Member responded that the Environmental Impact Assessment would be presented to Strategic Planning Committee and hence to all residents.

London Climate Resilience Review

**5) To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Housing Need (Councillor Natasha Summers)
From Councillor Keith Darvill**

Following the Final Report of the London Climate Resilience Review and the guidance and recommendations within that report to London Borough Councils, what action is being implemented in Havering?

Answer

The Council endorses the strategic recommendations outlined in the London Climate Resilience Report and is actively collaborating with London Councils to assess any additional implications. Havering is committed to integrating the review's findings into its existing Climate Change Action Plan, ensuring that any new initiatives or requirements are effectively addressed. This integration is contingent upon the provision of necessary funding, which will enable the Council to implement measures that are both impactful and sustainable. The Council's dedication to enhancing climate resilience is reflective of its broader commitment to becoming carbon neutral and its role in fostering a greener, more sustainable Havering for all residents.

A supplementary question asked if the Council had considered funding applications to support such schemes in the Borough. The Cabinet Member confirmed that funding applications were being looked at.

Highway Tree Maintenance

**6) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Martin Goode**

Would the Cabinet Member please clarify, what criteria is required for a tree that is located on a residential street to undergo a major prune or have its roots cutback to prevent the cause of any damage to residential property, or the surrounding area?

Answer

Currently the tree budget covers works to any trees that are considered dead, dying, diseased or dangerous. The term “dangerous” may relate to any of the aforementioned issues, as well as damage from cars, vandalism or storms.

When it comes to specific damage to property, the burden of proof rests with the property owner to provide a claim for damage with appropriate evidence, which would then be reviewed by the tree officer and a report provided to the Borough’s Insurance Team to make the final decision on any pay-out, should the tree be found to be the cause of damage. The insurers may issue a vegetation management request, which the team will duly undertake to ensure no further damage is caused, or otherwise they will remove the tree in question.

Should there be no claim to property, but it is clear that the tree is touching property which may result in damage, the team will issue a works order to have it pruned accordingly. The team also works with the Highways service to undertake root prunes where roots are damaging footways, however this is dependent on whether the removal of the root in question is likely to destabilise the tree – on rare occasions the tree may be removed. The tree team are working with highways colleagues to understand where there may be alternative surfacing materials that might help retain trees in future.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member could get officers to check which trees could be treated earlier and if these trees were being inspected against the criteria. The Cabinet Member responded that, in order to meet its legal responsibilities, the Council worked to ensure that any issues that may cause a tree to become dangerous were resolved accordingly. Members were welcome to raise issues from their respective wards with him and officers would be advised accordingly. The Council was also looking at recruiting voluntary tree wardens.

Highway Tree Inspections

**7) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Keith Prince**

Does the Cabinet Member for the Environment agree that the length of time between inspections of street trees (for the purposes of regulating their growth etc) is too long and the thresholds required for intervention lacking in clarity?

Answer

The current frequency for tree inspections is 3 or 5 years depending on the location and species. The criteria for undertaking works following inspections is summarised on the Council's website.

Due to pressures with the arboricultural industry, with a lack of trained officers on the market, the Council has allocated alternative resources to address all outstanding inspections. Officers have been reviewing best practice and costs to provide proposals for increasing the frequency of inspections, along with the expected resource required. This is due to both the reduction in insurance risk this would bring, the ageing nature of the borough's tree stock and threats from climate change.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member would meet with the relevant ward Member to look at a specific tree that was causing issues. The Cabinet Member responded that he was happy to meet with the ward Member and asked if they could forward a photograph of the tree in question.

Traffic Enforcement Globe Road, Grange Way & Francombe Gardens

**8) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Jane Keane**

Will the Cabinet Member arrange for Traffic Enforcement Officers to attend more frequently Globe Road, Grange Way and Francombe Gardens to act as a deterrent to those drivers who regularly park vehicles inconsiderately and in many cases dangerously to prevent the ever increasing risk of accident leading to personal injury?

Answer

It is disappointing that members of the public choose to park in an inconsiderate manner which can also lead to safety issues, especially around schools.

The enforcement teams are already deployed in the roads mentioned, and the frequency of patrols will be reviewed.

A supplementary question asked if there would be a campaign of zero tolerance against bad driving in these areas. The Cabinet Member responded that ward Councillors were welcome to undertake such a campaign and he was happy to look at any petition etc resulting from this.

Council Tenants Home Maintenance

**9) To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGeary)
From Councillor Jason Frost**

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing please clarify whether or not Council tenants are exempt from seeking permission to paint, decorate and/or modify fencing belonging to an adjoining private property?

Answer

Council tenants are not exempt from seeking permission to paint decorate and/or modify fencing belonging to an adjoining private property. They should seek permission from their neighbour if they know the fence is not theirs.

Resident Services receive complaints from residents who are not aware that a fence does not belong to them because a new fence has been erected within their neighbour's boundary. Sometimes investigation is required by the Council's Housing Officer and Property Surveyor to establish the facts around the fence ownership and boundary issues. We have seen an increase in this type of request.

A supplementary question asked if details of a particular case could be given to the Cabinet Member. The Cabinet Member responded that he was happy to receive such details.

Unregistered Children's Homes

**10) To the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People (Councillor Oscar Ford)
From Councillor Mandy Anderson**

How many properties in Havering are known to be operating as unregistered Children's homes?

Answer

Havering officers are aware of 3 properties which are being used as unregulated children's homes within the Borough. This is a reduction from 4 at the beginning of the year. Havering do not commission from these providers or any unregulated residential children's home provision.

All three properties (two Providers) have applied to OFSTED for registration, and this is being supported by the other Local Authority Children's services (Croydon, Lambeth and Hampshire) who are using the three homes.

A supplementary question asked what safeguarding children work was being done to ensure the swift and effective communication of responses to residents and ward Members. The Cabinet Member responded that Havering kept oversight of children's homes but children from other boroughs were the responsibility of their individual Local Authorities.

Parking Arrangements on the new Waterloo Estate

11) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson) From Councillor Tim Ryan

Would the Cabinet Member for Regeneration care to explain why the Administration have been reluctant to provide details on the scope and extent of parking provision to be made available to residents and visitors on the new Waterloo Road Estate, and will they commit to accompanying me to meet with residents on site to address their concerns?

Answer

Thank you for your question.

The hybrid planning application (P0761.20) for the proposed redevelopment of W&QS, received the grant of approval on 12th November 2021.

W&QS lies on the edge of Romford Town Centre and has good access to bus and rail services, which greatly reduces reliance on the private motor vehicle.

The application provides for 370 car-parking spaces, 80 of which will be designated as disabled bays, along with cycle spaces, in accordance with planning policy.

It is intended that most of the new parking will be contained within secure car-parks or be secure off-street parking.

As set out in the planning application report that was considered by the Strategic Planning Committee, the site is also proposed to have its own Controlled Parking Zone. This would be a permit based scheme. Any vehicles without a permit would be subject to enforcement action.

Officers already attend a local residents meeting, and this matter, along with the existing CPZ that covers Cotleigh, Honiton & other local roads, has already been discussed.

Given this, it would not seem appropriate to suggest that there has been any 'reluctance' to discuss the issue.

That said, we could ask an officer from Parking Services to attend a future meeting of the local residents group to clarify any issues, if this would be helpful?

A supplementary question stated that residents felt neglected due to the parking restrictions in the area and asked if this could be reviewed. The Cabinet Member confirmed that this could be looked at.

Cottons Park Play Area

12) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor David Taylor

Could the Cabinet Member for the Environment please outline his plans to ensure that the children's play area in Cottons Park is fit for purpose, clean and safe for use by our younger residents?

Answer

There is a robust system in place by Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) trained staff to ensure all of Havering's play and recreation areas are safe to use. Routine inspections take place at least weekly when they are litter picked and any issues reported. Operational inspections take place quarterly when all equipment is thoroughly checked. Independent safety assessments take place annually by RoSPA which officers use to prioritise any necessary repairs and improvements.

This year there are several minor repairs required in the play area at Cottons Park, including replacement of bearings and gate adjustments, which will take place later in the year.

If customers wish to report issues in the parks, they can use the online forms available on the Council's website.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member would commit to the creation of a sinking fund for play spaces funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Cabinet Member responded that he would look at all areas of funding.

Funding for Road Repairs

13) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Keith Prince

Can the Cabinet member please identify the roads which have benefitted from the recent government grant of additional road repairs funding?

Answer

I thank Cllr Prince for his question.

The way in which the Council is using the additional highway maintenance funding provided by the Department for Transport is set out on the Council's website. The funding is being used to cover a variety of activities, road repairs, preventative works and research into possible innovation (in relation to pothole repairs) was completed.

The Council also publishes information about our highways improvement programme, in which £5.5m of investment in roads, pavements and street lighting will be made by the Council this year. For example, 42 roads are expected to be resurfaced and three busy local shopping parades will be renewed and improved along with essential street lighting column replacements.

As such, due to the way funding is being used, and being brought in to support and extend existing programmes, it would not be correct to simply list a set of streets that have been funded by the DfT funds directly.

A supplementary question asked why it was not possible to list the roads that had benefitted from Government funding and if such a list could be provided in writing. The Cabinet Member confirmed that such information was on the Council's website and added that he had asked all ward Councillors for their five worst roads in their wards. Around nine miles of road surface was being repaired each year.

CCTV in the Borough

14) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Keith Prince

Following the announcement of an update to Havering's CCTV network, can the Cabinet member please provide an update on the upgrade and expected completion dates?

Answer

Phase one of the CCTV project is construction of the new CCTV control room. This is currently being constructed and should be built and operational by next month.

The next part of phase one is the switch over to digital cameras and fibre infrastructure in Romford Town Centre which is envisaged to take 6 months and take us up to April 2025.

Following on from that, the existing Housing Estate cameras and transmission paths will be upgraded, and these will be installed and transmitted back to the CCTV control room. This is envisaged to take 6 months or up to October 2025.

A supplementary question asked if cameras with facial recognition technology could be used in areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour. The Cabinet Member replied that there were no current plans to use facial recognition technology in the CCTV control room. There may be a later need to allow the Police and security services to access the CCTV system to conduct urgent enquiries.

Community Safety

**15) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgon)
From Councillor Keith Prince**

In light of the recent violence across the UK, can the Leader please outline what discussions he has had with the Borough Commander, regarding any response to potential local disturbances?

Answer

Havering Police adopted the Met-wide Policing plan to deal with any potential disturbance in Havering. Specialist units were put on standby and intelligence was assessed to be prepared to proactively respond to any events.

A strategic coordination and communication group was facilitated by Community Safety in conjunction with Havering's Police Superintendent.

As a result of intelligence gathered, several sensitive sites were proactively visited by Police and advice was offered to those sites to increase vigilance and review site security.

A meeting was also set up with Havering Council leadership and local faith leads to offer reassurance and listen to any concerns.

A supplementary question asked if the Leader would join Councillor Prince in thanking the Metropolitan Police and other partners for their work to avoid disorder in Havering. The Leader of the Council agreed and thanked the Police and partners for their work to improve safety and community cohesion.

Minute Item 43

Council 4th September 2024

Voting record

Appendix 2

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3	4	5
The Mayor (Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan)	X	✓	X	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Councillor Sue Ospreay]	X	✓	O	✓	✓
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP (17)</u>					
Cllr Robert Benham	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Ray Best	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Joshua Chapman	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Osman Dervish	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Jason Frost	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Judith Holt	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Jackie McArdle	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Dilip Patel	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Nisha Patel	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Viddy Persaud	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Keith Prince	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Timothy Ryan	✓	✓	O	X	X
Cllr Carol Smith	X	✓	O	X	X
Cllr David Taylor	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Christine Vickery	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Damian White	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Michael White	✓	X	O	X	X
<u>HAVERING RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUP (23 + 2)</u>					
Cllr John Crowder	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Sarah Edwards	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Gillian Ford	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Oscar Ford	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Laurance Garrard	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr James Glass	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr David Godwin	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Paul Middleton	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Raymond Morgon	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Natasha Summers	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Bryan Vincent	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Reg Whitney	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Julie Wilkes	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Graham Williamson	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr John Wood	X	✓	O	✓	✓
<u>LABOUR GROUP (8)</u>					
Cllr Mandy Anderson	O	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Pat Brown	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Keith Darvill	O	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Jane Keane	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Trevor McKeever	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Matthew Stanton	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Katharine Tumilty	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Frankie Walker	A	A	A	A	A
<u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP (3)</u>					
Cllr Brian Eagling	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Martin Goode	✓	X	O	X	X
Cllr Darren Wise	✓	X	O	X	X
<u>RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT GROUP (2)</u>					
Councillor Philip Ruck	✓	✓	X	X	X
Councillor John Tyler	✓	✓	X	✓	X
TOTALS					
✓ = YES	17	34	6	25	24
X = NO	27	12	8	21	22
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	2	0	32	0	0
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	9	9	9	9	9
	55	55	55	55	55

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GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 13 NOVEMBER 2024

Subject Heading:	Polling District and Polling Place Review
SLT Lead:	Andrew Blake-Herbert
Report Author and contact details:	<i>Charlotte Byford</i> <i>National Management Trainee</i> <i>01708 431 999</i> Charlotte.byford@havering.gov.uk
	<i>Zena Smith</i> <i>Head of Committee and Election Services</i> <i>01708 431 585</i> zena.smith@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	There are no direct resource implications.
Financial summary:	There are no direct resource implications.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents -

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy –

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place. - X

SUMMARY

The London Borough of Havering has undertaken a review of all Polling Districts and Polling Places in accordance with the requirements of section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and the Elections Act 2022). This action fulfils the council's duty to conduct a compulsory polling district and polling places review in the period of 1 October 2023 until 31 January 2025.

The review includes both internal and external feedback. The Council held a Public Consultation from 12 August 2024 to 16 September 2024 (Timetable – Appendix A). As part of this consultation direct communication was also made with existing polling stations, Councillors, MP's and community groups, 18 responses were received.

Feedback from Presiding Officers and Polling Station Inspectors from both the GLA and the Parliamentary Elections held in 2024 has also been included and formed part of this review.

Following each election, officers will undertake a review and specifically look at any issues that have arisen in relation to Polling Stations. Relevant feedback has been considered whilst undertaking this review.

The aim of the review is to ensure that as far as possible polling places are accessible to all, and to review polling staff and elector feedback and to ensure that:-

- Polling places fall within the polling district wherever possible.
- Account is taken of justifiable complaints by electors, feedback from staff and any responses received from this consultation.

This report seeks to approve the proposed changes set out in the report and if agreed, these changes will be incorporated into the register published on 2 December 2024 and will be ratified at the Full Council meeting being held on 20th November.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Governance Committee endorse the changes to the Polling Place for Polling District EL4 (Elm Park Ward).

That the redrawing of the boundary for Polling District UP2 (Upminster Ward) are endorsed.

All other Polling districts and polling places remain unchanged.

If these recommendations are agreed that Full Council on 20th November approve the decision of the Governance Committee.

REPORT DETAIL

Consultation was undertaken as follows:

- All elected representatives, political parties and relevant stakeholders were given notification of the review.
- Copies of the proposals were available for public inspection at all libraries in Havering, and the Town Hall.
- Direct Communication was sent to existing Polling Places and to Havering Community groups.
- The consultation appeared on the Councils Website and Calendar Brief throughout the period.

It is proposed that no changes are made to the existing polling districts and places in the following Wards:

Beam Park	Marshalls and Rise Park
Cranham	Mawneys
Emerson Park	Rainham and Wennington
Gooshays	Rush Green and Crowlands
Hacton	South Hornchurch
Harold Wood	Squirrels Heath
Havering Atte Bower	St Alban's
Heaton	St Andrews
Hylands and Harrow Lodge	St Edwards

A summary of all responses received to the public consultation can be found in Appendix B.

Feedback from Presiding Officers and/or Polling Station Inspectors has also been considered.

Responses to feedback received are listed below:

Cranham Ward - CM2

Two responses were received via the public consultation regarding the distance some electors had to walk to Upminster Methodist Church. There are no suitable alternatives within the current Polling Districts. Consideration was also given to the redrawing Polling District lines however this would not result in alternative premises becoming available.

Elm Park Ward - EL4

After careful consideration it is recommended that the Polling Place for Polling District EL4 be changed from Bretons Community Hall to Scargill Infant School. It is

felt that this change would allow for more accessibility to voters and prevent them from having to cross the A125 to reach their Polling Place.

Polling staff feedback provided in the GLA and Parliamentary Elections 2024 indicates that Bretons Social Hall is not sufficiently accessible to all voters. Within the accessibility checklist of the polling Station logbook, it was noted that the walk from the car park to the Polling Station is long and uneven, and insufficient outdoor lighting at the venue made the walk even more challenging. The Presiding Officer reported that voters complained of their difficulty crossing Rainham Road (A125), and of the lack of public transport to the venue.

The EL4 polling district map (Appendix C) clearly indicates the division between Elm Park's residential area and Bretons Social Hall by Rainham Road. To mitigate the impact this poses to electorate accessibility; it was necessary to consider all other potential venues for Polling Places within the District. The potential alternative venues identified were: St. Alban's Catholic Primary School (RM12 5LN) and Scargill Infant School (RM13 7PL). Although the Review Rationale orders that use of schools be avoided where suitable alternative premises are available, the Polling District Review has ascertained that there are no other suitable alternative venues. Our recommendation is thus motivated by the Council's legal duty to provide accessible services.

Scargill Infant School is recommended as the replacement Polling Station for Bretons Social Hall on account of its comparative proximity to the residential area of the district (as shown on Appendix D). It is the favourable option as electors are neither required to cross a busy A road in order to access it, nor traverse an uneven pathway. There is a zebra crossing leading directly to the site on Mungo Park Road, and as the school has previously been used as a Polling Place, it fulfils the suitable accessibility requirements such as provision of parking (including disabled parking) and access to ramps. The school has offered the use of their Main Hall as a Polling Station.

Gooshays Ward - GS3

A more suitable entry point into the station at Mead School has been negotiated allowing for easier access and some designated parking has been made available. A staffing review will be carried out prior to the next election to assess staffing requirements, which should eliminate any queuing situation.

Harold Wood - HW4

The current allocated Polling Place for electors in HW4 is St Peter's Church, Gubbins Lane. In the Public Consultation, a respondent complained of the insufficient parking area around and space within the Polling place. They requested for the Station to be relocated to Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre. Two alternative venues were identified: The Hub and Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre. The Hub was discovered to be unsuitable as its meeting rooms aren't spacious enough to serve as a polling station, and the Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre is unable to be hired due to contractual commitments.

It is, therefore, recommended that the Polling Place for Harold Wood continues to be St Peter's Church, Gubbins Lane.

Mawneys - MN2

A response was received via the public consultation regarding the distance some electors had to walk to Collier Row Parish Hall and Catholic Club. There are no suitable alternatives within the current Polling Districts. Consideration was also given to the redrawing Polling District lines however this would not result in alternative premises becoming available. The suggestion of Rise Park Academy and Havering Road Methodist Church both fall outside of Mawneys wards, so are therefore unsuitable.

Mawneys - MN4

A response was received via the public consultation regarding the distance some electors had to walk to the Church of the Good Shepherd. There are no suitable alternatives within the current Polling Districts. Consideration was also given to the redrawing Polling District lines however this would not result in alternative premises becoming available.

Rainham and Wennington Ward - RW4

A full review was undertaken in 2021 to review all polling places with a view to reducing the number of schools used as Polling Stations, whilst the use of schools dropped significantly, it was not possible to find an alternative for Brady Primary school. The use of schools as polling stations is kept under review, an alternative provision is always the preferred option, and will remain so.

St Albans Ward - AL2

Although parking is not a specific requirement when considerations are being made, part of our checklist process is to enquire about parking and negotiate some spaces for electors on Polling Day. Some limited parking is available at Romford Evangelical Church.

St Edwards Ward - SE1

This change took place as part of the Ward Boundary review. St Johns Hall is no longer within St Edwards Ward. There is no alternative suitable venue within this polling district.

Upminster Ward - UP2

Recommendations were submitted for the redrawing of the polling district boundary along Brookdale Avenue and Brookdale Close. The current boundary runs down the middle of the road (as shown on Appendix E) and the recommendation is for the boundary to go behind the properties and bring all electors into UP2 (as shown on Appendix F). The entrance to the current polling station: Gwillcoo Hall, is located on Brookdale Avenue.

Upminster Ward - UP6

A response was received via the public consultation regarding the distance some electors had to walk to Corbets Tey School. There are no suitable alternatives within the current Polling Districts. Consideration was also given to the redrawing Polling District lines however this would not result in alternative premises becoming available. A full review was taken in 2021 to review all polling places with a view to reducing the number of schools used as Polling Stations, whilst the use of schools dropped significantly, it was not possible to find an alternative for Corbets Tey School. The use of schools as polling stations is kept under review, an alternative provision is always the preferred option, and will remain so.

The Review Rationale

To ensure all electors have reasonable facilities for voting, and as far as possible polling places are accessible to all electors.

Where current polling districts can continue as the major part of the new districts, and there are sensible reasons for continuing with existing arrangements, then this principle has been followed.

Suitable existing polling stations be used where possible.

To consider natural boundaries for example railway lines, major roads and rivers.

Polling places fall within the Polling District wherever possible

The use of schools be avoided where suitable alternative premises are available.

Background Information

Under the provisions within the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the previous statutory review was undertaken in 2019.

A further interim review of all Polling Stations was taken in January 2021, as a consequence of the Covid Pandemic. These arrangements were implemented for the GLA election in May 2021 and resulted in the number of schools being used as Polling Stations significantly reduced. A full assessment of venues based on risk assessments, suitability, ownership and availability was undertaken Borough wide as part of this process.

The Local Government Boundary Commission reviewed all the Ward boundaries in Havering 2021 with a subsequent review of Polling Districts and location of Polling Places/Stations taken and implemented for the Local Elections held on Thursday 5 May 2022 mirroring the changes to the ward boundaries.

