

YOUTH SAFETY BOARD: 'ONE YEAR ON'



WE ARE NEWHAM.

People at the Heart
of Everything We Do



“The safety of our children is one of the most important things to ensure they can reach their potential and access all opportunities to keep them safe, happy and well. I set up the youth safety

board to build a whole systems response to this, since it takes each and every one of us in the community to build a borough where our children feel safe and valued.

It is of course with great sadness that we have had the following number of deaths in the borough over the last 12 months — Shanur Ahmed, David Gomoh and Kayjon Lubin - this is devastating for the loved ones, family and friends but also for us all, as a Newham community. We must remain steadfast in our pursuit of building a safer, better Newham.”

Rokhsana Fiaz

Mayor of Newham

YOUTH SAFETY BOARD 'ONE YEAR ON'

There are more than 90,000 children and young people living in Newham. The Youth Safety board is committed to making Newham the best place for children and young people up to 25 years old to live and grow up. The youth safety agenda encompasses all children and young people between 10-years to 25-years old. A year since the launch of the Youth Safety Board's report is an important indicator for us to review and reflect and ensure our progress continues to be focused - improving outcomes for our children and young people. In completing this "one year on" report the views and ideas of young people board members, voluntary and community sector (VCS) partners and council staff are captured to reflect on the struggles and important changes that they have witnessed through 2020.

This report outlines key activities within the four outcomes of the whole systems approach outlined in the Youth Safety Strategy and promotes areas for future action.

2020 AN OVERVIEW COVID 19 Pandemic

2020 has been dominated by the COVID 19 pandemic which has had a massive impact on our whole community. The impact will be far reaching affecting educational attainment, employment opportunities, wellbeing and youth safety. It has significantly disrupted and changed lives and

- impacted on mental health, education, family life and employment;

- put many people in very vulnerable situations and
- demanded new services, new approaches to learning and new challenges for support and safety.
- The Council have already launched the COVID Recovery and reorientation Strategy which set out 8 key pillars which addresses the impact of COVID on Newham's communities and looks to provide resource and infrastructure that will help not only reduce the consequences but improve opportunities and new ways of working and living. (see "**Towards A Better Newham: COVID 19 Recovery Strategy**". (<https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1629/towards-a-better-newham-covid-19-recovery-strategy-july-2020>))
- The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the impact of disadvantage, structural and health inequalities. The global discourse on race and racism following the death of George Floyd led to Newham making clear and unequivocal commitment to taking on the challenge to eradicate racism and inequality in Newham through open, honest and authentic conversations at all levels in the organisation. Driven from the highest part of the organisation, we looked at how we work, and the ways in which we deliver services to our incredibly rich and diverse range of communities, groups and residents in the borough. Whilst this task is enormous, Newham will look within itself, work with partners and the wider community to change the current state of affairs.

YOUTH SAFETY

- The views of all recognised that there was continued incidents and very sadly, deaths during the year. People's and family's lives have been devastated and it is so important to acknowledge and value lives tragically lost. We pay our respects to those children, their families and friends who very sadly lost their lives during 2020 Shanur Ahmed, David Gomoh, Kayjon Lubin. The very focus of youth safety is to prevent such loss and far-reaching harm, fear and impact on our children and wider communities.
- Some young people described walking around the borough worrying about what other people were thinking about them. They worry about how they are seen and about how a person approaching them might react toward them. These worries are driven by negative rather than positive thinking. This leads to anxiety which in turn leads to defensive or protective behaviour rather than reaching out to or connecting with people. This was described as a 'culture of fear'. One young person commented

“Newham is not safe – you fear of being caught up in something that you don't have anything to do with”

- They also noted that crime levels involving young people attracted polarised reporting by the media and that the repetitive news of young people being stabbed were reported disproportionately and diminished societies views of young people viewed always through a negative lens.
- Young people want to see change develop for the good of young people and the whole community. It is exactly what the Youth Safety Strategy is about and seeking to achieve.

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

What is clear is that despite the massive impact of COVID and some continued incidents impacting young people, there are real signs of change for the good.