The Parliamentary Boundary Review has also taken place with changes incorporated within the current Polling places and districts scheme.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: Any increase in the amount of polling stations would incur additional costs in terms of building hire, equipment and polling station staff. The cost incurred from using Council maintained buildings is limited to covering heating, lighting and cleaning costs. These costs are met by the Council only when used for Council elections or by-elections.

Legal implications and risks: The Representation of the People Act 1983 section 18D requires that local authorities designate the polling places within the Parliamentary Constituencies. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, Returning Officers have the right to use certain public buildings (including schools that receive public funds) for use as polling stations at elections.

Human Resources implications and risks: None.

Equalities implications and risks: The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

In all situations, urgent or not, the Council will seek to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all.

It has been reviewed to ensure that all eligible electors can access a polling station, and Staff receive equalities training as part of the mandatory Polling Staff training for each election.

Review of polling districts and places 2024	
Publication of Notice of Polling District and Polling Place Review	Thursday 1 August 2024
Commencement of Consultation Period	Monday 12 August 2024
Consultation Period	5 Weeks
Close of Consultation Period	Monday 16 September 2024
Report to Governance Committee	Wednesday 13 November 2024
Report to Full Council	Wednesday 20 November 2024
Publication of Council's conclusions and decisions	No later than Thursday 28 November 2024
Publication of Revised Register of Electors on new polling districts and polling places	Monday 2 December 2024

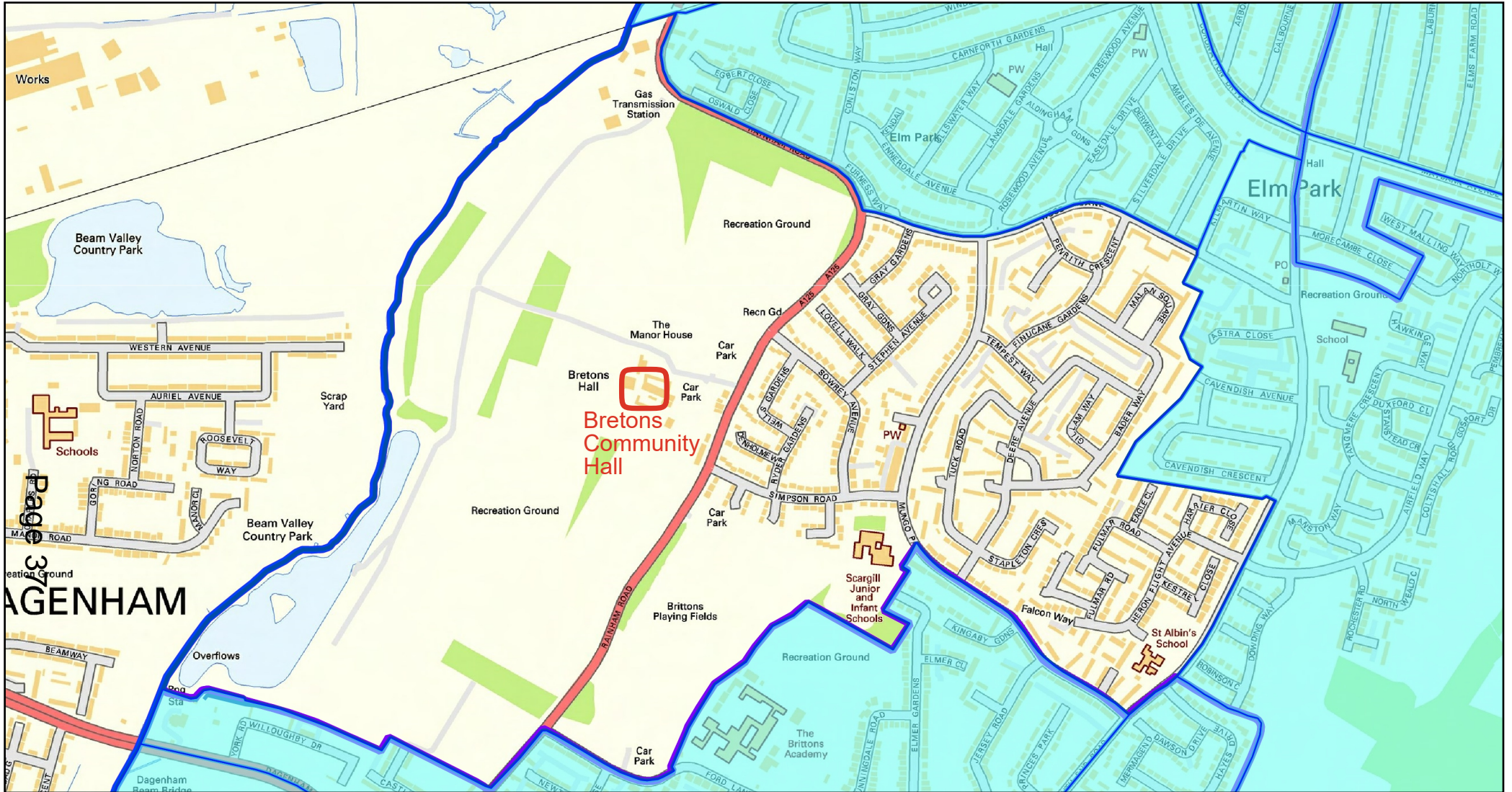
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Appendix B

Ward / Polling District	Public Consultation Comments	Alternative Polling Stations Explored
Cranham - CM2	2 respondents happy with voting arrangements. Upminster Methodist Church: request to reconsider as too far from Benet's Road - not suitable walking distance or on direct bus route.	Options explored: 1) Double station in Scout Hall (waiting for response) 2) Upminster Rugby Football Club 3) Upminster Masonic Hall
Elm Park - EL4	1 respondent happy with voting arrangements.	Options explored: 1) St Alban's Catholic Primary School 2) Scargill Infant School
Gooshays - GS3	Mead School: Polling station moved from church in Petersfield Avenue to School. unsuitable for disabled voters: hard to park, slope difficult to traverse, long queues.	No need to explore other options as issues with Mead School have been resolved by Zena Smith.
Harold Wood	St Peters Church: Request to move station from location in Gubbins Lane to Harold Wood Community Centre due to insufficient parking area/space. Harold Wood Primary School: 2 complaints. Closing school on polling days means having to source alternative childcare, recommendation to use community halls e.g. Church Hall, Harold Wood Neighborhood Centre, Harold Wood Memorial Hall. Complaint of disruption to routine of children with additional needs.	No suitable alternatives. Options explored: 1) Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre (not available as must remain open as a nursery on polling days) 2) Harold Wood Neighbourhood Bar Club (not available as contracted out for club use 4:30pm onwards) 3) The Hub (venue too small)
Mawneys - MN2	Complaint about Collier Row Parish Hall and Catholic Club: Hillfoot Road Polling Station was Havering Road Methodist Church, request to review and change to Rise Park Academy.	
Mawneys - MN4	Church of the Good Shepherd: inaccessible for elderly from Mashiters Hill (15-20min walk away). General complaint about closing schools to use as polling station.	
Rainham & Wennington - RW4	Brady Primary School: complaint about disruption to education from using school, request to consider other venues e.g. hall, local church hall, library.	
Rush Green and Crowlands - RGC2	1 respondent citing good transport links, parking, amenities.	N/A
St Albans - AL2	Romford Evangelical Church Hall - lack of parking on one side however deemed satisfactory overall. Some concerns that both polling stations are in east, but no better alternatives.	N/A deemed satisfactory overall.
St Andrews	1 respondent happy with voting arrangements.	N/A
St Edwards - SE1	Yew Tree Lodge: changed from St Johns Hall in Pretoria Road. Complaint of distance or difficulty getting there.	
Upminster - UP6	Corbets Tey: complaints about limited access to school, safeguarding issues with external visitors, disruption to learning for special needs students.	No need to explore other options as issues with access resolved by Zena.

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Appendix C



Elm Park - EL4 - Current Polling Station

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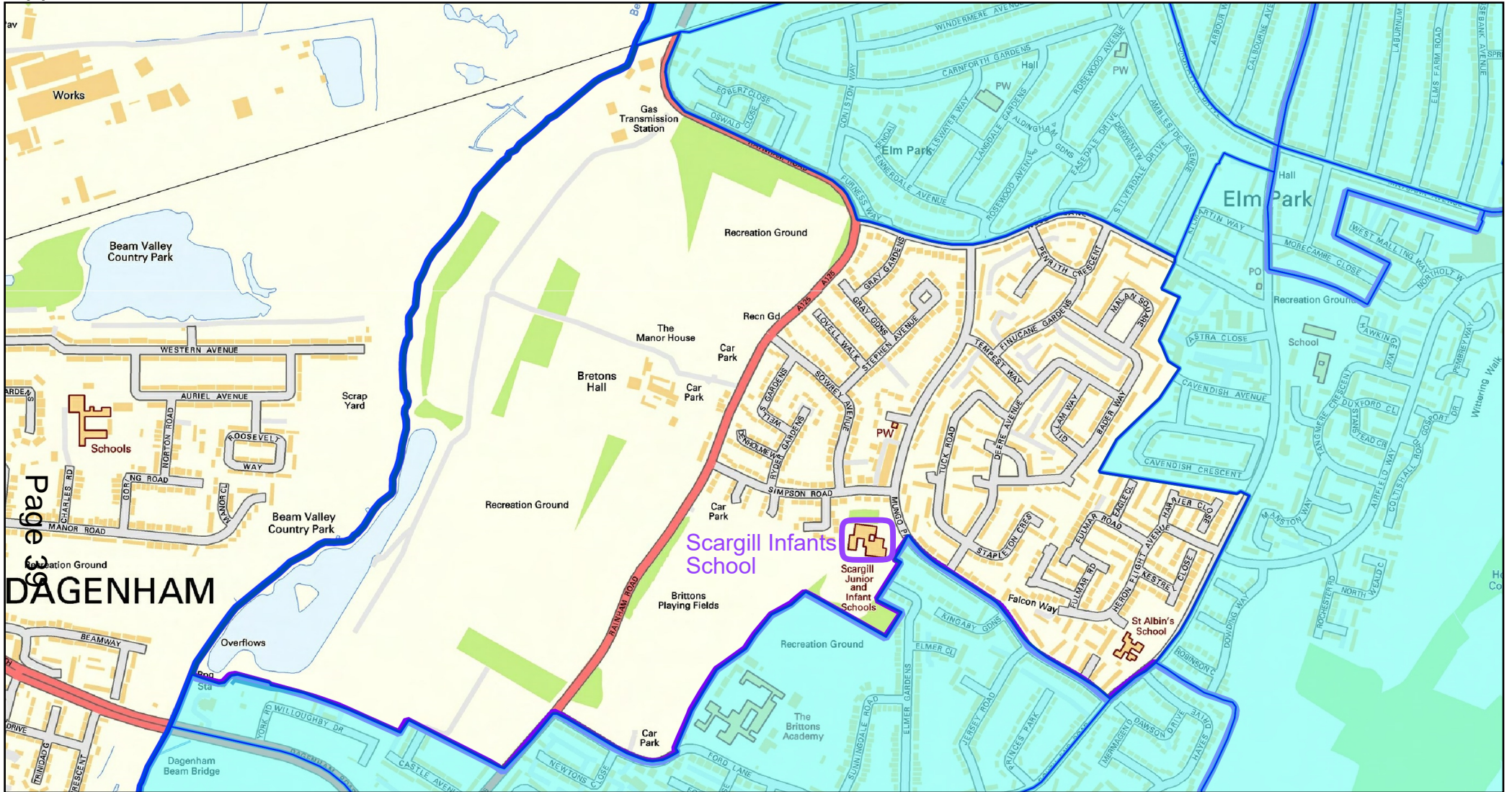


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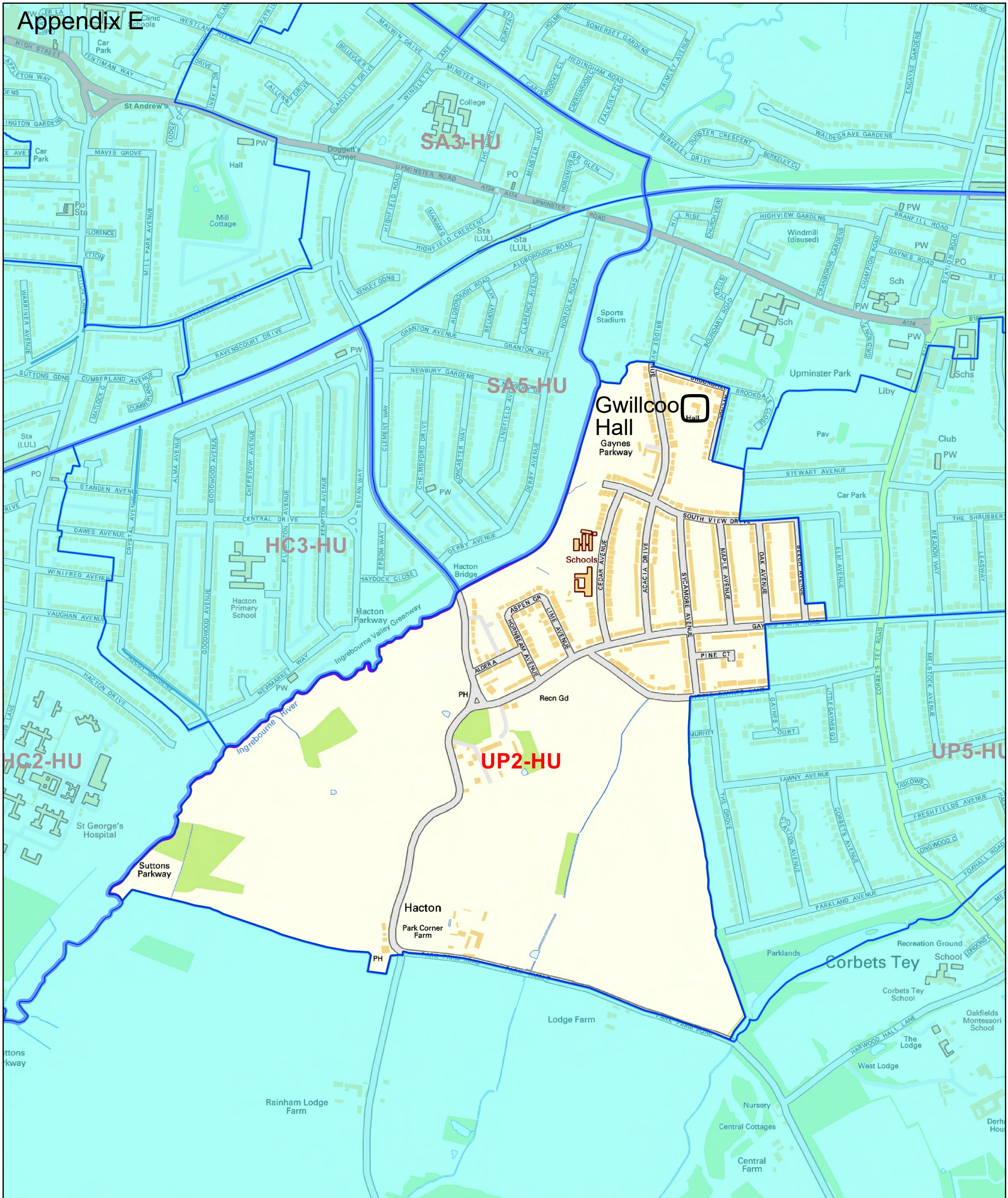


Elm Park - EL4 - Proposed Polling Station

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Upminster - Current UP2 Boundaries

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 Licensed Partner

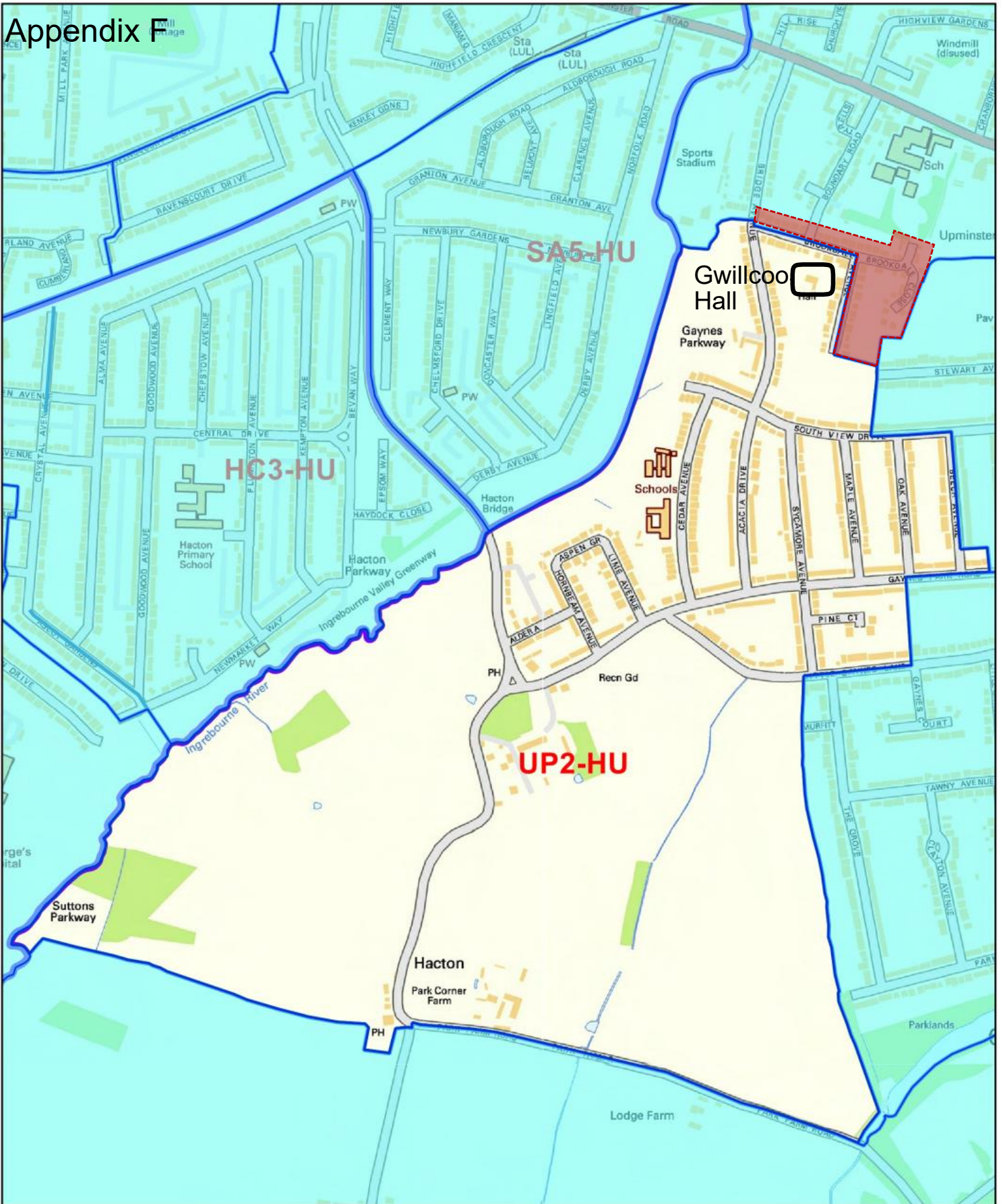
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Havering
 LONDON BOROUGH

London Borough of Havering
 Town Hall, Main Road
 Romford, RM1 3BD
 Tel: 01708 434343


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Upminster - Proposed UP2 Boundaries

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COUNCIL, 20 NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STARTING WELL

SUBJECT: HAVERING'S INTEGRATED STARTING WELL PLAN (2024-27): *HAPPY, HEALTHY LIVES*

SUMMARY

The requirement to have a Children's Trust Board and a Children and Young People's Plan was revoked in 2010. Some local authorities decided to retain their boards and continued to produce a children's plan while others, like Havering, have not, favouring individual service plans and subject-matter-specific strategies instead.

A strategic decision has been taken to produce an integrated children's plan (or 'Starting Well Plan', to align with our life course approach and directorate name) so that we can more clearly articulate the Council's vision and priorities for children and young people. The plan complements our Starting Well Improvement Plan, developed following our inspection by Ofsted in December 2023.

Whilst ours is a Council owned and produced plan, it brings together a number of key strategies and areas of work that cut across multiple departments of the Council, as well as our wider partnership.

We have consulted widely with partners and with children and young people in developing the plan, which is structured around five key priorities and our vision: *Enabling our children and families to lead happy, healthy lives.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approves and adopts the Integrated Starting Well Plan (2024-27): *Happy Healthy Lives*, included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

REPORT DETAIL

Our Integrated Starting Well Plan is called *Happy, Healthy Lives*. It brings together several key strategies which collectively respond to evidence, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) recommendations and, importantly, feedback from children and young people, in order to deliver our vision: *Enabling our children and families to lead happy, healthy lives*.

There is no statutory requirement to produce a Children's Plan but having one will allow the borough to better articulate our vision and priorities for children and young people. The plan further builds upon the visions for both People and Place, as set out in the Council's current Corporate Plan.

The Plan also complements our Starting Well Improvement Plan, developed following our inspection by Ofsted in December 2023 under the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework. *Happy, Healthy, Lives* does not attempt to replicate the required actions that have already been identified and are being implemented through our improvement journey for our services. Instead, it describes a vision for *all* of Havering's children and young people.

The plan organises the work required to achieve our vision under five priorities, which together describe our **WISH** for children and young people in Havering. The first four priorities are that we want children and young people to be:

- **Well;**
- **Inspired;**
- **Safe;** and
- **Heard.**

The fifth priority is a commitment, to doing all we can to ensure that children and young people in Havering are **treated fairly**.

Happy, Healthy Lives has been informed by the views of children and young people that have been gathered over the past two years, including through numerous SHOUT surveys and the Havering Youth Wellbeing Census.

The plan includes a high-level action plan (**Appendix 2** to this report), which sets out several recommendations made in the Starting Well JSNA chapter, published earlier this year.

On 7 November 2024, the following five JSNA recommendations (one for each priority) were formally adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board for inclusion in Havering's refreshed Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

1. Develop a joint strategy to improve adolescents' mental health and wellbeing;

2. Focus on early intervention to improve school readiness, including through increased delivering of joint 2-2.5-year checks by Health Visitors and staff in Early Years settings, and targeted checks for children who have not been brought for any check;
3. Havering statutory and voluntary sector partners to consider ways of intervening earlier to prevent admission to hospital as a result of self-harming, aligning actions to the overall suicide prevention strategy for Havering;
4. Good quality engagement with young people is required to understand how to better manage their transition from child-focused to adult services for on-going care and support, whether related to health or social care;
5. Partners to work collectively to decrease the inequalities in educational outcomes for young people.

A consultation on the draft plan opened on 3 October 2024 and closed on 31 October 2024. This was delivered through our corporate consultation platform, Citizen space, in line with our digital first approach to consultation. An email address was provided so that paper copies could be made available to anyone requesting one.

The consultation received a total of 29 responses. A number of additions have been made to the plan in response to the survey responses and to feedback provided by partners and stakeholders during meetings where the draft plan has been discussed. **Appendix 3** to this report provides a summary of the responses to the consultation and the changes and additions that have been made as a result.

The draft plan was also consulted upon with Havering's Youth Council, where it was agreed that once the plan has been formally adopted, Youth Council will work with officers to coproduce a child-friendly and accessible version.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: Reference to other documents including related strategies and the Starting Well Joint Strategic Needs Assessment are included within the plan.

List of appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Draft Integrated Starting Well Plan (2024-27): *Happy, Healthy Lives*
- Appendix 2 - Happy, Healthy Lives Action Plan (2024-27)
- Appendix 3 - Summary of consultation responses

Financial Implications and Risks:

This report concerns the Integrated Starting Well plan which the Board is asked to note. A consultation on the plan has been undertaken. There is no new funding associated with this plan and all activities will have to be met from existing resources including the Council's General Fund budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Public Health Grant. All of these funding sources are under significant pressure and unfortunately this will act as a constraint on the level of ambition. However the plan will provide a framework for prioritisation.

Human Resource Implications and Risks:

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce. Recruitment into existing Havering posts will be managed in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures.

Legal Implications and Risks:

There are no legal implications regarding the contents of the Integrated Starting Well Plan and the approach that has been taken to develop this plan.

Staff Contact: Lucy Goodfellow | Head of Innovation and Improvement (People)

lucy.goodfellow@haverling.gov.uk

Happy, Healthy Lives



Our Integrated Starting Well Plan

2024-2027

The Havering you want to be part of

Foreword

Children and young people are the future of our society, and it is our responsibility to provide them with every opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. One of the greatest joys of our roles is celebrating the successes of Havering's children and young people. Whether it is academic brilliance, artistic achievements, sporting excellence, or overcoming adversity, we take pride in recognising and applauding every accomplishment. These success stories not only inspire others but also contribute to fostering an aspirational environment that encourages our children and young people to strive for greatness.

Welcome to **Happy, Healthy Lives 2024-2027**, a comprehensive strategy designed to support the well-being and development of children and young people in Havering. This plan outlines our shared vision, priorities, and actions to ensure that every child and young person in our community has the opportunity to lead a happy, healthy life. This plan aims to deliver on the aspirations set out in our Council's Corporate vision: The Havering you want to be part of.

Reflecting on the past few years, we have seen remarkable achievements. Almost all Havering schools were graded Good or Outstanding when Ofsted made the decision to move away from single word judgements in 2024. We know that the challenges we face to safeguarding children, as confirmed by Ofsted in their report of February 2024, require a significant improvement journey, which has already started. Our commitment is to create an environment where children and young people are well, inspired, safe, heard, and treated fairly. We want children to flourish, supported by a network of dedicated professionals, families, and community partners.

We recognise the unique challenges faced by our young residents and are determined to address these through innovative and effective solutions.

Our plan is to build on our solid foundations and partnerships, to deliver better services using Council and NHS resources efficiently, in our pursuit of supporting the highest possible outcomes for our children and young people. This requires careful planning and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and the wide range of challenges we face as a Council locally and nationally. Listening to what children and young people tell us is vital. The actions in this plan respond to the Council's first comprehensive survey of children and young people (SHOUT we are listening), and the many engagement activities that have been undertaken since.

Further strengthening our relationships with our partners and the community is also key. We must foster collaborations and engagement with schools, parents, and all stakeholders who have a vested interest in the well-being of our children and young people. By working together, we can pool resources, share knowledge, and create a network of support and opportunities that will enable our children and families to lead happy, healthy lives.

We invite you to join us on this journey as we work together to build a brighter future for our children and young people. Your support and involvement are crucial to the success of this plan. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our young residents.



Councillor Oscar Ford
Cabinet Member for
Children and Young
People



Councillor Gillian Ford
Deputy Leader of the
Council and Cabinet
Member for Adults
and Wellbeing



Andrew Blake-Herbert
Chief Executive for
the London Borough
of Havering



Luke Burton
Joint Director of
Partnerships



Lewis Basford
Detective
Superintendent –
Head of Public
Protection



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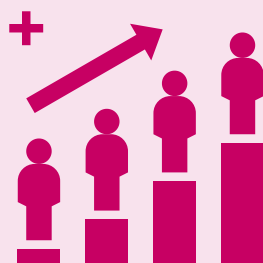


About our Children and Young People

Our child population



From 2016 to 2020, Havering experienced the highest net increase of children among all London boroughs



(source: ONS mid-year population estimates, June 2023 and Havering JSNA Demography Chapter, 2024)

Children we support

530

children with a child in need plan

295

children subject to a child protection plan

280

children in care

330

care leavers aged 18-25

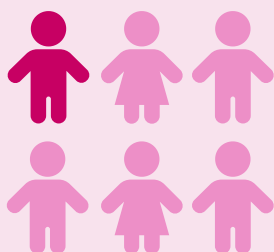


(as of 31 March 2023, figures rounded to nearest 5)

Deprivation

7,000

children (around 1 in 6) are estimated to be living in poverty



(source: Havering JSNA Demography Chapter, 2024)

Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP)

2,583

children had an Education Health and Care Plan as at January 2024



(source: Department for Education, SEN2 return)

Child obesity

22%

aged 4-5 overweight or obese

40%

aged 10-11 overweight or obese

(source: National Child Measurement Programme, 2023)

Language

27%

pupils have a first language other than English



(source: School Census, 2024)

Strategic Priorities

The Council's Corporate Plan 2024-27 sets out a vision for the borough: The *Havering you want to be part of*. In support of delivering this vision, the Council has reorganised its services under a new operating model of People, Place and Resources.

The Corporate Plan sets clear objectives for both People and Place, which are:

- *Supporting our residents to stay safe and well; and*
- *A great place to live, work and enjoy*

We are clear that these ambitions apply to residents of all ages and our Integrated Starting Well Plan - *Happy, Healthy Lives* further builds upon these ambitions for our youngest residents - those under the age of 18 - who now represent almost a quarter of the borough's population.

Our plan also considers the actions required to meet the needs of young people up to the age of 25 who are care experienced or have special educational needs and disabilities.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

In 2023, Havering's Health and Wellbeing Board published its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter for Starting Well. JSNAs are assessments of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community. Such needs could be met by the Local Authority, NHS boards and other local partners.

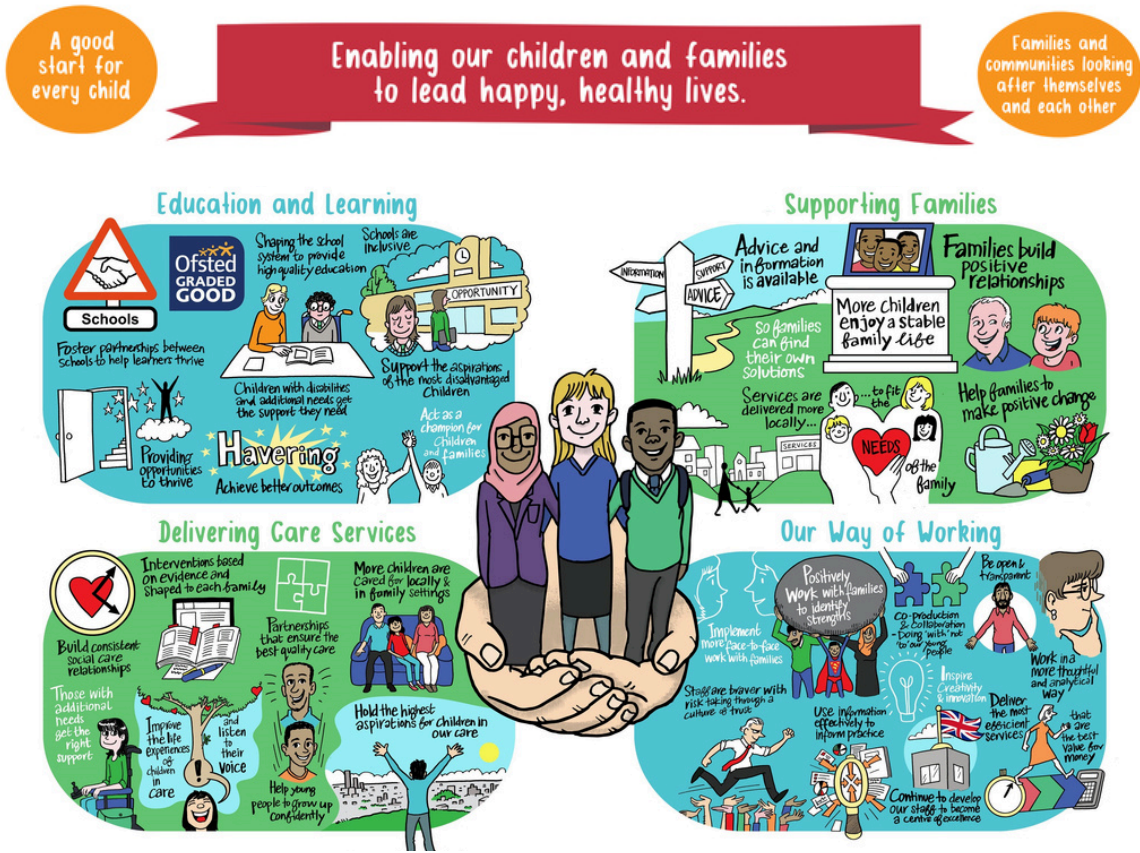
The data and insight set out in the JSNA follows a life-course approach covering maternal and new-born health, early years and families (0-4 years) and covering the first 1001 days, school age children (aged 4-18 years), including children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) up to 25 years, and finally adolescents' health and the transition to adulthood.

The analyses contained in the JSNA consider the social, economic and environmental factors that impact on the health and well-being of children and young people in Havering. Or more simply put: the building blocks for good health and wellbeing.

Our Integrated Starting Well Plan - *Happy, Healthy Lives* takes account of the insight provided by the JSNA, and responds to several of the recommendations made.



Our Vision



The above image depicts our on-going vision for delivering Children’s Services in Havering: *enabling our children and families to lead happy, healthy lives*. This includes Education and Learning – a universal service that all children receive - but also how we work with those children and families who require additional support. In particular, this describes our Face to Face model of practice, covered further in the section on our workforce.

Our Improvement Journey for Children’s Services

Underpinning our work in Starting Well (Children’s Services) is a comprehensive improvement plan that was developed following our inspection by Ofsted in December 2023 under the Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) framework.


Happy, Healthy, Lives does not attempt to replicate the actions that have already been identified as required through our improvement journey for our services. Instead, it describes a vision for *all* Havering’s children and young people.

Happy, Healthy Lives brings together several key strategies which collectively respond to evidence, recommendations, and importantly, feedback from children and young people, in order to deliver our vision.



Enabling our children and families to lead happy, healthy lives.

To achieve our vision, we have organised our work under five priorities. This is our WISH for children and young people in Havering:



As a society, as soon as we learn of a child's existence, our first hope is that they will be born healthy and **well**. As babies grow, we track their developmental milestones to check that they are thriving. As they move through childhood and adolescence we are as concerned with their emotional wellbeing as their physical health, understanding the delicate balance, and equal priority that must be given to the two. Our first wish for the children and young people of Havering is for them to start well and to stay well.

For children to grow into individuals who will positively contribute to society and the communities in which they live, we want them to be **inspired**. Children need to be engaged with learning and to know that they can accomplish hard things. We want Havering to be a place where all children access a high-quality education, whilst understanding that not every child will achieve academic excellence, which does not take away from any child's individual achievements. We recognise the importance of resilience in children and achievement in all of its forms, academic and otherwise.

Havering is a **safe** place to grow up and this will be the experience for an overwhelming majority of children. But we know this is not how all children and young people feel. Most children live in loving, nurturing homes but increasingly children and families require additional support for this to be the case. Some children feel safe at home but not outside of it, due to risks in their community, from their peers, or online. We understand the many opportunities we have to positively influence the environment in which children live, play and go to school. We will use our powers towards ensuring that children not only are safe but also feel safe.

For children to be healthy and well, inspired to be their best, and safe both inside and outside of their home, we are very clear that they must also be **heard**. We will give children the space, the voice, the audience and the influence to be listened to, and understood. We will place them at the centre of decisions that will affect them now and in the future, and empower them to lead the change they most want to see in their local area.

Alongside our four wishes is a commitment: for children and young people to be **treated fairly**. This means remembering that first and foremost, children are children. It does not mean treating everyone equally. It means taking action to level the field when groups of children and young people, who share common characteristics, consistently experience worse outcomes than their peers. This could be due to special educational needs or disability, race, sexual orientation, or disadvantage, such as living in poverty or being care experienced. We will use data and what children and young people themselves tell us to understand the inequalities they experience, and work to make Havering a fairer place for all.



Priority 1: For children to be Well

“

**NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE
COMING OUT TO
TEACHERS AND FRIENDS
SAYING 'I'M NOT OKAY AT
THE MOMENT**

”



Priority 1: For children to be Well

Our first wish for children and young people in Havering is that they start **well** in life. Research has shown that the experiences we have early in our lives, even before conception, through pregnancy, birth and into our early years, lay the foundations for our future health and well-being. This is not to say that poorer circumstances in early life inevitably lead to poorer opportunities and outcomes. But such circumstances place children at increased risk of disadvantage. This is why as part of the national Healthy Child Programme we have universal services, which *all* children and families should access, and more targeted and specialist services for those with greater need, or who are at higher risk of experiencing poorer outcomes.

What children and young people have told us

In June and July 2023, more than 2,200 young people aged 13 to 16, in ten Havering secondary schools, took part in the first Havering Youth Wellbeing Census. The Census is part of Havering Council's commitment to amplifying the voice of young people in the borough. It used the #BeeWell survey, part of an initiative originally developed in Greater Manchester, to understand the state of wellbeing in adolescents, adapting the survey to meet locally identified needs, as voiced by local young people themselves, and the services and organisations that support them. Themes covered by the Census included 'emotions', 'meaning, purpose and control' and 'understanding yourself', as well as what drives wellbeing (for example, health and routines, hobbies and entertainment, relationships).

Through the Youth Wellbeing Census, we have learned that:

- 80% of students rated their general physical health as excellent, very good or good, though for those eligible for free school meals, the figure was lower, at 76%
- Boys are getting more regular exercise than girls, with 54% of males undertaking physical activity on 5-7 days per week, compared with only 33% of females
- 62% of students reported they eat fruits and vegetables 5-6 times per week or more frequently, and for those living in the North of the borough or travelling to school from outside of the borough, the figure was below 60%
- Only 49% of students reported getting enough sleep to feel awake and concentrate on their school work during the day. For girls, the figure was 39%.

Our partnership response to the findings of the Havering Youth Wellbeing Census remains an on-going priority. An action plan has been developed which includes plans to explore many of the topics in more depth, in order to understand, for example, what is preventing girls in particular from getting enough sleep and more physical exercise, and what we can do to help.

We are also working with the schools that took part in the Census to support their students in exploring the results, and considering ways in which wellbeing might be improved in their schools.



Our Place-based Partnership

In 2022, Integrated Care Systems were established across England, bringing together organisations that deliver health and social care services. Locally, the Havering “Placed based Partnership” is leading the integration of services across our borough.

Havering Council itself has undergone its biggest ever transformation to deliver to this agenda, with all services now sitting within three strategic directorates: People, Places and Resources. In the context of local authorities, our adoption of a life course approach, with operational ‘People’ directorates for Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well, is innovative and a key enabler for more joined up working between the local authority and health services.

We now have an ‘Integrated Team at Place’ which brings together key elements of health and care, and the budgets that support those services. The aim is to reduce duplication, increase value for money, and by doing so, improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

The Havering Place based Partnership has developed a five year strategy setting out the priorities that the Havering Integrated Team will focus on and jointly deliver over the next five years. These are generally priorities that require joint working between the Local Authority, NHS and other partners, rather than projects that sit primarily with one organisation. The strategy will be monitored via the Havering Partnership Babies, Children and Young People group, with oversight from the Havering Place based Partnership Board.

For Start Well, the Place based Partnership’s vision is that: Children and young people get the best start in life, are able to achieve the best opportunities and keep as healthy and well as possible throughout their lives. The immediate priorities for delivery by April 2025 are:

- Improved wait times for services including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Improved uptake of childhood immunisations

Other on-going priorities include:

- Work with parents and families to build their resilience; meeting the needs of families at home without the need for more intensive interventions later along their journey
- Increase identification of and support for children and young people who provide informal and unpaid care for family members
- Build on and improve the mental health offer for schools, working with young people
- Increase the number of children receiving timely Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis and integrated family support
- Reduce the wait time of children for Special Educational Needs therapy provision
- Improve uptake of childhood immunisations through a series of events reaching out into communities



The Healthy Child Programme

The **Healthy Child Programme** is a nationally developed programme that local authorities are responsible for delivering. Central to the programme is the Health Visiting Service for children aged 0-5 years and School Nursing Service for children aged 5-19 years. In Havering, we currently commission North East London Foundation NHS Trust (NELFT) to provide these services under a 5 year contract (with 2 year extension option) which commenced in April 2020.

The universal reach of the Healthy Child Programme provides an invaluable opportunity from very early in a child's life to identify families that may need additional support, and children who are at risk of poor outcomes.

The aims of the Healthy Child Programme are to:

- help parents, carers or guardians develop and sustain a strong bond with children;
- support parents, carers or guardians in keeping children healthy and safe and reaching their full potential;
- protect children from serious disease, through screening and immunisation;
- reduce childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating and physical activity;
- promote oral health;
- support resilience and positive maternal and family mental health;
- support the development of healthy relationships and good sexual and reproductive health;
- identify health and wellbeing issues early, so support and early interventions can be provided in a timely manner;
- make sure children are prepared for and supported in all childcare, early years and education settings and are especially supported to be 'ready to learn at 2 and ready for school by 5.

Integration of health visiting and school nursing services with wider local authority, NHS and voluntary and community sector services (including maternity, primary care, early help, education, social care, SEND, screening and immunisation, smoking, substance misuse, mental health, sexual health and oral health services) is key to improving outcomes for children and families, and the overall success of the Healthy Child Programme.



Our 'Whole Systems Approach' to Healthy Weight

In 2024, we launched the Havering Healthy Weight Strategy 2024-2029: Everybody's Business. The vision for Havering is that within 20 years' childhood obesity will have been eradicated, that the Borough will have become a healthier place to live, work and play, and a place where communities have come together to make the healthier choice the easier choice.

Our whole systems approach to reducing overweight and obesity recognises the complexity of the issue. Rather than being the result of personal choices, obesity is caused by multiple factors interacting with each other, with modern life making us more likely to opt for unhealthy food options, and less likely to be physically active.

As it is largely the circumstances where we live, known as 'the system', that has resulted in the increasing rates of overweight and obesity in adults and children, the whole 'system' must work together to achieve change.

In Havering, more than one in five children in Reception (aged 4 to 5) are overweight or obese and by Year 6 (aged 10-11), this almost doubles, to roughly 2 in 5 children. Children are now beginning to develop diseases that were previously seen only in adults, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, liver conditions, and bone and joint problems.

Overweight and obesity could also be affecting children's life chances as there are higher rates of school absence among children who are overweight, compared with children of healthy weight. Obesity in childhood is also more likely to lead to overweight and obesity in adulthood.

The Healthy Weight Strategy describes eight objectives, grouped under three themes.

- Theme one is concerned with ensuring that the whole system is engaged and works together on the many drivers of obesity;
- Theme two is concerned with the Borough becoming a place that promotes healthy weight; recognising that the places where people live, work and play shape the type of foods they eat and how physically active they are; and
- Theme three recognises the importance of a life-course approach, and ensuring that individuals are supported to achieve a healthy weight.

Specific actions include supporting food retailers to deliver a healthier food offer and further restricting the availability of fast food outlets; developing active travel interventions and ensuring Havering's parks continue to provide opportunities for children to be physically active; supporting schools to achieve the Healthy Schools London award and providing a children's weight management support programme to those who are eligible.

A steering group has been formed to oversee delivery of the strategy and this will be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Place-based Partnership, and the Council's Cabinet.



Early Help

Havering is fortunate to have a strong and well-established Early Help offer, much of which is delivered through our [Children's Centres](#).

The government's '[Stable Homes, Built on Love](#)' Strategy, published in early 2023, supports an early help and intervention approach and the need to build upon strengths within a child's family network. This is consistent with Havering's own Face To Face model of practice, which is based on working with families, engaging with them to identify existing strengths, and building relationships over time with the aim to stop problems from escalating.