- 2020 was a year of foundation – creating innovative partnerships, sourcing investment opportunities, and establishing cornerstones that are often unseen or invisible to public eye but provide core structures to establish new services and effective provision that will generate youth safety.
- The Youth Safety strategy has encouraged people to look and think differently about their lives and community to build a thriving space in Newham as outlined in the Mayor's introduction to the strategy.

“Newham should be a place where every child feels safe, thrives and where they can reach their full potential though accessing all sorts of enriching opportunities. The Youth Safety Board produced an ambitious and positive agenda that is aimed at contributing to making Newham best place for child and young people.”



Two key areas of this foundation has been:

Community development through the

- creation of significant partnership developments within the voluntary sector and the council offering new opportunities in education, health and culture supporting youth safety, for example,
- collaboration at street level as detached youth workers from different agencies Newham Youth Empowerment Service (NYES) and Ambition Achieve Aspire (AAA) supporting young people on the streets preventing links to gangs, offering mental health support, guidance about managing home and lockdown
- development of parent peer facilitators through joint work with HeadStart, Early Help and Good Shepherd group
- range of activities including “Time to Talk about Injustice” conversations within the council and in local communities challenging racism, inequalities and disproportionality.



INVESTMENT IN SERVICES

Newham has put significant investment into a range of activities supporting youth safety. For example:

- It is leading the vanguard in revitalising youth services, bucking the national trend which has seen the decimation of a universal offer to young people across the last decade. To achieve its commitment to children and young people, the Council increased its youth service budget provision by £2.5 million. This investment has enabled Newham’s four youth zones to expand staff teams, allowing them to open every day of the week, at weekends and during school holidays.
- The Youth Safety Board Commissioning programme launched with 2 projects: Mentoring for Success and Peace Pioneers whilst
- VCS partners across the borough created four effective collaborations to bid for funding from the Violence Reduction Unit.
- Newham Headstart received extension funding until July 2022
- Support for mental health and wellbeing in schools to manage the impact of COVID
- The Youth Empowerment Fund was established

The investment in youth services, and the emphasis on safe places and people (Youth Safety Strategy Outcome 1) has clearly been an important and recognised factor in the provision of youth safety in Newham during 2020 through the delivery of effective and responsive services to the fast-changing scenarios that the year has presented.

2020 YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES

There is no doubting that, with the COVID 19 pandemic, this has been a very difficult year for many. It generated a mixed reaction from young people – new fears, new challenges, new awareness and new growth. This captures what some of our young people have shared about their sense of safety and what they feel the differences has been during 2020. Their views are an honest account which offers a genuine assessment of what safety in 2020 has meant for them. It is not the whole picture; but it does give a real flavour of things they noticed, care about and want to see changed.

Some young people described lockdown as creating new opportunities. A group of young people volunteered in Stratford and Custom House – they described it as people giving back to society and “helped us find ourselves.”

“I found inner peace and how to co-operate and lot of new skills I didn't know I could use - I guess I just found myself - it changes you in lots of ways”

“gave me a chance to think about doing productive things – to think what do I like doing - and I discovered I like poetry – I joined junior group to develop my poetry – never really enjoyed it before now I can't not do it every day”

It has also been a year where people have learnt and developed and realised that they can cope with very difficult situations. It has been a period of **self-awareness and discovery** leading to interest in **new activities, awareness of liberty, family, independence** and **increased productivity**

“COVID made us realise that life is really short - a lot of young people have taken interest in like extra curricula activities... to get more and to help us explore what is out there more and take in”

“Being huddled up in a small bubble at home is not good like for young people - especially mentally – opportunity go to a youth club or go out - simple things like even going for walk”

“taught me that I can be okay by myself – before COVID quite reliant on others for feeling good but being with family and lot of time in my room by myself has helped – I enjoy being by myself”

and enabled people **recognise the simple things** and be **conscious of the quality of their surroundings**

“Going out with friends – simple things – football see friends – at home not good for your health – mental and physical health”

“ I learnt to be more conscious about my community and surroundings and looking at things around me”