Our **Early Help Strategy** is being refreshed for 2024/25 onwards and will set out how we will continue working in partnership to deliver Early Help, under our five established priorities. These are:

- **1001 days and School Readiness.** Our aim is that an offer is in place to support the development of skills to ensure a child is best equipped to thrive and learn. Working with parents to explore the link between life skills and being ready to learn by reception age.
- **Increasing Community Capacity and Reducing the Need for Statutory Intervention.** Our aim is to continue to develop an offer that is more responsive to need and demand, working in conjunction with health, education and the voluntary sector to deliver accessible services within the local community. To support cost benefit initiatives throughout Havering and reduce the need for statutory services.
- **Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).** Our aim is that an offer is in place for children, young people and parents with SEND, to access early intervention from birth to the age of 25.
- **Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing.** Our aim is to align the [Thrive model](#) to our delivery and interventions for those who need emotional wellbeing and mental health support. Ensuring pathways are in place for children, young people and parents/carers to access mental health and emotional wellbeing support.
- **Adolescent Safeguarding Intervention and Prevention.** Our aim is that clear pathways are in place for the early identification of risk, and intervention in relation to vulnerable adolescents, inclusive of but not limited to: Child Criminal Exploitation, Children who are Missing, Child Sexual Exploitation and Harmful Behaviours.

Mapping of the borough's wider early help offering to families is taking place, to inform the refresh of our partnership Early Help Strategy and the updating of information about the local offer online. This will then be widely publicised and shared with early years settings and schools to ensure that families and those who support them are aware of the many tools, resources and sources of help available.

Delivery of our strategic approach to Early Help is overseen by a Partnership Board, which includes representation from across the Council, health partners, schools and Early Years providers.

As a partnership, we recognise the crucial role that Early Years providers play in the early identification of safeguarding concerns and responding to these, as has been tragically evidenced by learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (both locally and nationally), involving very young children. To further build upon our already strong relationships with the sector, we are reviewing the membership of our various boards and groups to ensure representation from Early Years at each.



Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years London

In Havering, we know that early years settings, schools and colleges play an important role in improving the health of children and young people. They help children to learn about their health and develop the motivation and self-respect to make healthy choices for themselves. This is why we continue to support and promote the Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) and Healthy Schools London (HSL) awards programmes.

These initiatives, supported by the Mayor of London, encourage schools and early years settings to promote healthy lifestyles through various activities and awards.

Key elements of Healthy Schools London include:

The awards

Schools can earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards based on their efforts to support pupils' health and wellbeing. The awards recognise schools' achievements in areas such as healthy eating, physical activity, and mental health.

Support and resources

Schools will receive support from local Healthy Schools London Leads, who provide guidance and resources to help schools achieve their health goals. This includes tools, advice, and best practices for promoting a healthy school environment.

Community engagement

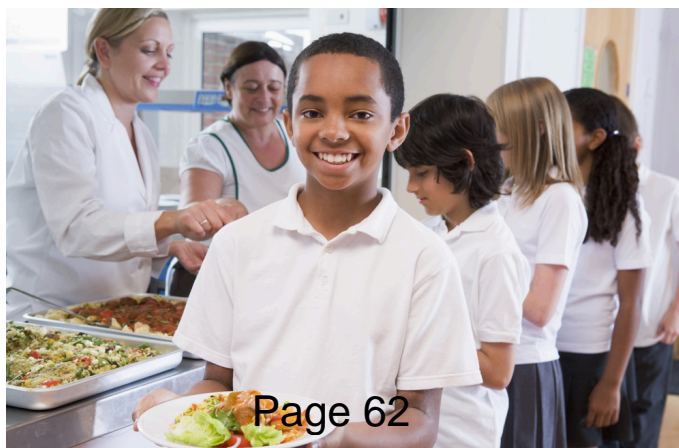
The programme emphasises the importance of involving the wider community in promoting children's health. Schools are encouraged to engage with parents, local organisations, and other stakeholders to create a supportive environment for healthy living.

Sustainability

The initiative aims to create lasting changes by helping schools implement sustainable health practices. This includes developing long-term plans and measuring the impact of their efforts.

In September 2024, a total of 70 Havering schools were registered with the programme. 12 have achieved gold status, 20 have silver status and 38 have bronze status.

Building on the success of Healthy Schools London, Healthy Early Years London helps to reduce health inequalities by supporting a healthy start to life across themes that include healthy eating, oral and physical health and early cognitive development. Havering was one of the first London boroughs to take part in HEYL when it was first piloted in 2017, and in 2024, a total of 123 early years settings are registered on the programme.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP)

As well as seeing significant growth in our child population, the number of Havering children and young people with special educational needs requiring an education, health and care plan (EHCP) rose by 29% between 2020 and 2023. The biggest growth has been seen among those whose main area of need is communication and interaction, including Autism and social, emotional and mental health needs.

In March 2023 the Department for Education (DfE) published its Special Educational Need, Disability and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan and alongside this, Ofsted implemented a new framework for Local Area SEND Inspections from the start of 2023. A significant shift within the framework is a prominent focus on the experiences of children with SEND (and their families) and for us to consider what impact we have had on children's outcomes.

Havering's **Special Educational Needs, Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Strategy 2024 – 2029** sets out our vision, for a SEND and AP system:

- *where every school and setting is confident, skilled, and enabled to effectively support our children with SEND;*
- *that has a wide range of SEND and AP settings and services providing community members the help and support they need;*
- *which makes sense, which families can navigate, and which places families at its heart;*
- *where children and young people with SEND and those accessing AP are valued, visible, and prepared for adulthood;*
- *where leaders work together effectively to deliver what is needed for our children with SEND and those accessing AP; and*
- *where education, health, and social care teams do what matters well and in a timely way*

Our Local Offer describes the range of services, information and advice available to families of children with special educational needs and disabilities, including:

- universal services (such as GPs and schools);
- targeted services (additional short-term support over and above universal services); and
- specialist services (specialised, longer-term support).

We continue to work with our official parent forum to develop the local offer website and ensure that it contains appropriate details. We will be undertaking a full review and refresh of the site in 2024-25 to ensure that information is up to date and relevant, as well as easy to find.

Inclusion

Havering has a lower proportion of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) than its statistical neighbours and London but a higher proportion of children with EHCPs in Havering attend mainstream school settings, as opposed to special schools.

Our Local Area Partnership is committed to ensuring inclusive education in Havering. We continue to work with all our schools and education settings to ensure children and young people with additional needs can grow and learn within their local community wherever possible, while recognising that for some children specialist provision will be required. Maintaining highly inclusive mainstream schools and settings, while also growing our local specialist provision, is a key focus for the partnership.



Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing

Poor mental health and wellbeing can negatively impact present and future outcomes for children and adolescents. It is critical that services are in place to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents and that these services work together.

The Anna Freud Centre's THRIVE Framework is an integrated, person centred and needs led approach to delivering mental health services. It conceptualises the mental health and wellbeing needs of children, young people and families into five needs-based groupings (shown in Figure 1). The THRIVE framework places emphasis on prevention and the promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing across the whole population. Its principles are being used in Havering to facilitate system change for the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and adolescents in the borough.

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The Havering CYP Emotional Wellbeing Group facilitates cross-sector partnership working across the borough to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes. The Group utilises the THRIVE framework, providing a common language, and working together through shared decision making. The Group consists of representatives from various services across the system including council services, VCSE, NHS and education. The Group meets regularly to discuss the provision of community mental health services across the borough and emerging needs.

The provision of support for mental health and wellbeing in education settings is a national and local priority. National policy recommends the use of a whole school or college approach to promote children and adolescent's emotional wellbeing and mental health. This is being actively implemented in Havering, as demonstrated by:

- 21 education settings in Havering being supported by Mental Health Support Teams (locally known as the Havering Emotional Support Team (HEST)) who provide intervention for mild to moderate emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns in children and adolescents.
- An 80% uptake of the national Senior Mental Health Leads Training grant to equip school staff with skills to support children and adolescents, families and school staff.
- The Havering Education Mental Health Leads Network, established to support senior mental health leads in all schools with implementing the Whole Schools and College Approach to Wellbeing.

Figure 1: The THRIVE Framework



Wider local mental health support for children and adolescents is also available. Examples of services are listed below:

- **Thriving** –the promotion of community-based activities, including a range of clubs delivered by the council’s Youth Service such as The Off Street Club which provides games, arts and crafts, cooking and more. HEST also run holiday clubs in collaboration with their placement schools.
- **Getting Advice** – this includes HEST in schools, Primary Mental Health Team consultations (with schools, GP surgeries, parents and students), 18-25 workers in the Cocoon (for care experienced young adults), as well as school nursing.
- **Getting Help** –Kooth provides a live counselling service for young people to receive professional support through either booked or drop-in sessions as and when a session is required. HEST can provide one-to-one support directly in schools to those experiencing mild to moderate difficulties with anxiety or low mood and can also provide targeted group interventions and workshops.
- **Getting More Help** – Havering Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) delivers a range of specialist treatment and assessments for children and adolescents experiencing more severe mental health difficulties, such as depression, psychosis, PTSD and trauma, as well as supporting families to engage with other agencies.
- **Getting Risk Support** – NELFT INTERACT is the Crisis Team within the community that works with children, adolescents and the services supporting them, preventing or following a crisis situation.

Tobacco Harm Reduction

Smoking is the primary cause of preventable deaths in the UK. Despite national declines, Havering’s smoking prevalence has risen in recent years and is the highest in Northeast London, at 15.9%, and higher than London (11.7%) and England (12.7%) averages.

Smoking amongst pregnant women at the time of delivery in Havering has declined and is now similar to the London average and significantly lower than the England average. This is a priority because smoking in pregnancy poses significant health risks to both the mother and the unborn child, including low birth weight, miscarriage, premature birth, stillbirth, and sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI).

A recent Tobacco Harm Reduction Needs Assessment found that in Havering around 10,200 children live in smoking households and are exposed to second hand smoke. Around 480 children themselves start smoking each year. Factors that contribute to smoking initiation, include exposure to smoking by family and friends, easy access to cigarettes, lower socioeconomic status and exposure to tobacco marketing.

Whilst vaping (E-cigarettes) can be an effective tool for adults stopping smoking, they are *not recommended* for young people. There is growing concern about the rise in young people vaping, with widespread promotion through social media and in shops. Vapes are deliberately produced with sweet flavours and packaged colourfully to appeal to children. The Havering Youth Wellbeing Census revealed that 12% of Havering pupils have vaped.

There are key challenges in reducing tobacco and vaping use, including among children. Those exposed to vaping are at risk of developing chronic respiratory issues like coughing and bronchitis and exacerbating asthma, along with potential long-term cardiovascular consequences. The accidental ingestion of vaping liquids by children is another concern, highlighting the importance of child-proof packaging. Vaping can also lead to nicotine dependence, which can adversely affect brain development in adolescents.

Our Tobacco Harm Reduction Strategy emphasises the need for a joined up approach across different organisations to reduce smoking and vaping by children. Planned actions include increasing the capacity of trading standards to combat illicit sales, strengthening enforcement of tobacco marketing and sales regulations, anti-tobacco campaigns and working with schools to highlight the harm and risks of both smoking and vaping.



Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy

In September 2024, we formally adopted the North East London (NEL) Joint Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy. This aims to build on joint working arrangements to agree an approach for addressing four, shared, sexual and reproductive health priorities:

- Priority 1: Healthy and Fulfilling Sexual Relationships
- Priority 2: Good Reproductive Health across the Life Course
- Priority 3: High Quality and Innovative STI Screening and Treatment
- Priority 4: HIV: Towards Zero and Living Well

Young people are disproportionately affected by sexually transmitted infections and the impacts of unplanned pregnancy. They can be more vulnerable to unhealthy or coercive relationships and this is particularly pronounced for some groups, including those living in more deprived areas, certain ethnic groups and those with learning disabilities. Action to support young people in navigating the exploration of their sexuality and relationships in a way that is informed, safe, and enjoyable is critical in both protecting and promoting their immediate health and wellbeing, as well as laying the foundations for their longer term sexual and reproductive health into adulthood.

The strategy identifies several actions to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes for young people. These include reviewing the approach to delivering Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) in schools, steps to drive up access and utilisation of condom distribution schemes, and engaging with particular groups of young people with more complex needs or vulnerabilities to better understand the support they require. We will be developing a local action plan for Havering, which will consider specific actions needed locally.

Support for Young Carers

Young Carers provide unpaid care for family members or friends with illnesses, disabilities, mental health issues, or addictions. They assist with practical tasks, physical care, and emotional support while managing their own lives. Often, children and young people who care for family members, for example a parent or sibling, do not recognise the caring role they provide because it is just a part of their family life and helping those they love. This could mean that they miss out on vital support for their own wellbeing.

In Havering, our goal is to minimise the negative impacts of caring and provide access to social and educational opportunities and emotional support, whilst also recognising the positive impacts of being a carer, such as increased resilience and empathy.

Support for Young Carers in Havering is provided by Imago. The offer focuses on promoting the wellbeing of Young Carers through various activities, workshops, and respite. By collaborating with school staff and other professionals, the aim is to ensure that Young Carers receive the necessary support and know they are not alone.



Joint working with Housing

Housing is a key factor in keeping children well. It is not just about having a roof over your head; the conditions of a home can greatly affect the physical and mental health of those living within it. Poor living conditions, such as mould, dampness, overcrowding and unstable housing, can all lead to various health risks.

In recent years, Havering, like many areas, has seen a substantial increase in families and young people requiring support with housing. Sadly, in 2024, we have as many as 100 households with children living in hotels without immediate access to hot meals, and children attending school tired and hungry in the mornings.

We have put in place a joint-working protocol between Starting Well and the Housing Demand Service for families at risk of destitution having been evicted from their housing providers, as well as for 16-and-17-year-olds who are at risk of homelessness, whether actively known to the Council or not. This provides a reference that all relevant professionals can refer to, in order to ensure affected young people receive an efficient and effective temporary housing service.

The protocol also relates to joint assessment working practices between Housing and Starting Well where families including their children are at risk of homelessness and are therefore subject to duties owed by either Housing and / or Starting Well (Children's Services). We closely monitor the number of children living in emergency hotel accommodation to support with benefit provision and to understand their needs.

The health of children in our care and care experienced young adults

When children cannot live safely at home with their birth family they become 'looked after' by the local authority and we become their 'corporate parents'.

As a local authority we are corporate parents to 281 children in care and 330 care experienced young adults (figures as at 31st March 2024).

In 2022 we relaunched Our Pledge to our children in care. The pledge was co-produced with children and young people with care experience and outlines our promises to them as their 'corporate' parent.

One of our pledges is that we will help children in care and care experienced young adults to keep healthy and well.

Specifically, our pledge outlines: We will support you to stay physically and mentally well, and will respond quickly and with care when you are feeling unwell.

This element of the pledge includes:

- An annual assessment of physical health and emotional well-being
- Registration with a GP and dentist, and attendance of appointments for immunisations, opticians and any other checks needed
- Information and support around healthy relationships and sexual health
- Information, advice and guidance on healthy lifestyles
- Support with mental and emotional well-being
- Opportunities to stay physically active and broaden experiences

We also have specific actions in our improvement plan (implemented following our December 2023 Ofsted inspection) that relate to ensuring children in care have their physical and mental health needs identified and met.





Priority 2:

For children to be Inspired

“

**TAKING A STEP
FURTHER EVERY DAY
TO REACH YOUR
FUTURE GOALS**

”



Priority 2: For children to be Inspired

Our first wish for children and young people in Havering is that they start *well* in life. Research has shown that the experiences we have early in our lives, even before conception, through pregnancy, birth and into our early years, lay the foundations for our future health and well-being. This is not to say that poorer circumstances in early life inevitably lead to poorer opportunities and outcomes. But such circumstances place children at increased risk of disadvantage. This is why as part of the national Healthy Child Programme we have universal services, which *all* children and families should access, and more targeted and specialist services for those with greater need, or who are at higher risk of experiencing poorer outcomes.

What children and young people have told us

In late 2022, we undertook our largest consultation of children and young people in a number of years, called 'SHOUT – we are listening'. More than 2,000 children and young people completed the survey, with most responses (70%) coming from children aged 10 to 12. One of the topics covered by the survey was the support that children and young needed to help them reach their future goals.

Through the SHOUT survey, we learned that:

- 67% of felt supportive teachers were what they needed
- 38% needed volunteering opportunities; and
- 33% needed access to careers advisers

In response to these findings, we continue to work with local schools and our commissioned Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) provider, Prospects, to support children and young people with their goals. Recent examples include a 'School insights' day held at the Town Hall, which gave Year 9 pupils the opportunity to hear about careers at the Council and to 'speed network' with staff from a variety of different departments, and our very successful Social Enterprise Schools Programme. Young people who took part in the programme told us:

- *"It was nice listening to other people's ideas and what they want to do for the world"*
- *"I think its helped me to grow more confidence in certain areas that I'm not used to, like presenting"*
- *"I feel like each one of us could each start our own business and become successful with it because we've had this experience".*

Other examples include:

Futures Week – where both Primary and Secondary School pupils are supported and encouraged to think about their future pathways. This includes practical advice around the qualifications needed for their chosen career, financial guidance on student loans, and the provision of honest and clear information help individuals consider the best pathway for them individual.

Raising Participation Age Event – organised annually to support local young people post-16 with their options when leaving school & college. The exhibition hosts a variety of providers ranging from apprenticeships, employers, education and training providers, school sixth forms, colleges, higher education, the voluntary sector and local community-based organisations.



National Apprenticeship Week event – giving young people and their parents/carers a chance to speak to local training providers, employers and apprenticeship ambassadors, to find out more about apprenticeships and the T level qualification.

Work Experience days – working with schools that struggle to find work experience opportunities for their pupils and showcasing the career pathways available in local government.

The First 1001 days

Our wish for children to be inspired begins a lot earlier than at school. There is strong evidence that the first 1001 days of a child's life, from pregnancy to the age of two, is a vital phase in terms of shaping and improving the child's health, development and life chances. This is when children develop the skills they need to thrive, laying the foundations for the best start in life and their future.

As set out in our Early Help vision, we aim to ensure that a strong offer is in place within Havering to support the development of such skills, by working with parents so that children are curious about the world around them and ready to learn.

With input from parents and organisations that deliver maternity and early years services in Havering we have created a [booklet](#), outlining the support available to families across the borough in their child's first 1001 days.

Early Years Childcare

We continue to promote the government's offer of free childcare and to prepare for the gradual expansion of the current offer, ensuring we have enough childcare places for parents who are working, studying, or training for employment.

From September 2024, the offer of 15 hours free childcare support has been extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3 year olds.

From September 2025, working parents of children aged nine months and upwards will be entitled to 30 hours free childcare per week, up until their child starts school.

School Readiness

When referring to school readiness, many people think of children being able to hold a pen, with basic writing and drawing skills, and knowing their numbers. Being 'school ready' also means that children are:

- Curious and learning about the world around them
- Developing their social and emotional skills
- Able to be away from their parents and carers
- Learning to manage their personal care and hygiene

We know that the Covid-19 pandemic had a profound and lasting impact on many children born in and around the lockdown periods. We continue to work with partners in early years settings and the health visiting service to promote the importance of school readiness, so that children arrive at school feeling confident, able to communicate and ready to learn.

This includes further embedding joint working between health visiting and early years providers in delivering development checks when children are aged 2 to 2 and a ½. These checks are a critical opportunity for early intervention where children are not meeting their developmental milestones, which may mean they are not on track to be school ready. We are working to strengthen key referral pathways to support earlier intervention in areas such as speech and language.



Education Place Planning

Havering Council is responsible for planning and providing early years and childcare places, primary and secondary school places, post-16 places, SEND and AP places for all 2 to 25-year-olds in the borough. This includes ensuring there are enough appropriately located places, providing suitable accommodation to promote high educational standards, and managing an admissions process to allocate school places fairly, especially for vulnerable learners.

The council also manages the impact of changing pupil numbers and helps create a diverse community of schools. Our Children & Young People Education Place Planning Plan 2023-2027 serves as a tool to continually review education places in response to new housing developments, changes in birth rates, migration, and government policy changes.

Strategic Education Vision

Our local education vision was co-produced with schools and early years providers. It sets out a vision for the education system in Havering, where: *All children and young people thrive and achieve through accessing high-quality education provision and are supported to live safe and healthy lives.*

The vision is underpinned by three key priorities: *Leadership*; *Inclusion*; and *Aspiration*, and sets out our approach to how these will be delivered, which involves:

- Developing and supporting strong leaders
- Enabling innovation
- Using networks to share and improve
- Building capacity for a self-improving system
- Securing effective practice
- Maintaining a strong focus on teaching and learning
- Providing access to a greater array of support services
- Ensuring good communication, engaging the sector to co-produce
- Sharing and using intelligence to drive improvement
- Learning from others, within and beyond Havering
- Creating a culture of collaboration

Progress in delivering the vision and priorities is reported annually via the Education Strategic Partnership.



Attendance

The law ensures that every child of compulsory school age is entitled to a full-time education suited to their age, aptitude, ability and any special educational need they may have. Regular attendance is crucial as missing lessons can lead to children falling behind.

The barriers to accessing education can be very complex, involving factors both within school and at home, so improving attendance is a collective responsibility. We want Havering's schools to provide a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment where all pupils want to be and are keen and ready to learn.

The Local Authority works with schools and partner agencies to remove barriers and encourage early intervention to promote high levels of attendance across every school in Havering. By rigorously collecting, analysing and tracking local attendance data from schools, we can devise a strategic approach to improving attendance across the borough, with targeted support for individual schools where needed.

Senior Education Welfare Officers arrange regular meetings offering support, advice and guidance, and working with schools to identify any barriers.

In line with the Department for Education's guidance, "[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)," published in 2024, our borough has implemented several strategies to enhance school attendance rates. These strategies include relaunching our Attendance Hubs to engage parents more effectively, collaborating with schools to align their attendance policies with revised legal frameworks, including fixed penalty charges, and providing training and resources on topics such as the Senior Attendance Champion role and the National Framework for Penalty Notices to support these efforts.

Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education

Havering has consistently maintained exclusion rates below the national average, which is attributed to a range of interventions implemented by the local authority to support schools in avoiding suspensions and reducing permanent exclusions. Through our dedicated Attendance, Admissions, and Inclusion service, we have fostered a culture of early intervention within schools to address the increasingly complex needs identified among pupils in Havering.

Our initiatives include:

- Expanding our range of Alternative Provision, including support for children and young people with medical needs;
- Providing mentoring and coaching to help children and young people stay engaged with their education;
- Offering in-school counselling for those experiencing loss and trauma; and
- Implementing both short and long-term interventions.

In addition, like many other local authorities, Havering continues to experience a significant increase in parents choosing to home educate their children following the Covid-19 pandemic. Our focus remains on:

- Promoting positive relationships and mutual respect within all home-educated families in Havering;
- Protecting the rights of the child by ensuring they receive their legal entitlement to a suitable education; and
- Providing efficient and effective support and advice.

While parents have a legal right to educate their child at home, we work closely with schools to ensure parents are provided with Department for Education guidance and can make fully informed decisions. Additionally, we are committed to identifying and supporting children missing education to ensure they receive the education they are entitled to and do not fall through the cracks.



Attainment

Education outcomes for Havering's children and young people remain relatively strong across all Key Stages when compared to the national average. Standards are showing signs of continued recovery after the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting disruption to children's education.

In 2024:

- The percentage of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) achieving a Good Level of Development was broadly in line with national average (1% below);
- The percentage of pupils attaining the required standard in phonics increased by 4.1% on the previous year and was in line with national average (0.3% above);
- At Key Stage 2, attainment for all subjects remained above national average;
- At Key Stage 4 (GCSE), the average Attainment 8 score in Havering increased by 1.2pts and was above the national average result in 2023;
- Havering continues to perform very well (22.6% higher than the 2023 national average) for entries into the English Baccalaureate;
- The percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate increased by 0.5%, again well above national levels;
- The percentage of pupils achieving a Standard Pass in the Basics (English & Maths at Grade 9-4) increased by 0.8%;
- For A-levels, the Average Point Score (APS) per entry, the APS for best 3 A-levels and the percentage of students achieving grades AAB or better (of which at least two are in facilitating subjects) all increased compared with the previous year.

We are proud of our children's accomplishments and that we have such a high proportion of schools in Havering rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted (94% in 2024).

Ofsted has moved away from single-word "headline" school ratings and we continue to monitor schools using our own Quality Assurance Framework. This involves the local authority undertaking quality assurance activity with every school and early years setting each year, the exact nature of which is informed by our assessment of the school using a risk register, and the findings of their last Ofsted inspection.

During this activity there is discussion of school performance, including in relation to specific pupil groups, and improvement work the school has planned. Schools are also able to purchase support from Havering Education Service and most primary schools do. All secondary schools in Havering have academy status and therefore the local authority does not have any 'right of entry'; however, the majority of academies do participate in quality assurance activity.



The education of children in our care and care experienced young adults

Our pledge to children in our care, as their corporate parents, is that like any good parent, we will help them to achieve their full potential in education. Specifically, we will:

- Support them and their carers to make sure that they attend school regularly and listen to their views about school life;
- Work with their school and designated teacher to help them do their best by having a Personal Education Plan that is reviewed every term, ensure their thoughts and feelings are recorded and offering help to expressing these, especially for those who have a disability or find it hard to speak up;
- Keep them safe in school, and ensure that they feel safe;
- Help them to join in with activities and opportunities inside and outside of school and within their community;
- Celebrate their achievements and progress, and share stories of the good things they have done;
- Work with their school to ensure they are not called out of class to attend meetings about their care, and details about them being in care is not shared with others that do not need to know.
- Support them in further education and training, including College and University, and help them to plan for the future, working together when completing their Pathway Plan to ensure that it is a plan that will work for them.
- Ensure the right support is in place when they transition between primary and secondary school and between secondary school and college / sixth form / training, as well as for the transition into university.

Our space for children in care and care experienced young adults, the Cocoon, has a dedicated area for education, employment and training (EET) information and advice and regular workshops are held with guest speakers from local colleges, universities, the job centre and local businesses. Young people are also supported with their CVs, interview skills and a variety of sessions delivered by our Virtual School. In 2024, the Council has committed to offering 5 apprenticeships to care experienced young adults.

One of the highlights of the year is the annual awards ceremony we hold each December to celebrate the achievements of our children in care. Children are nominated by their social workers for progress they have made either academically or socially in the past year.

We also organise events and trips for our children during the school holidays, which have included Stubbers, Pizza Express, museums, cinema, ice-skating and the theatre.



I WAS SO NERVOUS COMING OUT TODAY AS I WAS NOT SURE WHO I WOULD SEE, BUT IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING DAY AT THE AQUARIUM SEEING ALL THE FISHES, SOME I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE



Culture Strategy: A Good Life

Havering's Cultural Strategy 2025-28, A Good Life, has been developed in collaboration with the public, private and voluntary sector in the borough and represents the planned strategic work of a broad range of organisations and groups. The strategy recognises that Havering is changing more quickly and radically than most London boroughs, yet has one of the least developed cultural ecologies in London, with the 4th lowest level of public engagement with culture in the capital.

The strategy has a vision that 'Havering will plant the seeds for a thriving cultural borough', with five key principles, which include: Every child and young person engaging in culture. Uniting education and arts partners to empower young people and make them feel proud.

A key enabler is FUSE, our Local Cultural Education Partnership. Between 2025 and 2028, this aims to:

- Create and embed a Youth Board
- Deliver 4 micro commissions, driven by the Youth Board; and
- Establish an Artist in Residence programme, delivering creative education across the borough.

Alongside the work being delivered through FUSE, one of the actions in our SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy is to create a dedicated working party whose focus is on improving community access for children and young people with SEND. This will act on feedback from children and young people with SEND, and their parents and carers, telling us that there is a need for a wider range of more accessible community activities open to children with SEND. This work also serves as a response to findings of Havering's Youth Wellbeing Census, where children with SEND told us they experience a weaker sense of belonging within their local area than their peers without SEND.

Our Workforce

In order for our children and young people to be inspired, we believe that the same needs to apply to those who support them. This includes our own workforce across Starting Well, teachers, and other professionals who interact with children on a daily basis, such as those providing local health services.

A Stable and Able Workforce

Our Starting Well Improvement Plan (covered further under the next priority) is structured around four key themes, the first of which is 'Embedding a Stable and Able Workforce'.

It is no coincidence that this is the first stage of our improvement journey. Our workforce is our greatest asset and the last five years have been extremely challenging, with unprecedented need for services driven by population change, the Covid-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis. At the same time, the borough remains underfunded for Children's Social Care due to an outdated funding formula. The combined effect has been that at the time of inspection by Ofsted, Havering had the highest caseload per social worker of any London borough, making the recruitment and retention of skilled staff a significant challenge.

Despite the Council's financial challenges, we remain committed to investing in our workforce and ensuring that Havering is a well led, supportive and progressive place to work. Within our Plan, actions under this theme include implementing a full reorganisation of Children's Social Care in two phases, embedding a fit for purpose structure that enables best practice to thrive. We have also received Department for Education funding for the Centre for Systemic Social Work Practice to deliver a programme of accredited training, as part of refreshing and relaunching our model of practice in 2024/25.



Our Face to Face Model of Practice

Face to Face is our systemic approach to working with families who require support from Children's Services (now called Starting Well). First adopted in 2016, our model is centred on supporting more face to face time between workers, children, young people and families, focusing on relationships and evidence based intervention to provide long term positive outcomes.

We firmly believe in empowering families to create sustainable change for themselves, allowing them to find their own solutions. Our aim is to provide services that are child-centred, collaborative, responsive, value-driven, and reflective.

As part of refreshing and relaunching our Face to Face Model in 2024/25, we will continue to roll out cultural competence training, with a focus on the Social GRRRAACCEEESSS. Within this, linked to the priority of ensuring children are treated fairly (and as children first), we will ensure staff have an understanding of issues surrounding the adultification of black children.

Havering Social Care Academy

We are fortunate in Havering to have our very own Social Care Academy. The Academy provides access to training that supports the very best practice, skills and knowledge needed to work to, and within any legislative changes in social care and the local context of Havering. It facilitates opportunities for both professional and personal development to achieve better outcomes for the children and young people of Havering.

The Academy is arranged over 4 faculties:

- Practitioners;
- Management and Leadership;
- Providers; and
- Research, Evidence & Evaluation.

The Academy is committed to learning from what has gone well and not so well, incorporating important lessons from quality assurance and auditing activity, as well as local and national practice learning reviews.

Havering Academy of Leadership

The Academy of Leadership was established to support and develop leadership in Havering's education community. It is a collaboration and partnership between the Local Authority, the East London Teaching School Hub, the Havering Teacher Training Partnerships and headteachers, principals, governors and early years settings leaders across Havering. The Academy has 6 priorities, which are:

- To ensure that leadership and management within education is ranked 'Good' by Ofsted, with a strong aspiration for 'Outstanding';
- To ensure that all leaders can access high quality induction, training, support and development via clear career pathways, from career entry level, to whole system leadership;
- To promote innovative and flexible leadership structures within schools, in order to ensure improved pupil outcomes and cost-effective provision;
- To align and strengthen the work of the strategic partners to improve leadership.
- To make effective use of expertise and good practice already in the system, to learn from the best leaders locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- To develop the sustainable conditions, opportunities and incentives to recruit and retain top quality leaders and potential leaders, and support succession planning





Priority 3: For children to be Safe

“ IT’S NOT THAT I FEEL
UNSAFE IT’S BECAUSE I
KNOW I’M NOT 100%
SAFE WHEREVER I AM ”



Priority 3: For children to be Safe

Our third wish is for children to be, and to feel, safe. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home and whilst it is parents and carers who have primary care for their children, local authorities also have specific duties to work with partner organisations to keep children safe and promote their welfare. In essence, this means creating a safe, supportive and nurturing environment where children can thrive and reach their full potential.

What children and young people have told us

In our first large-scale survey of children and young people in 2022, 'SHOUT we are listening', we explored the topic of where children feel safe and unsafe.

Through SHOUT, we learned that:

- 57% of children and young people who responded felt unsafe on the streets;
- 34% felt unsafe at bus stops and train stations;
- 25% felt unsafe at local parks

When asked if there was anything they would change about the local area, almost one in ten children who responded said they would like crime to be prevented and the local area made safer.

Feedback was shared with our partners in the Police and Transport for London, who each provided a written response to some of the themes and comments provided, outlining action they would be taking as a result.

As crime and safety is a clear priority for young people, we also wanted to understand how this impacts on wellbeing. The Havering Youth Wellbeing Census, undertaken in the Summer of 2023, asked further questions on this topic. Through the census, we learned that:

- Around three quarters of young people feel fairly safe or very safe in their local area (within about 5 minutes walking distance of home);
- At 70.4%, the figure was lower for those living in the North of the borough;
- Young people living in the Central part of the borough were more likely to report feeling that crime was a problem in their area;
- When it came to people joining gangs or using or dealing drugs, young people in the North of the borough were more likely to feel this was a problem in their area. young people feel in their community.

In 2024, a number of Havering primary and secondary schools are implementing a new online platform called Student Voice: a child-friendly reporting tool that utilises interactive maps of spaces that young people spend time in (including school and the journey to and from it). Children and young people will be able to report safety concerns without fear or stigma and schools can then improve the spaces with more targeted and effective interventions to prevent future harm. The Council will also receive data gathered through Student Voice, to inform how services and partner agencies can work together to increase the sense of safety that young people feel in their community.



Children in Need of Help and Protection

In December 2023, Ofsted visited the borough to undertake an Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). The outcome of this inspection was that, whilst there were areas of strength, overall services to safeguard vulnerable children had deteriorated since our previous inspection in 2018, and we are now graded inadequate overall. The [report](#) was published in February 2024 and following this, we worked with staff and partners to develop our comprehensive [Starting Well Improvement Plan](#). This responds to the specific areas highlighted by Ofsted, as well as those we had already identified through our own self-evaluation, which were in close alignment.

The Starting Well Improvement Plan is structured around four key themes, which are:

- 1. Embedding a Stable and Able Workforce**
- 2. Improving Practice to achieve consistently good outcomes for children and young people**
- 3. Removing Barriers to support improving Practice**
- 4. Governance, Leadership and Management Oversight**

Running across all four themes are two further priorities, which are:

- Ensuring Equality, Diversity and the Social Graces are considered in all aspects of practice, and our support offer to staff; and
- Hearing and responding to the voice and lived experiences of children and families in all that we do.

Our plan is focused on the journey we need to take towards better outcomes for our children, young people and families. Ofsted have told us that we are focused on the right actions to successfully deliver our improvement plan, and significant investment has been allocated to its delivery, which has been costed at £5million.

Our progress is being overseen by an independently chaired Practice Improvement Board, which reports into a strategic Practice Improvement Oversight Board (POIB) chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council. This board includes a representative group of elected members, Safeguarding Partners and our Department for Education Improvement Advisor.

We will remain subject to a high level of scrutiny by Ofsted and the Department for Education, with regular monitoring visits and a full re-inspection to take place after approximately two years.



Neglect Strategy

The definition of neglect is set out in statutory guidance as:

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- provide suitable education

Neglect can impact children in a number of ways, which could include their development and physical health, their attachment and relationships with others, their mental health and emotional wellbeing, and their ability to learn.

Havering has a Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy which provides an overarching view of the response to Neglect in Havering. The aims of the strategy include:

- Listening to the voice of the child and their lived experiences and reflecting that in our work with children and families.
- Building upon the foundations laid by previous neglect strategies to address neglect, with multiagency governance and operational approaches.
- Delivering a well-trained multi-agency workforce confident in tackling neglect and a public that recognises and reports neglect.
- Ensuring that we have approaches and policies in place to address the different elements of neglect.
- More effectively mitigating the impact this form of child abuse has on children and young people.
- Reducing the number of children that suffer neglect and reduce the impact and time they suffer.

Delivery of the strategy is overseen by the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Safe Sleeping

An on-going priority for the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership is to raise awareness of and promote messages about safe sleeping. Each year around 200 babies die unexpectedly before their first birthday, with many classified as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or cot death. We know that greater awareness of safer sleep leads to a decrease in the numbers of babies dying.

There is evidence of a shift towards these tragedies happening predominately in families from deprived socio-economic backgrounds. This highlights the importance of not only consistent messaging to all parents of infants less than 1 year but the need for a more targeted approach.

A Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) Steering Group has been established to oversee this work locally, with a number of initiatives underway. These include a Safer Sleep Conference attended by 140 professionals and Safer Sleep training offered by the Havering Learning Partnership.

We are also exploring the possibility of providing safe sleeping equipment to families without the necessary equipment.

Anyone affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a baby or young child can contact the [Lullaby Trust](#).



Safeguarding Adolescents

In 2019, Havering's Safeguarding Children Partnership agreed its first Strategy for Safeguarding Havering's Adolescents. The strategy recognises that children and young people are influenced by not only their family and home environment but also their surroundings. Factors, or 'contexts' such as friends, neighbourhoods, school and – increasingly – online interactions, can have a significant impact on their wellbeing and safety.

The strategy is guided by a number of key values and principles, which include recognising that adolescents are children and not adults and understanding the constrained choices that adolescents may feel powerless to avoid.

Ultimately, our focus is on safeguarding adolescents from abuse and exploitation by recognising and responding to signs of vulnerability. Potential risk factors include (but are not limited to): child sexual exploitation; children being missing from home, care or education (including those excluded from school); exposure to risk through gang involvement, county lines, trafficking and serious youth violence; domestic violence and abuse; Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) ; adolescent neglect; self-harm and suicide; substance misuse; and the impact of trauma.

Whilst our formal strategy is being refreshed for 2024/25 onwards, our approach to safeguarding adolescents in Havering remains built around the following six strategic priorities:

Collective Leadership:

We have an established Safeguarding Adolescents Strategic Board, with multi-agency representation including from across Starting Well, Community Safety, the Police, Education and Health partners. The Board provides oversight of our work in this area and reports to the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership;

Identify:

Our analysis of key datasets supports the identification of vulnerable young people, and informs prevention, intervention and disruption activity that responds to adolescent risk factors;

Engage:

We listen to the lived experiences of children and their caregivers, ensuring there are mechanisms in place for these to be heard by senior leaders and partners, making sure the right support is in place and delivered by a trusted professional;

Prevention:

We conduct appreciative enquiry and gap analysis of current policy and practice in work with adolescents across our professional partnership, including the application of systemic, relationship-based, restorative and strength-based practices to prevent harm and exploitation of adolescents;

Intervention:

We have a multi-disciplinary offer and integrated working methods that respond to the changing needs and risks of adolescents and are building on available disruptive techniques to develop outreach and place-based interventions that reduce future adolescent involvement in violence and crime;

Communication and workforce development:

We deliver communication and training plans that meet the needs of professionals across the partnership who are working with adolescents at risk and aim to improve the life chances of children and young people in Havering.



Serious Violence Strategy

Havering's Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-27 was produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty. This duty requires local partners to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.

Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty in Havering, is defined as: Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.

A strategic needs assessment was undertaken to inform Havering's Serious Violence Duty Strategy and in line with guidance, this considered data and evidence across eight themes, one of which was: a Profile of Violence and Exploitation Affecting Young People Under the Age of 25. Some of the key findings under this theme include:

- Havering has a relatively low number of violence-related offences affecting under 25 year olds compared to regional averages but a very high proportion (50.4%) of all violence and exploitation offences that do occur involve at least one individual under the age of 25. More of Havering's violence is youth violence than any other borough;
- Weapon possession (specifically knives) is a key concern;
- The victims of serious violence are, broadly, evenly split by gender, although this changes depending on the type of offence. 83% of sexual offence victims were female and 85% of robbery victims were male;
- Romford is a significant location of serious violence, both in the context of the borough and of the capital, with St Edwards Ward ranked 7th highest in London for these offences;
- The most frequently occurring time of offence is between 3pm and 4pm;
- While reports of violence on transport overall are low, four particular bus routes make up 42% of such incidents. These were the 174, the 496, the 103 and the 248.

The Strategy outlines a series of actions that will be taken to prevent and reduce serious violence under 8 key objectives, which are:

- Governance
- Analysis and Enforcement
- Reducing Access to Weapons
- Safeguarding and Educating Young people
- Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence
- Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability
- Positive Diversion from Violence
- Tackling Violence against Women and Girls

Progress in delivering the strategy and local action plan is reviewed through the Community Safety Partnership.

In 2024/25, the borough secured £280,000 in grant funding from the MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit as part of the Havering 'My Ends' Partnership. 'My Ends' will deliver a programme of engagement and activities for young people, focusing on sports-based and creative (music, arts, etc.) activities, and mentoring. It will utilise local grassroots organisations to build on existing good practice and develop hyperlocal interventions, which will be designed with and for young people who live in or access Romford Town Centre / St. Edwards Ward on a daily basis.

Strategic oversight of My Ends will be held by the Havering Community Safety Partnership (HCSP), whilst operational oversight will be carried out by Havering's Serious Violence Strategic Partnership.



Substance (Drugs and Alcohol) Misuse

Partners in Havering have produced a joint strategy to combat drugs and alcohol from 2024. The successful implementation of this five-year strategy will be dependent on the whole local partnership working together and sharing responsibility for creating a safer, healthier and more productive society.

One priority of this new strategy is for the partners in Havering to work together to achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs. You can also hear what partners have to say about the strategy.

As one young person said:

“Teaching children in schools about drugs and alcohol awareness at an earlier age such as age 11 is really important. Sometimes there is peer pressure and they don’t know where to go to and who to talk to. ... Schools need to ask us how they can help and support young people.”

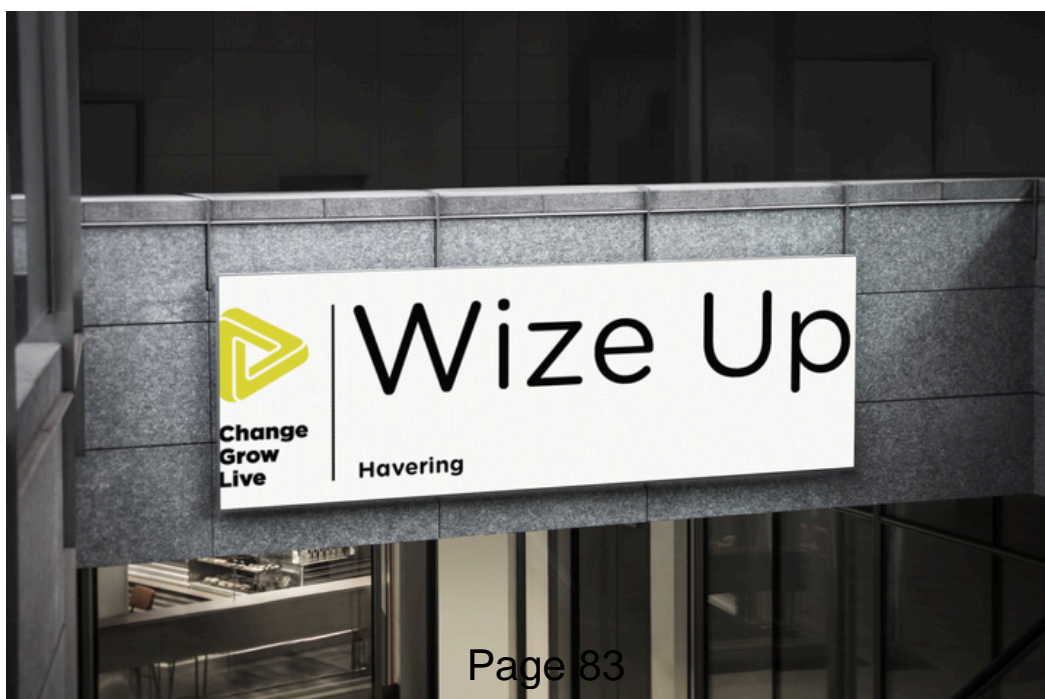
The needs assessment and other evidence that informed our strategy found that:

- Some children are more at risk than others due to genetic predisposition and environmental exposure;
- Engaging in physical activity can reduce stress-induced epigenetic changes, which will decrease the risk of developing addiction in the first place, or stress-induced relapse;
- 21% of services users of drug and alcohol treatment services in 2019/20 were living with their children;
- 21% of the people using illicit drugs are aged 16-24;
- The proportion of Havering’s children in care identified as having a substance misuse problem was 7.6% in 2022/23, compared to an England average for children in care of 3%;
- Hospital admissions of 15- to 24-year-olds due to substance misuse in Havering was significantly higher than London and England averages in 2020/21-2022/23.