The ‘We Make Newham’ Youth Assembly noted that

“Many young people are concerned with the amount of litter across Newham’s streets, parks and public spaces, including overflowing bins, fly tipping and glass on the roads and footways. There are also not enough bins in the right places, which contributes to the problem”

and a **different type of safety**, helping some young people to **feel more safe**

“before lockdown happened we were more like in trouble everyday - when lockdown happened started to realise how family is important for us to stay safe and stay in my own zone – help realise that time is important with family and friends and to just check up on people – you don’t know what is going to happen”

“Poetry gives me a chance to express myself out loud – I don’t usually do that emotionally express myself out loud and write down and not feel exposed”

COVID 19 also created a **new fear**– the fear of contracting the virus, dying or losing friends or family

“COVID has made us feel less safe – we were worried about people getting sick”

“I don’t like going outside and think I am going to get it (COVID) and then miss my family and friends - people outside need to be more careful”



and having **extended periods of time off school** and then returning

“No one prepared for us to go back to school – just like it was normal. Going back to school was harder than being at home”

The reflections of these young people on COVID highlight some key things that underpin youth safety – self-awareness, mindset and understanding the self in relation to others. Increasing safety is not just the outwardly visible things related to protection from crime. Safety is a sense of belief in self and realisation of what we can do – creating a confident, resilient and independent mindset that encourages the sharing of ideas, expression of emotions and challenging others. Richness of experience gained through varied activities and reflection all contribute to a sense of safety and wellbeing.

This reflects the public health whole systems approach to youth and community safety - many different facets coming together to create a safety net that can protect but encourages people to try something different

“prevention strategies which address the multiple risk factors which cause and perpetuate violence and promote the protective factors which mitigate against the perpetration and victimisation of violence.” **(Public Health England, 2019).**

It is also developing awareness through education and promoting good health – good access to information, encouraging people to engage in healthy and safe activities. The range of dimensions from mindset to relationships to community to social systems all provide vital touchpoints to educate, influence, inform and support – the collaboration of services is at the centre of this with clear, concise and relevant messages and language.

YOUTH SAFETY STRATEGY OUTCOMES ACTIVITY

The Youth Safety Strategy identified four key outcomes as central to achieving youth safety in Newham which are:

- Outcome 1: Safe Spaces and Places
- Outcome 2: Early Help & Prevention
- Outcome 3: At risk/Exploitation Cohort
- Outcome 4: 16-25 Community Wealth Building

2020 has seen a range of activity aimed at achieving these outcomes bringing partners from the VCS and business sectors together to challenge current situations and develop innovative responses. Examples of such activity are listed under the outcomes.

There has been considerable join-up at a strategic level with greater alignment between policies, departments, council and local partners to spearhead a coordinated systems approach. Policies such as

- **Community Wealth Building** is supporting the unlocking the potential of the borough and developing the wealth and talent of the people to reduce levels of poverty and deprivation and social and economic exclusion, consequently reducing risk factors in youth safety.
- **COVID 19 Recovery Plan** refers to creating high streets and local centres where culture and civic participation are the drivers of success including improving walking, public spaces and transport links to local centres.
- **Well Newham 50 Steps to a Healthier Newham** specifically addresses youth safety in supporting young people to be healthy and ready for adult life and enable schools, Youth Zones and other young people settings to be health promoting environments.
- **Newham Youth Empowerment Service Partnership Strategy 2020 to 2023** stated...

“Across all of our work, the foundation for supporting young people is intentionally creating and maintaining a physically and emotionally safe context for young people. This is most important for those young people who have had adverse childhood experiences, are dealing with ongoing trauma, are part of a marginalised community, or SEND”.

OUTCOME 1: SAFE SPACES AND PLACES

We want all young people to feel safer and more confident in Newham physical and social spaces