Partners in the Havering Combating Drugs Partnership will:

- Support parents with drug misuse problems to minimise the harm to children including the heightened risk that they themselves will in turn experience similar problems; and
- Ensure school-based prevention and early intervention are there to reduce the chances of young people abusing alcohol, drugs and other substances.

Information on substance misuse and how to seek help can be on the Wise Up website.



Climate Change

We know that the impact of climate change on our planet is of significant concern to children and young people. The Havering Youth Wellbeing Census asked students how often they worry about the impact of climate change on their future. 44% of all respondents, and more than half of the girls who completed the survey, answered 'sometimes' or 'often'.

Havering's Climate Change Action Plan (HCCAP) 2024 to 2027 was adopted in 2024 and outlines the key initiatives, goals and objectives to meet the Council's carbon neutral ambitions by 2040. Progress against the agreed actions will be published annually, along with reporting on CO₂ emissions from the Council's own activity.

Everyone in Havering has a part to play in reducing CO₂ emissions, from driving less to reducing heating, gas and electricity usage. We believe that children and young people are some of the greatest ambassadors for climate action and a number of the areas we are focused on involve working with them and schools. Examples include:

- work with schools to help them make their buildings more energy-efficient;
- creating travel plans with schools, that encourage walking and cycling instead of using cars (see Active Travel, below);
- tree planting; and
- encouraging people to use less plastic, including through the promotion of water refill stations.

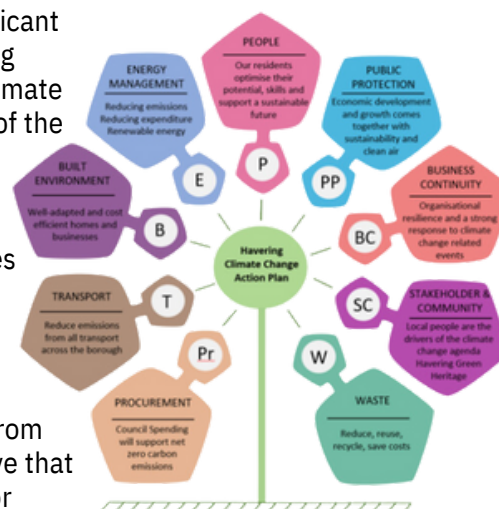
We are also replacing old Council-owned vehicles with new electric ones and over the coming months 61 EV Charging Points will be installed across 10 Council operated car parks, with a further 74 charging points being installed in publically available on street sites across the borough.

We will support the reduction of transport emissions across the borough to become a carbon neutral authority. Much of this work will be done through the delivery of transport projects and programmes that provide residents with alternative options to travel, besides the car, including initiatives that encourage more walking and cycling. Through the School Travel Plan programme, single occupancy car use for "school run" journeys for participating schools is already down to 16% compared to 39% when the programme started back in 2009.

Active Travel

The Council has a target for 65% of residents to be walking, cycling or using public transport by 2041. To help meet this target, Havering delivers an annual Local Implementation Plan (LIP) programme in which schemes and projects are delivered that support sustainable transport.

To further support the Climate Change agenda, an Active Travel Strategy has been drafted and consultation commenced in Autumn 2024. The strategy sets out the Council's long-term vision for improving walking and cycling infrastructure in Havering. As part of the consultation, a specific Children and Young Person's survey has been developed to better understand the hopes and aspirations of young people in the borough.



Road Safety

The Mayor's Transport Strategy, published in 2018, sets out the goal that by 2041 all deaths and serious injuries will be eliminated from London's transport network. In 2018, the Mayor launched his Vision Zero Action Plan which sets out a series of specific actions to tackle the sources of road danger, with a shift in emphasis from tackling historic casualty reduction trends to a holistic approach to targeting road danger.

Through its annual Local Implementation Plan programme, the Council is delivering schemes that support the Vision Zero agenda. In 2024/25 over £500k is being spent on schemes to reduce casualty rates across the borough and £100k has been allocated specifically to delivering Road Safety Education initiatives in schools, including Theatre productions around road safety.

The safety of children in our care and care experienced young adults

Another of our pledges to children in our care and care experienced is that We will look after you and treat you well. Specific commitments include:

- We will make sure you live in a safe place, where you are well looked after and is suitable for your needs. We will check on the quality of care you receive.
- We will only move you from your home or placement if it is absolutely necessary, or if it is deemed to be in your best interests. If you do need to move, we will ensure we explain clearly the reason for this
- We will make sure that when you prepare to move to the 'Leaving Care Team' at 16 years old, or leave our care, there is a suitable plan in place. We will make sure you understand what is going to happen when you become of leaving care age and that you are involved in any decisions or plans.
- We will provide you with the support you need when you leave care to become independent and be the best you can be in adult life. This includes learning to manage money, paying bills, learning to cook, preparation for work and taking care of yourself.

Children in care have their care plans reviewed at regular intervals to ensure the home they are living in continues to meet their needs. As children approach age 16, we work with them to develop a Pathway Plan which sets out how they will be supported to live independently. This too includes regular assessments of their current and future accommodation needs, as well as financial entitlements and support with budgeting.

Transition to Adulthood

We know that the transition from adolescence to adulthood is a challenging time for many young people. For those who receive services from us as children under the age of 18, it can feel worrying to know that those same services will not be in place, or may look different, after they turn 18. This includes young people in the care of the local authority, those with special educational needs and disabilities, and those young people we are working with due to risks of exploitation. This is a priority area in our Starting Well Improvement Plan, with planned actions to include:

- Reviewing and updating our response to contextual safeguarding, vulnerable adolescents and transitional safeguarding; and
- Reviewing processes for the transfer from children's services to adult services (both social care and health services) and re-establishing a Transitions Panel and action plan to deliver improvements.

Through our SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy, we will also develop new Preparing for Adulthood information, guidance, and enhanced support for children, young people, their families and professionals, to ensure that planning and support for children and young people with SEND has an unrelenting focus on these children's outcomes in terms of employment, independent living, community inclusion, and health.



Children in Care and Sufficiency Strategy

The government's 'Stable Homes, Built on Love' Strategy focuses on greater ambition for care-experienced children and young people, with proposed changes to legislation to improve access to stable homes and housing. Alongside this, a published review of the children's social care placements market described the growing challenge local authorities face in finding suitable homes for children in care. The report highlighted the significant issue of profiteering amongst the largest private placement providers - something that all local authorities, including Havering, are experiencing and continue to face.

Our new Children in Care and Sufficiency Strategy is being drafted for 2024/25 onwards and this will fundamentally set out how we aim to provide good homes for children in our care, that meet their needs.

Specifically, the strategy describes our plans to:

- Ensure children achieve permanency within a family at the earliest opportunity;
- Ensure more children in care live within the borough;
- Ensure children have access to well-trained foster parents;
- Ensure our foster carers feel valued through the introduction of the Mockingbird support model;
- Ensure young people aged 16 and 17 can live with trained adults who can provide supported lodgings, enabling young people to remain within a family setting for longer;
- Ensure children with special and complex needs have the right services to meet their needs;
- Create a Havering children's home offer, to provide the right care in the right place at the right cost; and
- Ensure children in care receive the support they need to reach their educational potential.



Priority 4: For children to be Heard

**“ WE NEED TO MAKE A PETITION
SO IT CAN BE DISCUSSED IN THE
PARLIAMENT. ALL THE
CHILDREN CAN WRITE
HANDWRITTEN LETTERS TO
GOVERNMENT TO MAKE AN
IMPACT ”**



Priority 4: For children to be Heard

Our fourth wish for children and young people in Havering is that they are heard. We want children to be actively involved in decision making that affects them and to have real influence on the outcomes of those decisions, whether they concern services provided to children and their families, or the local environment in which they live and attend school.

This does not mean that children and young people will always get the outcome they want (especially if it is not in their best interests) but we will respect their right to express their views, and to have these considered and taken seriously. We will make sure that we feed back to children and young people who have given their views on the outcome of any decisions taken, and the reasons for these.

We believe there are multiple benefits to civic engagement, for individuals of all ages, and we continue working to increase the number of children and young people who engage with us and developing further opportunities for this to happen.

What children and young people have told us

In June 2024, prompted by a discussion about exams, Havering's Youth Council explored the topic of how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on education. Emerging themes included:

- Young people not feeling they had been able to talk about their lived experience of the pandemic - that life had moved on, without really acknowledging what had happened;
- The impact of the Black Lives Matter movement;
- Feeling that the education system needed to be reviewed, and going back to pre-Covid 'normality' was not working;
- That young people have different needs now and cultural differences that are not adequately reflected in today's curriculum;
- That since the lockdowns some young people found the structure of school and being in a classroom more difficult;
- Some were finding it difficult to communicate face to face and felt more comfortable behind a screen;
- Some young people were experiencing or seeing homophobia; and
- Some young people's GCSE subject choices were being impacted by the availability of teachers for those subjects;
- A lack of support, emotionally and academically, for children arriving in the country and going through the lengthy process of obtaining British citizenship, alongside managing schoolwork.

Youth Council had the following recommendations to share with decision makers and those in power:

- Listen to young people and adapt services to meet their needs;
- Listen to them about revising the education system to include and embrace more cultural and gender difference;
- More work is needed to support young people post Covid – upcoming generations will be affected for many years to come;
- Recognise that teachers are leaving the profession, and that young people have limited choices as a result.



Resident Engagement and Participation

The Council's Resident Engagement and Participation Strategy 2024-27 was developed following a review of engagement provision. This sets out our intention to better capture the voice of young people and work with them to form better services.

The strategy sets out six key principles to improve the current engagement offer, which are:

- We ask
- We listen and involve
- We know 'one size doesn't fit all'
- We learn
- We come to you
- We are open, honest and accountable

The strategy will continue to evolve as we engage further with children and young people on this topic and improve our organisational understanding of how we can engage more with local children and young people, on their terms.

Mind Of My Own and SHOUT



One of the ways we have been working to deliver our WISH for children to be Heard is through our use of the Mind Of My Own suite of apps, which support the participation of children and young people.

The One App empowers young people to participate in their lives and communicate their views to a trusted adult. With simple pictures and child-friendly language, it is designed for children and young people to share experiences, feelings and views on topics that reflect important moments in their lives.

We initially implemented the One App for use by children in our care and have since rolled out its usage more widely across Starting Well, along with similar apps for use by younger children and those with additional needs (Express), and children using Youth Justice services (Xchange).

In 2022 we built upon the success of these tools further by delivering our first large-scale survey of children and young people in Havering: 'SHOUT we are listening'. The survey received more than 1,000 responses across a range of topics which have helped to inform the development of this plan, as well as being used to highlight key issues of importance to children and young people with the relevant audience. For example, feedback concerning crime and safety was shared widely with local partners including the police and Transport for London (TfL).

In 2023/24, for the first time, children and young people in Havering were invited to take part in our budget setting, with our 'SHOUT about the money' survey, which received more than 420 completed responses. The feedback received was used to inform some very difficult financial decisions by the Council's Cabinet and a number of proposals to reduce or change services were not taken forward. We know how important it is to feedback on how the results of consultations have been used, and produced a [short video](#) to let children and young people know their views has been heard and taken on board.

'SHOUT about Libraries' has been another example of the Council engaging children and young people in difficult decisions. The survey, which asked for views on our Libraries Strategy, ran from July to August 2024 and received more than 1,200 responses. Reports were being prepared at the time of writing this plan.

We are grateful to the thousands of children and young people who have taken the time to share their views with us, as well as Havering schools for continuing to support our commitment to ensuring children are heard.



Havering Youth Wellbeing Census

The Havering Youth Wellbeing Census is a key part of the Council's commitment to increasing engagement with children and young people, as well as understanding more about the state of wellbeing in adolescents.

The first wave of the Havering Youth Wellbeing Census took place in Summer 2023. The census used the #BeeWell survey which was originally developed as part of the #BeeWell programme, an initiative originating in Greater Manchester that combines academic expertise with youth-led change to make the wellbeing of young people everybody's business. The census was delivered in Havering with support from UCLPartners, a health innovation partnership committed to improving adolescent mental health.



The #BeeWell survey themes include 'emotions', 'meaning, purpose and control' and 'understanding yourself' as well as exploring what drives wellbeing, for example, health and routines, hobbies and entertainment, and relationships.

Additional questions were incorporated to meet locally identified needs as voiced by Havering's young people and the local organisations and services that support them. Topics added included:

- Climate change
- Vaping
- Crime
- Accessing support
- Travel to school
- Schoolwork related stress

Ten Havering schools took part, with 2,287 young people across Year 8 and Year 10 completing the #BeeWell survey, representing 36% coverage of this age group.

Results from the first wave of the census have been published in our neighbourhood dashboard, forming an invaluable evidence base. They are being used by the local authority and partners in health and education to understand how, as individual services and as a partnership, we can take action that will support improvements in the wellbeing of young people.

The Havering Youth Wellbeing Census and #BeeWell approach is about empowering young people to lead change and this short video produced by students at Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls is just one example of how, with support from their schools, students are doing exactly that.

Havering Youth Council

The Havering Youth Council is made up of young people aged between 11 and 18, and inclusive to the age of 25 if the young person has additional needs or a disability, who live or receive education in Havering.

Youth Council is an independent body of young people, who are apolitical. It's aims are to:

- give young people a voice;
- create opportunities for young people to become involved in democratic processes within the local community, regionally and nationally;
- enable young people to identify the issues that affect their lives in a negative way and determine what they need to do to effect change;
- raise participation and achievement levels for ALL young people;
- promote equal opportunities in Havering for all young people;
- treat all young people fairly, with respect and ensure that their views will be listened to.



Youth Service offer

The Youth Service provides a range of opportunities for young people to grow and develop new and existing skills, make a positive contribution to their community and where relevant (through our targeted offer), reduce involvement in risky, antisocial or criminal activities.

The Youth Service aims to deliver an inclusive service that is available to all young people in Havering. The team are based at the MyPlace centre in Harold Hill; the Councils' flagship multi-million-pound youth and community centre, which opened in 2012.

Just a few examples of the range of activities and support delivered by the Youth Service include:

- SAFE (Social Activities for Everyone) – a mixed youth club for 13- to 18-year-olds;
- Junior Revellers and Senior Revellers – for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (aged 11 to 15, and 15 to 18) to make friends and take part in sports, arts and crafts;
- Transitions - a 5-month programme supporting young people transitioning from primary to secondary school; and
- Off Street Detached Youth Club - providing a safe space to spend time with friends or make new ones away from the streets, and gain support from the youth work team.

There are also a number of targeted programmes, including Go Girls - a self-esteem and confidence building programme for young women aged 13-18 years old, and Good Fellas - a group for young men 13-18 year olds, fostering positive relationships to develop responsible behaviours and guide them in making healthy decisions related to their emotional and social development.

Children, young people and their parents or carers can find out more on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) sites.

Safeguarding Young Advisors

Havering's Safeguarding Young Advisors are aged 15 to 24 and have been recruited by the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership. Their role is to:

- Help influence change in their community;
- Engage other young people on safeguarding issues;
- Ensure the interest of young people when it comes to decision-making;
- Connect with other young people's groups, forums and networks to promote the issues that matter to them;
- Speak with children and young people to find out how services can help improve outcomes for them; and
- Take part in training and put together information in a youth friendly way.



The rights of young children

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 12 describes how: *Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.*

As children grow, so does their ability to understand their lives and make decisions, a process that varies based on individual experiences, education, and maturity. This gradually increasing ability to make reasoned decisions is called evolving capacities. The UNCRC states that parental guidance should align with a child's evolving capacities; younger children require more protection due to not fully grasping the consequences of choices, while older children can handle more responsibility.

Evolving capacities should not be used to dismiss a child's perspective. The child's views can provide valuable insights into what matters to them and influence what adults consider to be in their best interests. Involving children, considering their views, and allowing them to make mistakes boosts self-confidence and maturity, helping them to avert risks, while denying a child's feelings and opinions makes them feel insignificant and unable to protect themselves. These concepts are central to the way we work in Havering and ensuring the youngest of children know that they matter.

Responding to the voice of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We know there is more to do to respond to the views, wishes and feelings of our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Some of the actions being take forward through our SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy include:

- Embedding a culture of participation, communication, and engagement at every level of the SEND and AP system, ensuring children and young people with SEND and their families are equal partners in the design, delivery, and implementation of improvements to the support and services available in Havering, as well as discussions about their own support;
- Co-producing with children and families a 'SEND Working Together Charter', or equivalent. All those working with children and young people with SEND and their families will understand how the charter principles will help ensure families' experiences of the SEND system are respectful and supportive;
- Working with children and young people with SEND, their families, and professionals, to agree what it is we want to ensure all our children and young people with SEND have and achieve, so they have the best quality of life they can. This will be captured in the area's SEND Outcomes Framework produced in collaboration with the Council for Disabled Children. This framework will be used to guide decision making on SEND and evaluate how well the local SEND system is delivering these outcomes for Havering children and young people.



The participation of children in care and care experienced young adults

Another coproduced pledge we have made to children in our care and care experienced young adults is: We will listen to you about things that are important to you and your life, and about the care that you receive from us.

In practice, this means:

- Always making sure children and young people are involved in decisions made about their life, including with access to Mind Of My Own, their Youth Influence and Participation Co-ordinator and Independent Reviewing Officer;
- Being honest with them about things that have happened in their life and the decisions made about their care;
- Acting on what they say, and telling them what we have done and when we have done it;
- Arriving on time when attending meetings and visiting them at home (and calling if we are going to be late);
- Telling them about their rights and entitlements as a child in care, including access to an Advocate, an Independent Visitor and how to complain or share views; and
- Providing them with an interpreter, where needed, to ensure they fully understand discussions about their care and are able to tell us their thoughts, feelings and wishes.

Say it Louder Forum and Total Respect Training

The Say It Louder Forum provides a voice for care experienced young people aged 12 plus. The aim is to bring together young people and service providers, to give views and ideas to improve services, and to influence decision makers. This is with a view to actively working to create change and to co-produce opportunities to improve outcomes for children in care.

Total Respect is a training programme delivered by our care experienced young people. The training focuses on the understanding of children's rights, exploring assumptions about care experienced people and learning from the experienced of those delivering the training.





Priority 5:
For children to be Treated
fairly

“ TO ME IT WOULD BE, LIKE, ACCEPTANCE. WHETHER IT BE MENTAL HEALTH OR NATIONALITY BASED, LIKE JUST GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE THAT AREN'T THE SAME AS YOU BECAUSE WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT, AND YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT ”

Priority 5: For children to be Treated fairly

Running through our vision and our WISH is a commitment to the children and young people of Havering: that we will do everything we can to ensure they are treated fairly. We know that there are groups of children who, like adults, experience disadvantage and at times discrimination, in a range of different ways. Children have told us this and sadly, we can see the evidence in our data. This section of our plan sets out just some of the ways in which we are taking action to make Havering a fairer place.

What children and young people have told us

In our first, coproduced, SHOUT survey, we explored the topic of discrimination - or as children asked us to describe it: 'hate'. When asked whether they had experienced hate directed towards them, of the 650 children and young people who responded, approximately:

- 26% had experienced hate due to race;
- 18% due to age;
- 13% due to religion;
- 12% due to disability; and
- 10% due to sexuality

Discrimination was also an area covered by the Havering Youth Wellbeing Census and this highlighted some further inequalities, such as:

- Girls reported experiencing discrimination more than boys across all types of discrimination apart from religion (this included race, skin colour or where they were born, gender, disability and sexual orientation) – with gender discrimination itself showing the greatest difference between the two groups;
- Children with special educational needs and children eligible for free school meals had more experience of discrimination than their peers across all forms of discrimination that were covered by the survey.

Disproportionality

The inequitable experiences that children and young people have told us about are also reflected in key datasets, both nationally and in Havering. For example, we know that Black and Global Majority children are overrepresented within care, the Youth Justice system, and among pupils who are suspended or excluded from school.

A report by MBRRACE-UK, published in May 2023, also highlighted persistent disparities in maternal health, with data showing that women from Black ethnic backgrounds were four times more likely to die during or up to six weeks after pregnancy compared to White women.

We will not shy away from these facts.

We will continue to examine how the structural racism that exists in society impacts on children and young people today. We will reflect on how we and our partners – both as individual organisations and the wider 'system' that supports children - can be part of the solution, and not the problem.



Health Inequalities

The term 'Health Inequalities' refers to the unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within our society. Such differences arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age – all of which influence how we think, feel and act, and can therefore impact both our physical and mental health and wellbeing. Healthcare inequalities are about the access people have to health services, and their experience and outcomes from accessing (or not accessing) them.

At a local level, Integrated Care Boards are able to bid for health inequalities funding from NHS England to deliver projects and schemes that aim to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.

In Havering, health inequalities funding has been allocated to a number of projects that aim to improve the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people.

Specific projects include:

Improving access to talking therapies for children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions

Aims to increase the opportunity for young people with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to access talking therapies, where they are presenting with common mental health conditions such as anxiety, low confidence or low mood.

Improving mental health outcomes for young homeless people

Aims to empower educational settings to better support young homeless people and families, and provide opportunities for interventions within the community.

Asthma Schools Coordinator

Support every school within Havering to become Asthma and Allergy Friendly through the recruitment of an Asthma and Allergy Friendly Schools Co-Ordinator.

Children's weight management pilot - piloting 'HENRY Healthy Families: Growing Up'

An 8-week holistic family lifestyle programme for families with children aged 5-12, which supports healthy emotional and physical development as well as a healthy weight.

Infant Feeding Coordinator

Recruiting a post within the Early Help Service to facilitate an improved offer of support to parents around infant feeding, focusing on: development of a breastfeeding peer support programme; co-production of an antenatal breastfeeding workshop; and Children's Centre UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) accreditation – Stages 1 and 2.