We achieved

- **New performing arts, music and cultural** enrichment opportunities for young people and community with NYES developing a flagship youth arts and cultural hub at Stratford Circus and Community Links launching a performing arts space and purpose-built recording studio at Barking Road
- **provision of youth work at** Youth Zones, The Terence Brown Arc in the Park, The Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub, Community Links community hub, Asta, in Royal Docks offering different safe spaces
- **Significant shift to on-line** activities created by NYES helped young people stay connected, feel supported, manage their well-being and keep safe at home. This was emphasised by different groups of young people including Looked After, vulnerable and SEND young people.
- **HeadStart**, worked in schools and with Childrens Centres offering parent befriending for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-16 years and delivered the “Being a Parent Groups” – a project for parents delivered by parents that help with understanding feelings and behaviours, implement tried and tested approaches that have a positive impact on parent – child

relationships and improve parent and child wellbeing

- **Citizen Youth Assembly**, led by the NYES where young people identified key changes they wish to see across the borough to increase amenities and support the development of safe spaces and places
- **Newham’s Youth Independent Advisory Group** (YIAG) underway with a working group of MET Police, council officers and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations has formed to work group development and set up
- **Fight for Peace** supported 540 young people in sports, personal development, mentoring, educational, employability and youth leadership work. During lockdown, online content has incorporated sessions led or co-delivered by our young people and Next Gen staff (who were former members) and provided mental health packs, including resources and information through the ‘Lutadoras’ programme for young women
- **Your Time** programme redesigned to reach younger children and tiered approach to meet emerging need
- **Newham Safety Action Group:** This East London Citizens Organisation (TELCO), University of East London (UEL) and St. Bonaventure’s School research project on youth safety, in partnership with Newham’s Youth Empowerment Service (YES) will deliver a significant piece of research against youth safety, to help shape and deliver a co-produced response to youth safety initiatives in Newham. The findings will be available shortly with over 500 responses from Newham children and young people to date.

Young people said:

Access to safe spaces and trusted adults, and in particular youth services, was identified as really important giving young people a chance to explore/exploit new opportunities and share ideas and develop awareness. Comments

included:

‘being able to share things safely – that really helps understanding and build confidence’.

Having people available and who are accessible to talk with, who can offer a balance of challenge and support - access to different people and different places to go to suit a range of needs. This was reiterated by the ‘We Make Newham Youth Assembly’

‘young people want spaces where they can feel safe and meet and have conversations with new people. In particular, young people felt youth centres are a safe space for them’.

Schools and colleges were also noted as important, as was the family. When not at home, young people noted that they spend most of their time in youth clubs and centres, educational spaces and public spaces such as shopping centres, youth-friendly food places e.g. Creams (a restaurant chain selling desserts), parks and cinemas. They note these places as being safe, accessible and affordable for them.

Public transport generally felt safer for young people – it was noted that this may be about less people travelling. A police presence was noticed by many as adding a sense of safety although it was also seen as confusing – some thought there was something wrong rather than a COVID presence to keep people safe.

However, the ‘We Make Newham’ Youth Assembly report also noted that ‘young people don’t feel safe in the majority of Newham’s public spaces’.

“Safety is important and Newham’s public spaces aren’t considered safe by young people. Lighting is important for young people, especially in around in and around sports facilities, such as basketball courts as well as on streets.”

OUTCOME 2: EARLY HELP & PREVENTION

We want to ensure that vulnerable children and young adults are kept safe from exploitation and harm through effective prevention and early intervention

We achieved

- **Education 4 Change (E4C)**
This project aims to put the equality dimension of race at the heart of social justice in our education system. The project champions a culturally responsive curriculum approach, which encompasses a framework built on social equity. E4C is a highly effective resource for educators looking to adapt their practice by seamlessly weaving diversity and anti-racism into curriculum and conversations, building in opportunities to expand horizons and activate the change for all children and young people. The E4C Executive Team includes three serving Newham Headteachers who are experienced leaders and educators across all phases of education who have the professional and personal expertise to provide support to educators so they can make a difference.
- **Community Links** focused on building positive relationships between peers during the **transition period from primary to secondary** school, targeting young people at risk of school exclusion or falling through the gaps during the transition, working with clinical psychologists from the East London Foundation Trust. The project trains secondary school pupils to be mentors, offering peer to peer support
- **St Giles Project A&E hospital groups Provide strategic response to adolescent exploitation** strengthen and embed the support offer and pathways for children and young people who have been victims of violent crime upon hospital discharge
- Creation of **'The Edge'** programme developing employment and enterprise qualities for young people which is Developed from a deep dive into education need resulting from COVID 19, the programme is being piloted with YOS and Newham PRUs
- **Headstart** piloted **More than Mentors** focused on training Young Carers with the potential to engage young people from other areas within Newham
- **Newham Young Health Champions** and **Youth Health COVID Champions** was established following research completed by the council's Youth Empowerment Service exploring the issues young people are worried about
- **Operation Encompass**, an information sharing project supporting young people around domestic abuse with Metropolitan Police and schools
- Barnardos delivered **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training** staff who work within the Public Realm (e.g. Market Inspectors, Monitoring & Engagement Officers) - plans to extend to Street Cleansing, Community Safety, Grounds Maintenance
- **BADU Sports:** This organisation that uses sport as a vehicle to Educate, Empower and Uplift young people (3-21 years old) and their families (predominantly from the BAME community), ran a free physical activities, support services and educational programs lockdown offer to help young people and their families during the pandemic, and will revert to face-to-face activity upon the end pf lockdown.
- **Imagination Boxes:** A free resource pack for families and educators, available across Newham Libraries to support families in discovery against 'making instruments out of everyday objects'. The boxes includes creative materials like food colouring, feathers, scented oils and other items to support families keeping busy, as well as step-by-step instructions for activities and links to online videos.

- **Advantage Offer (West Ham United Foundation):**

A new youth mentoring pilot scheme, running in partnership with Newham CAHMS to provide support to 14-21 year olds in Newham.

- **MAC Triage Programme:** This pilot lends a his pilot lends a keen developmental focus against Newham’s practice approach to:

- Revise the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) ‘Front Door’ referral system

- Deliver a refreshed offer and targeted, joined-up approach to Newham CYP and families that meets their needs

- **Newham Parents, Carers and Young People Forum:** This offer provides weekly family support during lockdown including information around wellbeing, mental health, finances, housing and befriending.

- **Newham Adults Learning Service (NALS):** This initiative supports Newham Parents who are struggling with home-schooling; with a recent focus against providing support to balance the work and home-schooling agenda, the project links parents to learners and voluntary sector organisations who provide digital infrastructure and home-schooling workshops.

- **Community Links Family offer:** This widely circulated flyer pulled together physical and virtual offers across 16 local and national providers.

Additionally, numerous one-off events have taken place over 2020 and beyond to provide an uplift response against the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, key initiatives to date include:

- **Culture Club:** A primary resource exploring the cultural heritage and traditions of refugees living in the UK

- Newham Religious Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Partnership programme sessions

- Newham Adolescent Exploitation Strategy sessions

- Kooth Information Sessions for Parents

Deep leadership programme: This programme, sponsored by Achievement for All, takes lessons from leadership in dangerous and hostile conditions and applies them to the stark realities to provide ‘Achievement Coaches’ to support teaching leaders against the challenges they are facing today due to COVID-19. The programme links to the latest research in neuroscience, trauma-informed practice, therapeutic approaches and emotion coaching to support Headteachers in both their wellbeing, and with their work in leading the ‘rebuilding’ of school communities.

Newham Educational Psychology Service: Via the “Webinar Wednesdays” offer, this programme provides opportunities to discuss the impact of wellbeing and what this means for everyday practice within the context of recognising strengths, needs, challenges and strategies within the schools setting.

Covid Star Learner Programme: This programme acknowledges the achievements of Young health champions and Covid health champions across Newham

Young People said:

Commenting on the **Fight for Peace home schooling programme** young people stated ‘it helped them to learn to adapt to the new norm; it helped them learn to take part in home workouts; and it taught them new training techniques and new methods of keeping fit.

They also recorded that personal development sessions helped them gain insightful information on many topics that are very rarely spoken about (e.g. domestic abuse); all of which help young people when adapting to the transition between primary and secondary education.



OUTCOME 3: AT RISK/ EXPLOITATION COHORT

We want children and young people who are at the greatest risk to receive effective and timely support so they and others are safe and they can get their lives back on track.