Children's Diabetes Team

Funding a part time nurse specialist to support the reduction of waiting times and improve outcomes for children with diabetes through the completion of pump education, improving the percentage of patients using pumps and provision of continuous glucose monitoring.

Responding to the Havering Youth Wellbeing Census

Providing additional capacity and funding for Havering Youth Service to support a Youth Steering Group / Network which will empower and support young people to identify and commission small projects aimed at improving the wellbeing of their peers.



Disadvantage in Education

The gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers is a significant issue, with children from less well-off homes starting school behind their classmates and falling further behind as they progress through primary and secondary school.

This gap is influenced by various factors, including home and school environments, which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and cost of living crises. Many head teachers have reported an increase in children coming to school hungry, highlighting the on-going impact of these crises.

Research shows that educational factors also contribute to the gap, such as inadequate school funding, uneven access to quality teaching, unfair admissions policies, school absence, and inequalities in access to private tuition.

The Department for Education defines disadvantaged pupils as those eligible for free school meals in the past six years, those looked after by the local authority, or those who have ceased to be looked after due to adoption or other orders.

In 2024, the attainment gap at Key Stage 2 between disadvantaged pupils in Havering and non-disadvantaged pupils nationally was greater than the national gap and the previous year. However, at Key Stage 4 (Attainment 8), the gap in Havering was smaller than the national gap and had improved from the previous year.

Havering has implemented two key projects to support disadvantaged pupils. The first project, in collaboration with the Mayor of London's office and the Violence Reduction Unit, focuses on communication and language skills. It includes a small group intervention programme (Talk Boost) for young children, wider training for teachers and Learning Support Assistants, and efforts to improve parental engagement.

The second project, in partnership with the Education Endowment Fund, aims to identify and spread effective practices in adaptive teaching techniques across primary and secondary phases. This project involves schools with attainment gaps that are wider than the gap nationally.

Supplementing the above is continuing professional development for senior curriculum leaders and subject leaders. We are also ensuring that SENCOs are informed of projects and that these are aligned, due to the relationship between SEND and disadvantage.

Children who are in the care of the local authority receive support from 'Virtual Schools' and from September 2021, the Department for Education extended the role of Virtual Schools to also promote the education of children with a social worker. This cohort has been identified as another group of children who face significant barriers to education as a result of their experience, most commonly abuse or neglect. These are children on a Child in Need (CIN) or Child Protection (CP) plan. The aim of the Virtual School is to champion the educational attendance, attainment and progress of these children and young people, by working collaboratively with social workers, school professionals and the wider network.



Our Youth Justice Service

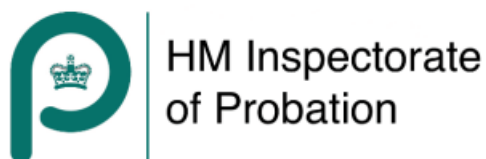
Havering's Youth Justice Service Strategy 2024-2027 has been written with explicit consideration of The Youth Justice Board strategy for delivering positive outcomes for children by reducing offending and creating safer communities 2024- 2027. The Youth Justice Board's Strategic Plan 2024-27, outlines how the Youth Justice Board seeks to achieve a Child First approach in the youth justice system with the vision of:

'A youth justice system that sees children as children first, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society.'

To achieve this, Havering's Youth Justice Board is committed to following an evidence-based approach and drawing on evidence of what works in creating positive outcomes for children. Our plan sets out the strategic direction of Havering's Youth Justice Service and in particular, its work to:

- Provide Leadership and Governance;
- Reduce Re-offending;
- Address and tackle disproportionality;
- Improve Education Training and Employment outcomes for children and young people;
- Reduce Substance Misuse and support preventative education and awareness raising;
- Improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND / Speech, Language and Communication, or Mental Health Needs
- Reduce serious youth violence and exploitation;
- Support Prevention and engaging communities;
- Evidence victim uptake in Restorative Justice process and increase the child's understanding of harm caused;
- Improve practice within the YJS and use learning from inspections and thematic inspections;
- Develop a 'Stable and Able' Workforce; and
- Undertake Quality Assurance

As reflected in our 2022 inspection, where Havering's Youth Justice Service was graded 'Good' by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, we are confident that the work we are undertaking alongside our partner agencies will provide a strong foundation to continue to divert children from crime; alongside tackling the over-representation of Black and Global Majority children within the Youth Justice Service, including through the use of Out of Court Disposals.



An inspection of youth offending services in **Havering**

HM Inspectorate of Probation, October 2022



Violence Against Women and Girls

A key priority for our borough and for the Havering Community Safety Partnership, is tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), in all its forms. Violence against Women and Girls encompasses:

- Domestic Abuse;
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM);
- Forced Marriage;
- Honour Based Violence;
- Prostitution and Trafficking;
- Sexual Violence including Rape;
- Sexual Exploitation;
- Sexual Harassment;
- Stalking; and
- Faith Based Abuse.

Whilst affecting individuals of any age, several of these issues predominately affect younger people. With the exception of Female Genital Mutilation, our work to address these issues does not exclude male victims.

Havering undertook a VAWG Needs Assessment in 2024 which informed a new strategy for 2025 onwards. The strategic vision is to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls through the development of policies and procedures to address violence, develop programmes of preventative work, provide high-quality service provision which responds to local needs, and ensure that robust enforcement action is taken against perpetrators.

We have aligned our strategic objectives with those set out in the Mayoral Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London, and have set the following aims:

- Preventing and reducing VAWG
- Supporting all victims and survivors
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Building trust and confidence

A comprehensive action plan has been developed alongside the strategy, which includes a number of actions that aim to support children and young people. These include the continued roll out of 'Safe and Together' training to ensure social workers are equipped to achieve the best possible outcomes for survivors and their children whilst focusing on the perpetrator's behaviour; and helping young people to identify the warning signs of VAWG within their own home, their own developing relationships and within the community.

The strategy takes account of the feedback that girls and young women in Havering have provided about their sense of safety in the borough, including specific concerns raised around Romford Town Centre. Through the My Ends Programme, project providers will be asked to deliver female centred programmes that incorporate education, support and risk management of VAWG.

The new strategy will be overseen by our VAWG Strategic Partnership, which includes representation from across the local authority, the Police, Probation, and several local Voluntary and Community Sector partners.

“ **I WISH I DIDN'T WALK HOME FROM SCHOOL AND GET SEXUALISED JUST FROM WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORM** ”



Social Value

Havering Council is committed to delivering social value through its regeneration activities. This means that we are not only building homes for the families of Havering but investing in building the communities around them too.

Social value is a term used to express the wider impacts regeneration can have; not just in terms of money, but also in relation to providing opportunities, spaces and places so that local people – including children and young people - can meet, socialise, innovate, grow and learn in an environment that works for them. You can read some examples of social value in action on the [Council's website](#).

From 2024, we will be further embedding social value requirements in our procurement processes and as part of this, will be considering how, as corporate parents, we can better support care experienced young adults through procurement.

Fair Funding

Havering has seen unprecedented growth and change in its population over the last decade. The number of households with dependent children rose by 28% between the 2011 and 2021 censuses, and children and young people under the age of 18 now represent almost a quarter of the borough's population.

At the same time, Havering also has the second largest older persons population (as a proportion of all our residents) in London. Statistically, children and older people are the two population groups that have the most need for the statutory services that local councils, and our partners such as the NHS, provide.

Incredibly, the formula used to calculate how funding is distributed across local councils still uses population data from the 2011 Census. This means that Havering is placed at a significant disadvantage compared to many local authorities, due to the huge population changes we have seen since 2011.

Put simply, we continue to receive a level of funding that in no way reflects the needs of our population, including our children and young people.

We end this plan with a final pledge. We will continue to state our case and lobby central government for a fair funding allocation that will allow us to deliver the services that our children and young people need and deserve.



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9. [Local offer](#)
10. [Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#)
11. [Having Emotional Support Team \(HEST\)](#)
12. [Imago](#)
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27. [MyPlace Instagram and Facebook](#)
28. [The Youth Justice Board strategy for delivering positive outcomes for children by reducing offending and creating safer communities 2024-2027](#)
29. [Havering inspection of youth offending services](#)
30. [Social value in regeneration](#)
31. [Working together to improve school attendance](#)





Happy, Healthy Lives – Action Plan

Our action plan responds to a number of evidence-based recommendations from the Starting Well Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. A more detailed version of this action plan will be published following formal approval of the Happy, Healthy Lives plan and progress in delivering each of these will be monitored by the Havering Health and Wellbeing Board. Those actions in bold will be included in the refreshed Havering Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.

Priority	JSNA Recommendation	Response
Well	Reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and repeat abortions in women under the age of 25	Conduct an evaluation of the local c-card condom distribution with a view to improving accessibility and uptake. Through the integrated sexual health service provided by BHRUT, seek to increase uptake of long-acting reversible contraception amongst 16–24-year-olds (for whom this method is acceptable and appropriate). Review and refresh of Havering Teenage Pregnancy strategy.
Well	Consider ways to fund and implement a pre-conception counselling and care service for women with pre-existing long-term conditions and / or risk factors for poorer birth outcomes (e.g. diabetes, obesity)	Explore current pre-conception advice offer available to Havering residents with pre-existing conditions and any opportunities to improve access and uptake of this offer.
Well	Provide targeted support to women to encourage greater breast-feeding initiation	Hospital and community providers (maternity, NICU, health visiting and children’s centres) will progress with the UNICEF Baby Friendly accreditation programme, with leadership from the Havering Baby Friendly Guardian (Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing). A new Children’s Centre Infant Feeding Co-ordinator is leading on Baby Friendly accreditation and work to improve antenatal and peer support offers. We are undertaking analysis of breastfeeding data to enable more effective monitoring of impacts.

Priority	JSNA Recommendation	Response
Well	Address the low and decreasing uptake of immunisations and maternal and childhood vaccinations, especially MMR	<p>We continue to work with the school-aged immunisation provider to support effective engagement with schools and pupils (including our 'Educated Other Than At School' cohort), while exploring ways to streamline communications to and through schools regarding the wider school-based health offer.</p> <p>We will support and amplify Northeast London and regional initiatives to improve vaccination awareness and uptake (e.g. Bright Start in Live campaign).</p> <p>NELFT is updating training for all staff completing antenatal contacts to ensure they are specific when discussing the latest vaccination schedule for pregnant women (to include asking whether whooping cough, RSV and seasonal flu/Covid vaccinations have been received, and encourage clients to book if they haven't).</p>
Well Page 104	Review capacity in Health Visiting and School Nursing as part of recommissioning the Health Child Programme, to ensure most benefit to children's outcomes	A re-procurement of the Healthy Child programme will commence in 2025.
Well	Promote good oral health for children to prevent dental caries	<p>Action being taken includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of Brushing for Life packs (toothbrush and paste) by health visitors as part of the Healthy Child Programme; • Targeted School Fluoride Varnish Programme: our 10 most deprived primary schools are targeted and pupils in Reception & Year 1 receive fluoride application twice in the year; • Training of Oral Health Champions; • Supervised Tooth Brushing Programme in special schools; • Tooth Friendly Nursery programme: training of early years staff on oral health. Some nurseries choose to adopt a 'Gold' award where they will be doing a supervised tooth brushing programme; • "Let's Talk About Teeth" scheme also delivered in some early years settings; • The Healthy Early Years London Programme encourages early years settings to provide evidence on how they promote oral health as part of their Bronze Award. All settings participating in HEYL are encouraged to deliver the supervised tooth-brushing programme. Of the 15 settings who have achieved their HEYL Silver Award, 8 settings identified oral health as the focus for their case study.

Priority	JSNA Recommendation	Response
Well	Focus on good support for the management of long-term conditions to prevent hospital admissions, particularly for childhood asthma and diabetes	<p>Increasing capacity for community based care is a Babies, Children and Young Peoples priority for North East London ICB. A NEL Long Term Conditions (LTC) Transitions Improvement Network has been introduced and LTC pathways are led through the work of the North Thames Clinical Networks. Through the integration of neighbourhood teams, with GPs at their centre, we aim to see an improvement in the early identification of conditions. Asthma has been a particular focus in Havering with 2 pilot Specialist Asthma Practitioner roles working at a system level to implement the National Bundle of Asthma Care (national guidance). Their work has provided the capacity to rollout a range of asthma workstreams to improve outcomes, access, experience and value including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice CYP asthma discharge procedures • 48 hour reviews – community follow up following an emergency review • Asthma and Allergy friendly schools programme – to ensure schools have the right support and safeguards in place to identify the patient cohort and direct them to the right support • Joint Clinics • Comprehensive training offer for acute and primary care staff • New asthma resources in 15 different languages including accessible animations • Community Diagnostic Centre funded CYP objective testing pilot Outreach model utilising specialist paediatric physiology team - from Autumn 24 • Additional work to improve long term conditions includes a focus on increasing access to pumps for type 1 diabetics age 12 -25.
Well	Work collaboratively with partners to address high rates of obesity in children	As part of our whole systems approach to tackling obesity in Havering, partners across the system including BHRUT maternity services, NELFT health visiting service, early years providers, schools and LBH children’s services have committed to a number of actions related to children and young people. These span people, place and resources themes and are being monitored via quarterly Healthy Weight Network meetings.
Well	Develop a joint strategy to improve adolescents' mental health and wellbeing	The Havering Integrated Place (ICB) is working with providers and the wider system to develop an assessment of needs and a strategy in response to increasing demand for mental health services for children aged 11 upwards.

Priority	JSNA Recommendation	Response
Inspired	<p>Focus on early intervention to improve school readiness, including through increased delivering of joint 2-2.5-year checks by Health Visitors and staff in Early Years settings, and strengthening our approach towards targeted engagement with families of children who have not been brought for any check.</p>	<p>We will review outcomes of integrated 2-2½ year checks to understand the challenges and successes of this delivery model and use the results to inform relevant elements of service recommissioning.</p>
Page 106 Inspired	<p>Utilise outcomes from 2-2.5-year checks to signpost families to a relevant early support offer to improve school readiness, and grow our non-clinical offer, including therapies and family support services for children with additional needs</p>	<p>We continue to develop and embed joint working approaches across health visiting, early help and early years providers – for example, strengthening speech and language pathways, co-delivering starting solids workshops and healthy weight interventions.</p>
Safe	<p>In response to child death reviews, utilise Making Every Contact Count principles to raise awareness of safe sleeping practices across all services in Havering</p>	<p>A Task and finish group / scoping tool has been rolled out across Havering to benchmark safer sleeping messages. This includes engagement with 0-19 services, primary care, acute trusts, police, housing, London fire brigade, early years, and domestic abuse services. Safer sleep training is being offered in partnership with Havering and B&D Safeguarding Children Partnerships. Practice standards for safer sleep are being developed. Outcomes will be monitored via the NEL SUDI Steering Group.</p>

Priority	JSNA Recommendation	Response
Safe	Havering statutory and voluntary sector partners to consider ways of intervening earlier to prevent admission to hospital as a result of self-harming, aligning actions to the overall suicide prevention strategy for Havering	This is aligned to the action above (development of a joint strategy to improve adolescents' mental health and wellbeing. Youth Council were consulted on the draft Suicide Prevention Strategy and as a direct result of their feedback, Public Health colleagues are in discussion with the primary school network regarding emotional literacy training for primary school teachers (to promote positive self-talk and self-esteem in younger age students) and with the secondary schools forum, regarding the provision of self-harm and mental health webinars for both parents and teachers.
Heard	Develop a shared annual engagement plan to ensure that work to consult and coproduce with children and young people is coordinated and avoids duplication	A new corporate community engagement group has been set up with representation from all directorates in Havering and the ICS. We will ensure that work to consult and coproduce with young people is included so that activity is coordinated and there is no duplication. This will result in a shared engagement plan as part of the Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2024 – 2027.
Heard	The voice of young people should be incorporated into decision making for all service provision across the integrated care system	When appropriate, the Council is ensuring that the young person's voice is heard – in particular across the integrated care system. It is also being taken into account in other areas. Two recent examples include the budget and Libraries closures consultations where the process has been integrated to specifically include the voice of young people so that it can be considered alongside other groups when making decisions. We are exploring how children and young people's views on health and care issues can be better incorporated and considered through our local Health and Wellbeing Board.
Heard	Capitalise on Havering's Youth Council and other forums to capture their views on both child and adult services	Young people from the Youth Service have shared their views via the Youth Council. Young people have been consulted and participated in the review of several strategies, including the budget, SEND, Neglect, and Safeguarding priorities, ensuring priorities are aligned with their experiences. Youth Council have directly fed into this Plan and will be involved coproducing a children's version once formally adopted. There has also been coproduction on engagement / planning / survey questions etc.

Priority	JSNA Recommendation	Response
Heard	Good quality engagement with young people is required to understand how to better manage their transition from child-focused to adult services for on-going care and support, whether related to health or social care	Council services and health partners have been part of a range of workshops working with families, children and young people, as well as other partners (educational settings, voluntary and charitable sector) to co-produce a new Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) Strategy, SEND Outcomes Framework, and Working Together Charter, all of which include a focus on transition, as well as a targeted task and finish group focused on the transition from children's to adult care services.
Treated fairly	Explore increasing our capacity of support for young people, including provision of youth-centred clubs and activities, accessible across the whole borough	A cross-departmental working party is being set up to explore options for enhancing youth provision in and around Romford Town Centre. We will also undertake an exercise to map existing youth provision as part of refreshing our online family services hub.
Treated fairly	Partners to work collectively to decrease the inequalities in educational outcomes for young people	Continue to prioritise narrowing the gap in children's attainment by promoting a range of intervention-based programmes, including working with external partners such as the EEF and VRU to build evidence and research of what works.



Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

Appendix 3

Summary of consultation responses to the
Draft Integrated Starting Well Plan (2024-27): *Happy, Healthy Lives*

(October 2024)

An online consultation on the draft Integrated Starting Well Plan ran from 3 October to 31 October 2024.

The link to the consultation was shared:

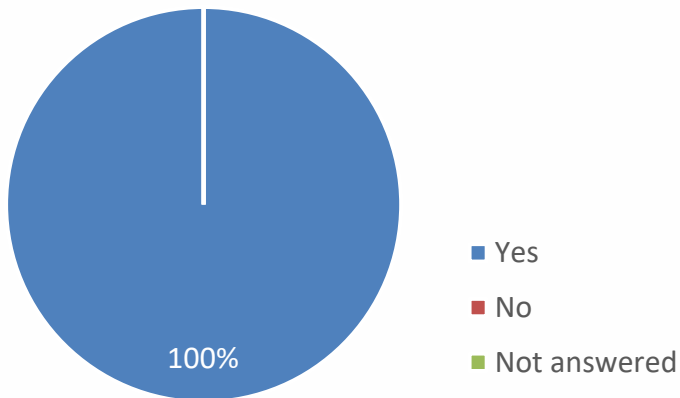
- with partners via the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership's newsletter;
- with residents via the Living bulletin;
- with schools via direct email from the Assistant Director for Education; and
- in various meetings with partners and stakeholders.

Hard copies of the survey were available but none were requested.

The survey received a total of 29 responses, with all respondents either living in Havering, working in Havering, or both.

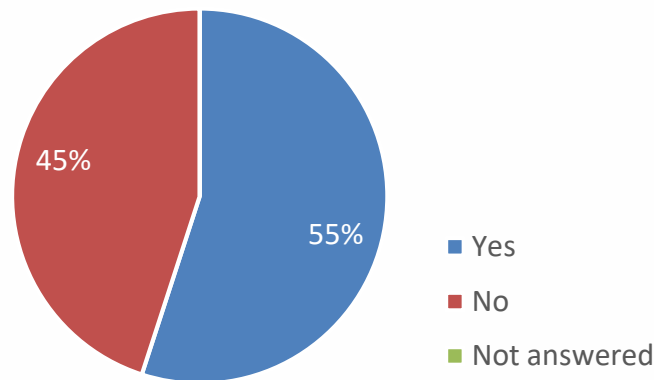
A full set of equalities monitoring questions was included, which most respondents (79%) opted to complete. Analysis of this data is available upon request.

Do you agree this should be a priority?



All respondents (100%) agreed that it should be a priority for children and young people to be **well**.

Is it clear how the Council and partners will work together to achieve this wish for children and young people?

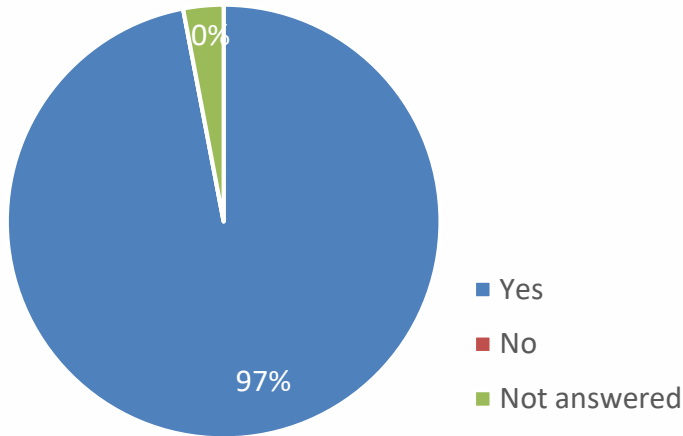


A majority of respondents (55%) felt it was clear how we would work with partners to achieve this.

7 comments were received.

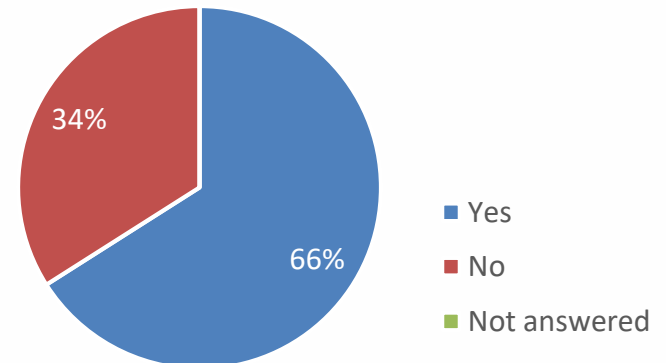
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Do you agree this should be a priority?