We achieved

- **Early Help** developing a ‘**Develop a Preventing Child Exploitation and Harm Hub (PCEHH)**’ which will provide in Newham a single approach to children at risk of Exploitation’
- **St Giles A&E Hospital Project**
Partners from core internal Newham services across, Children’s, Adult’s and Health, as well as external partner from ELFT and St Barts Health are working with St Giles to embed the support pathways for affected children and young people across the project and into Newham services. Key areas for this sub-group include
 - Develop closer links with 0-16, 16-21 and 21+ Paediatric hospital teams
 - Undertake contextual safeguarding mapping across community spaces in the borough
 - Embed the joined-up working approach against hospital discharge and follow-up support
 - Review and scrutiny against project performance and impact to ensure best impact and outcomes
- **Community Links** continued to pilot the **Home Office #KnifeFree** campaign. 270 young people were engaged through conversations with advocates; 484 conversations took place with advocates - 86% of these were reported to end positively; 100% of advocates reported feeling more confident to have conversations with young people
- **Fight for Peace Special Project**, an intensive 12-month programme with young men, aged 16-24, who have been drawn into crime. The project provides support and opportunities they need to exit gang culture and lead healthy, safe, fulfilling and productive lives. During 2020, 12 young people on the project engaged in 204 mentoring sessions and 152 education support sessions. Several of the young people have denounced their old lifestyle since being on the project and are feeling more positive about themselves and the future.
- **Operation Anzen** the Metropolitan Police operation in Newham and Waltham Forest seeking to safeguard children and young people at risk of criminal exploitation including those who are at risk of recruitment into gangs and county lines. Officers have built relationships with VCS providers including Rescue and Response, St Giles Trust, Abianda, The Children’s Society, Gang Exit, Fearless and Barnado’s, and are currently working with 83 children and young people in Newham.
- **Operation Harbinger** - a joint initiative between the MPS custody suite at Forest Gate police station and Newham social services, coordinated with the MASH. The project capitalises on the “Golden Hour” (the first hour of detention) to swiftly deal with readily identifiable issues such as the circumstances of the arrest and appropriate adults.
- **DIVERT**, a Metropolitan Police custody programme designed to divert 18-25 years olds away from offending and into employment, development and education, using ‘teachable moments’ in the custody suite to change their direction so that they don’t reoffend. Run with **West Ham United Foundation** and the **New Era Foundation**
- **Kickstart Scheme** launched, designed to give young people 16–24 an opportunity to take part in quality work placements that will help them develop skills so that they are better placed to find work in the future. London Borough of Newham will be offering placements that last for six months at 25 hour per week.

Young people said:

OUTCOME 4: 16-25 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

We want to build capacity to support children and young people through a whole systems approach which supports them to thrive.

We achieved during 2020

- Aligned the work of the **16-25 Strategic Group** against Newham's Recovery and Reorientation Action Plan, (October 20).
- **4 cross partnership bids to the Violence Reduction Unit** Successfully submitted. This involved creating consortiums to analyse need, design delivery and produce valid bids Groups included Community Links, Fight For Peace and Streetgames, XLP, West Ham Foundation, AAA, Catalyst in Communities, Academy Achievers DOST
- **Adolescent Exploitation Strategy** launched which provides an overarching response to tackle adolescent exploitation to drive improvement across our partnership and improve our collective oversight and grip of safeguarding for adolescents;
- **Youth Justice Board BAME Pathfinder Bid** - holistic support package available to BAME children, dealing with trauma experienced from ACEs and COVID 19 and assist in access of interventions of support with the aim of reducing the possibility, or preventing, these children entering the Youth Justice Systems either as victims or perpetrators.
- **Fight for Peace harnessed the Pan-Newham network** during COVID-19 to strengthen its response with fortnightly information sharing Zoom calls responding emerging community needs, adapted service delivery; updated training and developed opportunities for collaboration.

- **Youth Safety working groups established** – a separate working group against each of the 4 outcome areas in the youth safety strategy
- Launch of the Social Care academy which will improve the quality of social care and implement a new model of practice

The Youth Safety Board

Board members were invited to reflect on the work of the Youth Safety Board considering What Worked Well and what could be Even Better If.

What Worked Well:

Members showed a high level of personal commitment allowing conversation to develop to gain increased understanding and appreciation of the issues. The emphasis on good quality content, with outstanding speakers ensured that debate was well informed. The use of co-chairing arrangements has worked well and planning and co-ordination was good

Even Better If...

There was more multi agency input at all levels of discussion and delivery for example employer and third sector representation. The use of sub-committees or task and finish groups responsible for shaping and overseeing detailed implementation plans might be a practical way of achieving this.



INTO 2021 – ACTIONS, ACTIVITY AND ACTIVISM

The Mayor's Youth Safety Board acts as the central vehicle for driving change, and provides robust strategic oversight from a range of sources across the council, education, the Police and the community itself.

Young people said:

- **Give everybody a new realisation of respect**
Young people felt that creating respect for each other was core to supporting youth safety in Newham. That includes
 - respecting our different faiths and religions,
 - reducing racism and racial abuse,
 - challenging stigma around mental health, particularly male health, and encouraging young people to talk about difficult things like harm and exploitation in relationships and,
 - demoting drug trafficking.

We must support young people to develop the confidence to ask questions, to challenge discrimination and exploitation and feel enabled to reach out and make contact with safe adults and others.

- **Nurture our skills and talents**
Young people know they have skills and talents which, through opportunity and development, can be effectively nurtured to contribute to Newham's wealth creation and social cohesion. Young people identified activities like music, art, singing, rapping and poetry, sports and homework. Underpinning this was the need to build positive images of young people in the borough, demonstrating our strengths and what we have to offer and having our voices heard.

- **Develop the number of safe spaces**
Youth safety requires safe spaces, both public and youth specific. Safe spaces are affordable, provide opportunities to try new things and meet new people, promote positive images of young people and value the inclusion and access for people of all ages and backgrounds. This allows for exploration and the opportunity to help others and be supported. Safe and free sports spaces will help improve health.

Access to these spaces needs to be safe such as journeys to and from supported by effective street lighting, youth-friendly signage and safe adults.

The Board said...

- **Support critical transition points**
Greater emphasis on supporting the transition points between education phases and school into work e.g. equipping primary cohorts with the necessary skills to navigate through secondary education and society in general and exploring how Youth Safety Board activity can positively impact on the transition to adulthood. This will involve effectively planning co-ordinating activity more effectively with statutory agencies and voluntary organisations. This work is underway with the building of common agendas through different council policies identified above and collaborative funding approaches to support sustained local delivery.
- **Focus on action and next steps**
Ensure there is a greater visibility of Youth Safety Board actions for partners and stakeholders such as direction of travel, the work we are doing toward the strategy and the impact on youth safety. This requires more data and analysis, and work is already underway to improve this.

2021 - WHAT WE WILL DO:

- The growth plan of the Newham Youth Empowerment Service (NYES) and the development of new Youth Zones responds directly to this requirement and will offer young people greater access to safe spaces and trusted adults.
- Continue the expansion of NYES focusing on participation and inclusion, creative talent building, future skills and educative opportunities, social and emotional learning all respond directly to that young people are saying.
- Develop the new Youth Culture and Arts hub in Stratford, providing training, artistic expression and space for people to develop their creativity and innovation will nurture talent, open up employment opportunity and provide a focal point to develop confidence.
- The NYES participation team is working closely with council planning and regeneration make young people's ideas central to the future of Newham safe spaces
- Work with Regen & Planning to 'reinvigorate' empty lots on Newham high streets to build Youth Digital hubs across localities, as well as how these hubs can work towards standing up the 'Safe Havens/15 minute neighbourhood' agenda (see Newham Recovery plan – pillars 1, 2, 4 & 5).
- The Newham Year of the Young Person 2021 will give a platform to the incredible young people across the borough and will be providing a variety of opportunities for young people to **celebrate** their contribution to the borough.
- Development of Newham Strategic Partnership to support the whole system approach across Newham with Youth Safety Board to ensure a joined-up partnership response to build capacity to support children and young people. There will be a range of training and development packages needed. These include systemic, restorative and psychologically informed responses.
- Data and intelligence has identified addressing disproportionality across Youth Safety as a priority area to focus on. We are working with young people, the community, police and other groups to ensure that we address through a range of meaningful interventions and practices. We need more intelligence on girls and young women involvement in crime and gangs as recent reports have suggested that this group remains hidden to services therefore there is no responsive service offer.
- Newham 'Preventing Child Exploitation & Harm Hub' (PCEHH) aims to bring together the required expertise, information and resources to form a single approach to tackling the exploitation of young people in Newham within the Early Help space. The new Hub will be in place by 31st March 2021 to start operating from 1 April 2021.
- **Social prescribing for CYP plans are being developed to explore** what a successful social prescribing model in Newham looks like' and how roles and responsibilities can be effectively shared creating collective ownership. Public Health: Social Prescribing Knife Crime Workshop Work is underway with colleagues within a Newham CCG to develop and deliver a social prescribing knife crime workshop
- **Operation Chanal** a new Metropolitan Police and schools initiative to disrupt youth robberies
- **Peace Pioneers** will support the growth and development of small, hyper-local grassroots organisations/individuals across the borough to build and develop local, community-led response and initiatives to trauma and critical incidents.
- **Reimaging Early Help Service redesign**
- **Peer Champion taskforce:** Jennifer Pereira (Newham Graduate) has independently lead on the successful build and development against this 8-week, CYP engagement initiative