Most respondents (97%) agreed that it should be a priority for children and young people to be **inspired**.

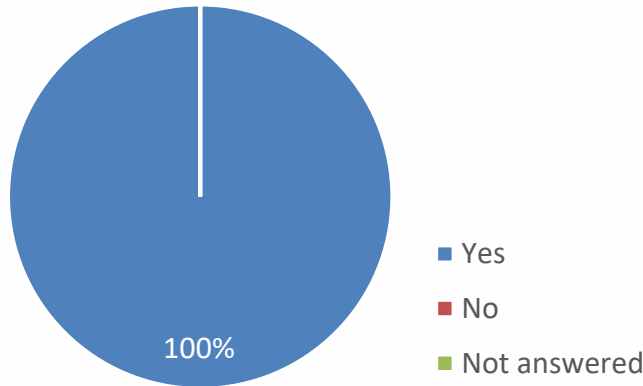
Is it clear how the Council and partners will work together to achieve this wish for children and young people?



A majority of respondents (66%) felt it was clear how we would work with partners to achieve this.

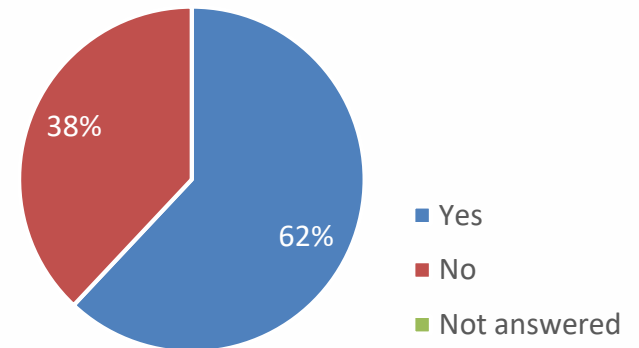
9 comments were received.

Do you agree this should be a priority?



All respondents (100%) agreed that it should be a priority for children and young people to be **safe**.

Is it clear how the Council and partners will work together to achieve this wish for children and young people?

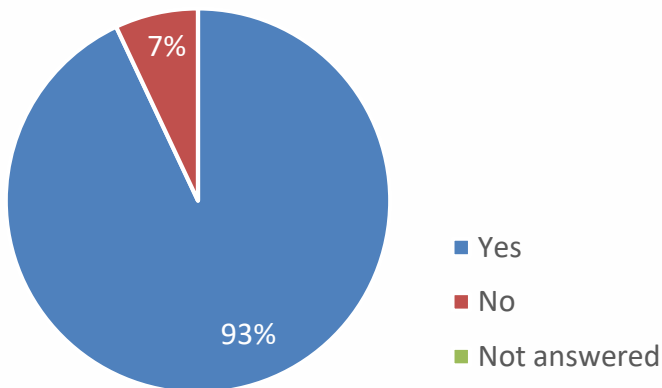


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A majority of respondents (62%) felt it was clear how we would work with partners to achieve this.

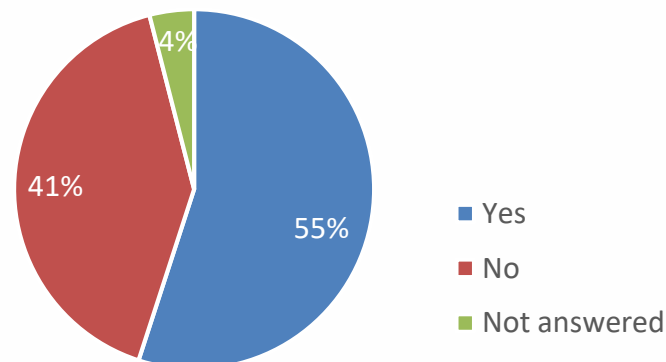
8 comments were received.

Do you agree this should be a priority?



Most respondents (93%) agreed that it should be a priority for children and young people to be **heard**.

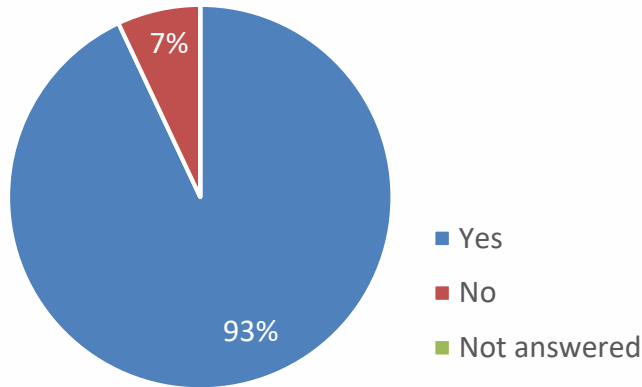
Is it clear how the Council and partners will work together to achieve this wish for children and young people?



A majority of respondents (55%) felt it was clear how we would work with partners to achieve this.

6 comments were received.

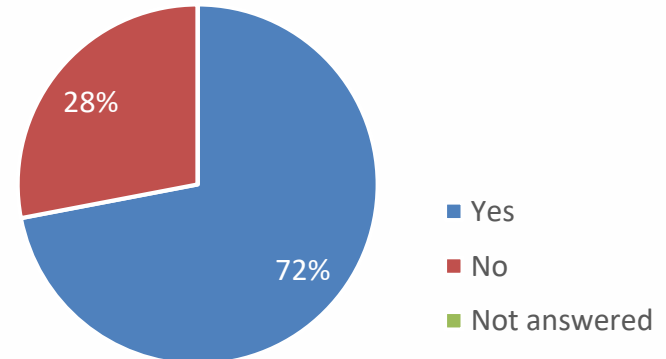
Do you agree this should be a priority?



Most respondents (93%) agreed that it should be a priority for children and young people to be **heard**.

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Is it clear how the Council and partners will work together on this commitment to children and young people?



A majority of respondents (72%) felt it was clear how we would work with partners to achieve this.

2 responses were received.

Are there any other priorities you would like to see included and if so, what are they?

8 responses were received to this question. These are set out below:

- *“Keep the libraries open for our children to be inspired, safe and heard”.*
- *“Communication and social interaction”*
- *“Priorities for inclusion of SEND children using activities / services in and out of school in the havering area”.*
- *“Attendance. This is an increasing concern. It can fall under the Inspiration / Safe label. However it must be a focus”.*
- *“To support parents to enable these to happen for the children and young people in their care and keep them off social media and smart phone as long as possible!”*
- *“The biggest ones are inclusion and education on SEN in educational and medical settings. If children are not included or their needs understood and met, they neither feel safe, heard or treated fairly”.*
- *“No”*
- *“suicide prevention and preparation for adulthood (coping skills for anxiety and life stressors, financial and independent living skills) for all- and particularly for children in care and care leavers”*

The following changes have been made to the final draft of the plan, as a direct result of feedback received either from the online consultation, or from partners and stakeholders in meetings where the draft has been discussed.

Priority	Changes made
Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section on Early Help expanded to set out plans for updating (and better publicising) our Early Help Strategy and Local Offer to parents / carers and professionals. New section added on support for Young Carers. New section added on Joint Working with Housing.
Inspired	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened focus on Attendance. Addition of action being taken to improve accessibility of community activities for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Increased focus on Social Graces within the section on our Face to Face Model of Practice.
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated section on Children in Need of Help and Protection to reflect focus on Equality and Diversity and the Social Graces. Sections on Climate Change, Active Travel and Road Safety strengthened to better highlight the interlinkage between these priorities. Section on Transition to Adulthood updated to reflect action being undertaken as part of SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy. Section on Children in Care and Sufficiency Strategy updated to better reflect planned work in this area.

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Priority	Changes made
Heard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional point added to Youth Council’s feedback regarding life after Covid-19. • Updates made to the section on what we mean by this priority and the importance of feeding back to children. • New section added on the Rights of young children. • New section added on Responding to the voice of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
Repeated fairly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small addition to the section on Youth Justice regarding the use of Out Of Court Disposals. • Updated section on Violence Against Women and Girls to include definition and new strategy priorities which are being consulted upon.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined foreword from all three statutory partners and elected members to reflect the partnership nature of the plan. • Updates made to the action plan, relevant to the feedback received under individual priorities and under the question about other priorities that respondents would like to see included.

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Haverling
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**COUNCIL CHAMPION FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE**

ANNUAL REPORT

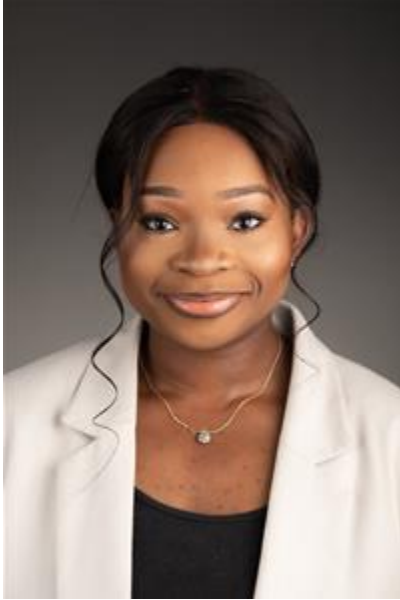
**COUNCILLOR FRANKIE WALKER
2023-2024**

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Councillor Introduction



I have had the privilege of being Member Champion for young people for two years. I have met with young people across the borough to hear their views on how to ensure they can learn, work, live and thrive in Havering.

During my meetings with young people they have raised several issues including mental health support, the stigma around free school meals, employment and training support and many other issues. For the first time, we saw a Children and Young person's budget which received over 300 responses. This clearly demonstrates that young people are also keen to share their views on how we deliver and provide services in the Council.

Whilst the consultation is a step in the right direction, there is still a lot more work to be done by us all to ensure that we do policy with young people and not to them. The 2021 Census highlighted that Havering 'now has a higher proportion of children aged 0-17 (22.3%) than 80% of local authorities in England'. We need to provide the right environment for all children and young people to reach their full potential and to do so we need to include them in policy and decision making. It is not just a role reserved for the Member Champion for young people but for all members.

We have incredible, talented and driven young people in Havering which needs to be celebrated more. It is often the case that the good work done by young people in the borough is overlooked and we need to change this. We must give our young people the recognition they deserve and ensure that they are celebrated in Havering.

Thank you to the young people and staff that have given me their time and helped me in my role as member champion.

Councillor Frankie Walker 2023-2024

CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

Champion for Children and Young People Policy

My priorities as a Member Champion for Young People is to make sure young people are heart of decision making and to strengthen the relationship between young people and Councillors to achieve the best outcomes for them in the borough. This supports Havering's strategic priority of starting well and living well as by listening and taking action to make changes on recommendations put forward by young people, I am working to creating an environment that enables young people to have the best start and thrive in the borough.

I aim to facilitate open conversations with decision makers and young people through organised meetings, scrutiny committees and with group leaders. Alongside, representing the views and issues that matter to children and young people in the Council chamber.

During my term, I have spoken with Council staff, young people and parents about matters that are important to children and young people. In the people's overview and scrutiny sub-committee role I ensured that we included issues that impacted young people in our scrutiny work. One issue where I actively requested for timely scrutiny was on Home to School transport. It was vital we had enough time as committee to ask questions and put forward recommendations before a final decision was made. I also called for Ofsted's review of our children services to be added to our scrutiny as I believed it was important that the Council took steps to address the concerns raised during Ofsted's report so that wellbeing of children and young people in Havering to get the right support. I also sit on the corporate parenting panel and work cross party to prioritise safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people across the borough. Overall, I integrate my role as a Member Champion for young people in all aspects of my Council work by identifying opportunities to involve young people in policy discussion and by advocating on their behalf in the chamber and beyond.

Community Engagement

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

One of my ambitions as a Member Champion was to regularly engage with young people in borough and provide a space for them to share their views and issues that matter to them. In the committee and Council meetings, I highlight the issues that are impact children and young people across the borough and try to ensure that they are considered in discussions.

Youth Council/ Members of Youth Parliament

During my terms, I have met regularly with Youth Council to find out about the issues that young people are facing in the borough. The following concerns were raised during our meetings:

- Stigma around free school meals
- Quality of school meals
- Poor lighting in parks
- Lack of spaces for young people
- Discrimination

I will be taking up these issues to see how we can address these issues as a council. I believe that my role is not just about championing the voices of young people in the chamber but ensure they are in rooms with decision makers. During my term for 2024-2025 young people will be meeting with group leaders across all parties and groups to put forward their questions and concerns. This was supposed to take place last term however due to the Mayoral and GLA elections this was put on hold. I will provide an update in my next report of outcomes and actions that come as a result of this meeting.

I also attended the Youth Parliament results night and met the five candidates alongside their family and friends. 6,800 votes were cast in the borough and 50% of secondary schools took part alongside youth centres and groups. Every young person put forward important pledges such as tackling crime and preparation for adult life. A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

huge congratulations to Philia Lekaj and Elsie Orwell. I look forward to working with these new members and Youth Council on their pledges.

There are number of groups and organisations championing and supporting young people in the borough, this is not an exhaustive list but I hope to engage/ increase engagement with some of these groups and organisations during my next term.

- Revellers
- GRL Academy
- Say it Louder Forum
- Goodfellas
- Go Girls
- CIC youth club
- Sycamore Trust

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

I have promoted Equality and Diversity by championing the voices of young people in decision making and policy discussions. Age is a protected characteristic and as a Council we should consider the impact decisions on services can have on children and young people.

To further Equality and Diversity, I recommend the following:

1. Bi-annual full council meetings with a segment dedicated for children and young people to ask questions to cabinet members on areas of interest.
2. Commit to retaining the children and young people's budget consultation
3. To include children in care as a protected characteristic

Events

Cocoon Visit

Alongside the Director of Children Services, I attended the Cocoon which is a safe space for young adults who are care experienced. We discussed what they would like to see from Councillors and some of the issues they have faced which includes:

- Cost of transport
- Access to mental health services
- Employment support

As a corporate parent, I will be looking at ways we can support our children in care in relation to the issues they have raised above.

GRL Academy

I was invited to speak to young people at GRL academy where I shared my journey as a councillor. We also had a discussion about women that inspire us and our individual strengths. I also had the opportunity to ask about their concerns such as the cost of ULEZ and mental health support.

Drapers Infant School Music Festival

I attended Draper's infant schools first ever music school festival. This was a fantastic event that brought the children together to sing and dance in a fun and welcoming setting.

London Borough of Culture Bid

I attended the Havering London Borough of Culture's bid meeting representing young people and putting forward ideas on how we would engage with children and young people across the borough.

Romford Autism Hub

In my role as Member Champion for young people, I arranged for Romford's Autism Hub to attend the People's overview and scrutiny subcommittee meeting. Alongside this, the group were able to have a tour of the town hall.

CLOSING MESSAGE

Closing Message

It has been a pleasure meeting young people and staff across the borough exploring ways we can support children and young people as well as providing a space for me to learn about their experiences. I look forward to commencing my third term as Member Champion and continuing these important conversations to achieve the best outcomes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 20th November 2024

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Winter Fuel Allowance

- 1) **To the Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing (Councillor Gillian Ford)**
From Councillor Judith Holt

What plans does the Council have to support those who will lose out following the Government's cutting of the Winter Fuel Allowances?

Housing Repairs Covered by Warranty

- 2) **To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGeary)**
From Councillor Matt Stanton

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing confirm what proportion of repair requests made at New Green have been found to be defects under warranty?

Development on Council Owned Parks

- 3) **To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)**
From Councillor John Tyler

Do the Administration have any current plans (whether published or not) to sell, otherwise dispose of, or build homes or commercial buildings, on land within any council owned public parks, gardens or similar?

Chippenham Road and Kings Lynn Drive Development

- 4) **To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGeary)**
From Councillor Nisha Patel

In the light of plans being submitted for 138 new affordable homes on land off Chippenham Road and Kings Lynn Drive in Harold Hill, can the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property provide their assurance that, should planning permission be granted, it is Havering residents who will be given priority to get onto the housing ladder?

Protocol for Recording Text Messages

**5) To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGeary)
From Councillor Jane Keane**

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing prepare a protocol to be followed by housing officers for keeping records of text messages within the Housing Department including such messages received from tenants and leaseholders?

Community Infrastructure Levy

**6) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)
From Councillor John Tyler**

What is the current breakdown of allocated and unallocated Community Infrastructure Levy money, which has been paid, or is due to be paid regarding developments already under construction?

Romford Town Centre

**7) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Viddy Persaud**

Could the Cabinet Member for the Environment please give an explanation as to why Romford Town Centre continues to be blighted by fly tipping, overflowing bins, graffiti and street beggars/bedding contributing to an overall impression of deliberate neglect on the part of the Administration?

Botulism at Harrow Lodge Park

**8) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Trevor McKeever**

Will the Cabinet Member for the Environment report to Full Council on the work that is being undertaken to prevent the deaths of water birds in Harrow Lodge Park from botulism?

Warm Spaces

**9) To the Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing (Councillor Gillian Ford)
From Councillor David Taylor**

Can the Administration please outline what plans are in place for the provision of warm spaces over winter, recognising their invaluable role in supporting out most vulnerable residents?

Public Services in Noak Hill

**10) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Pat Brown**

Will the Cabinet Member for the Environment explain why the relevant Council Services relating to the request for traffic calming measures and condition of kerbs and green verges which is attracting fly-tipping in Noak Hill, were not addressed when requested to do so following a meeting with residents on 7th October 2020, a meeting with senior officers on 23rd June 2023, a further meeting with residents on 15th September 2023 and numerous follow up emails?

New Homes

**11) To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGeary)
From Councillor Joshua Chapman**

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property please confirm how many new homes the Council is planning to deliver over the next financial year?

Bus Route 347

**12) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Keith Prince AM**

What lobbying has the Cabinet Member for the Environment undertaken with regards to the withdrawal of the 347-bus route since the most recent announcement by the Mayor of London?

Rainham Marshes

**13) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Jackie McArdle**

Could the Administration please explain why resident's reports of illegal encampments, the regular dumping of rubbish and highly obstructive parking in and around the Rainham Marshes Nature Reserve continues to be ignored by the responsible departments within Havering Council?

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Council, 20 November 2024 – Motions

A. WITHDRAWAL OF THE WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council condemns the Government's decision to withdraw the Winter Fuel Allowance for those not in receipt of Pension Credit and/or other supplementary benefits.

(Received 7/10/24, 1806)

B. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PARKS

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

Chamber recognises Havering has reached unacceptable levels of antisocial behaviour in our parks. Council calls on the Administration to produce a detailed plan to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour and to resume the overnight locking of parks, and to present this proposal at the meeting of Council.

(Received 7/10/24, 1806)

C. REFUGE ACCOMMODATION

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council condemns violence against women and children and recognises the particular challenges of finding emergency refuge accommodation for mothers with boys over the age of 12 years old. This Council calls upon the Administration to work with refuge organisations to find solutions to the lack of available refuge places.

(Received 5/11/24, 1548)

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Guidance to Members re 'Points of Clarification' and Related Issues

Dear Councillors,

If you attended Full Council recently you will be aware that quite a few Councillors raised "points of clarification" during the debate. I'm sure we all want our Full Council meetings to run efficiently and properly. As such, I wanted to draw your attention to the differing routes and rules by which a Councillor may speak during Full Council.

What we often have is a Councillor standing, interrupting, calling out "point of clarification" and then proceeding with it with no assent of the Mayor.

There are actually four different routes by which a Councillor may interrupt, each with slightly different rules. I have pasted these below and have underlined certain aspects, as these are generally forgotten.

The Constitution states:

13.6 A Member who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- (a) in exercise of a right of reply;
- (b) on a point of order;
- (c) by way of personal explanation;
- (d) by way of clarification; or
- (e) on a point of information.

13.7 Point of order (breach of council rules)

- A Member may raise a point of order at any time.
- The Mayor will hear this immediately.
- A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law.
- The Member must indicate the rule or law and the way in which they consider it has been broken.
- The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

13.8 Personal explanation (when a member is referred to)

- A Member may seek to make a personal explanation at any time during the course of another Member's speech if he has been referred to by name or position, either immediately if the Member speaking gives way or at the end of the speech.
- A personal explanation may only relate to the statement made by the other Member in their speech.
- The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation and the time allowed for any personal explanation will be final.

13.9 Clarification (of a Member's own statement)

- A Member may seek leave from the Mayor to clarify a point made in an earlier speech by that Member if it appears from comments made in a subsequent speech that the earlier speech by the Member had been misunderstood.

- The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a clarification and the time allowed for any clarification will be final.

13.10 Point of Information (a question to seek clarification on a factual statement by others)

- A Member may seek to make a point of information at any time but may not pursue it if the Member speaking declines to give way.
- It shall be a simple question to clarify factual statements made during the course of a speech.
- It may not be a long or rhetorical question or become a cross-examination of the speaker.
- The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of, and the time allowed for, any point of information will be final.

Councillors are generally required to press their “request to speak” button. I would emphasise that requirement please, although I am conscious that Councillors are generally raising a time-pertinent point. As such, I would invite you to press your “request to speak” button and to stand... BUT NOT TO SPEAK until invited to do so by the Mayor.

The Mayor is entitled to refuse to hear you unless you comply with the requirements above.

I think it’s worth noting that neither I, nor the Mayor or the Chief Executive, wish to be overly officious during a Full Council meeting. I would much prefer not to say a thing during a Full Council meeting. The most important thing, to my mind, is to allow debate to proceed and for Councillors to represent the views of their constituents. As such, I wouldn’t disqualify a proposed “point” if it was expressed to be a clarification when in reality it was a point of information or similar. But it must fall into one of the routes specified above and can’t amount to a general disagreement with what is being said. The routes above are not meant to be used to disagree with another’s speech nor to open up a new field of discussion.

I hope this is helpful.

Thanks,

**Gavin Milnthorpe | Deputy Director Legal & Governance
Monitoring Officer | London Borough of Havering**