Child Exploitation Conference – a officer/practitioner-focused, learning and sharing workshop space for Newham against child exploitation. The event has been scheduled for 18th March 2021

- **Mentoring for Success:** The YSB Commissioning programme was able to successfully award a mentoring contract to the Evolve and Adapt to develop mentoring for young people involved in or at high risk of criminality, exploitation and harm and specific focus on black boys across the spectrum of need.

YEAR OF THE YOUNG PERSON 2021

For the first time ever, 2021 has been designated the Year of the Young Person (YoYP) by Newham Council, as it launches a vibrant programme of events and activities to give a platform to the incredible young people across the borough. As part of the Mayor’s ambition to make Newham the best place for a child and young people to grow up and thrive, the Council will be providing a variety of opportunities for young people to celebrate their contribution to the borough. The Newham Year of the Young Person during 2021 is all about exploring new ways of involving

young people in everything that we do in the Council and in the community. Through offering opportunities, developing collaborations and initiating a wide array of exciting actions, the year is all about showcasing their talents, widening their experiences and opening up pathways for them to explore and thrive. We want Newham to become the best place for a young person to grow up, and the Year of the Young Person 2021 is a demonstration of our commitment to that. Throughout the year, a co-produced programme of projects and activities will be rolled-out to motivate and inspire.

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz said “I’m really excited about our first ever Year of the Young Person to celebrate the brilliance of all our children and young people in Newham. It’s been a hard time for them all since the start of the pandemic, as they have been dealing with the disruption of Covid-19 with remote learning online, not going to school or seeing their friends and recreating their daily experiences away from school, their friends and living with the challenge of Covid-19. I’m encouraging all Newham residents and businesses to do all they can to ensure that our young people feel appreciated and recognised by all of us by embracing what they will showcase during 2021”.

To read the full YoYP report, programme of events and find out how you can get involved, please visit: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/yoyp>



With thanks to :

- AAA – The Terence Brown Arc in the Park, The Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub,
- NYES - Beckton Globe Youth Zone, Shipman Youth Zone, Forest Gate Youth Zone, Little Ilford Youth Zone, Youth Empowerment Service, SEND Participation Group, Stratford Detached Youth Work Team
- Rosetta Arts
- The Cumberland School
- We Empower
- Fight For Peace
- Community Links
- Street Games
- Children’s Social Care, Youth Offending Service
- Brighter Futures
- Early Help
- Childrens Health

Youth Safety Board members:

- Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE (Out-going Chair)
- Councillor Carleene Lee-Phakoe (Cabinet Lead for Brighter Futures, Incoming Chair)
- Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Corporate Director Brighter Futures, Newham’s Children and Young People’s Commissioner
- Kings College Hospital (Co-chair)
- Residents and Young people of Newham
- St Bonaventure’s School
- Grange Primary School
- Metropolitan Police
- East London NHS Foundation Trust
- Newham College
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Education Links