

Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015

Young People's Summary produced
with Hounslow Youth Council



London Borough
of Hounslow



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

Working together for a safer London

Hounslow
Primary Care Trust





“Don’t judge teenagers and listen to them more”

Foreword

Welcome to Hounslow's latest Children and Young People's Plan. The plan sets out how the different agencies and groups working with children and young people in the borough will work together to improve their outcomes.

We have been successful - the borough's Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Services for Looked After Children rated the council as "good", and more recently in the 2011 annual performance assessment where we were rated by Ofsted as performing "excellently". There remain challenges however, and we will need to work hard together if we want to continue to make a real and lasting difference to children's lives.

We must retain our focus on keeping children safe, and continue to improve educational standards and especially to narrow the gap between our highest and lowest attaining students; we must tackle those areas where our performance is less good, including obesity rates and teenage pregnancy, and we must do more to support the social and emotional development of our children and young people.

There are lots of changes at a national and local level, and resources are limited and reducing, but it has never been more important that we continue to play our part in making what happens in Hounslow as strong as we can for our children and young people.



Cllr Jagdish Sharma,
Leader & Chair of Hounslow
Children's Trust Board



Cllr Lily Bath,
Cabinet Member for
Children, Youth and Families



Cllr Steve Curran,
Cabinet Member for
Education and Housing



Sherry Malik,
Director of Children's
and Adult's Services

We spoke with more than 2,000 young people going to school and living in Hounslow. Many of you have told us that you enjoy living and studying in the borough. Most young people we surveyed said that they feel healthy and take part in regular PE, sports and other activities. Young people feel safe in school and teachers are helpful and provide you with positive skills for the future. In particular, some of you said:

“It’s a great place to live”

“I like it how even young children can get respect”

“It’s a good place to grow up”

There are areas we need to work on and some of the key things you have told us are:

- Listen to children and young people and give us more say in things
- Parts of the borough are unsafe for young people
- It can be quite scary at night
- There is bullying amongst young people
- Help children do better in school
- Make more places for us to hang around instead of being on the streets

We have listened to your views and with other data and information, the Children’s Trust Board has agreed a new three year plan. This details the key areas we will work hard on to make improvements for children, young people and their families over the coming years.

Here is a summary of our priorities.

Priority **1** **Improving the health of children, young people and families by promoting safe and healthy lifestyle choices**

We will:

- Help children and young people be more active and understand how to stay healthy and avoid long term health problems
- Provide extra support for young people with disabilities to improve their health chances

Priority **2** **Improving maternal and early years health services**

We will:

- Improve the support we give to mums and their new born babies
- Increase the numbers of children receiving their immunisations

Priority **3** **Emotional well-being and mental health is supported through targeted and specialist settings**

We will:

- Use tried and tested methods to increase young people's self-esteem and confidence
- Make sure that young people from different backgrounds and abilities have services they can access

Priority **4** **Developing the social and emotional capabilities of children**

We will:

- Help people who work with children to identify early on when they need more help and support
- Improve children and young people's ability to cope with difficult situations

Priority **Protecting children and young people from harm**

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We will:

- Protect children from abuse, neglect and bullying
- Make it easier for families and children to get support before problems at home arise
- Make sure people who work with children and families who are at risk are well trained

Priority **Children and young people feel safe in schools and the community**

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We will:

- Raise awareness of bullying, discrimination and respect
- Provide activities to help young people stay away from violence and crime and stop them becoming victims
- Make sure families and young people feel safe in places where they go to school, live and travel

Priority **Getting it right for children aged 0-5 years**

7

We will:

- Make improvements to help all children five and under achieve more
- Offer free childcare and early education to all two year olds

Priority **Improve services for children with disabilities and their families**

8

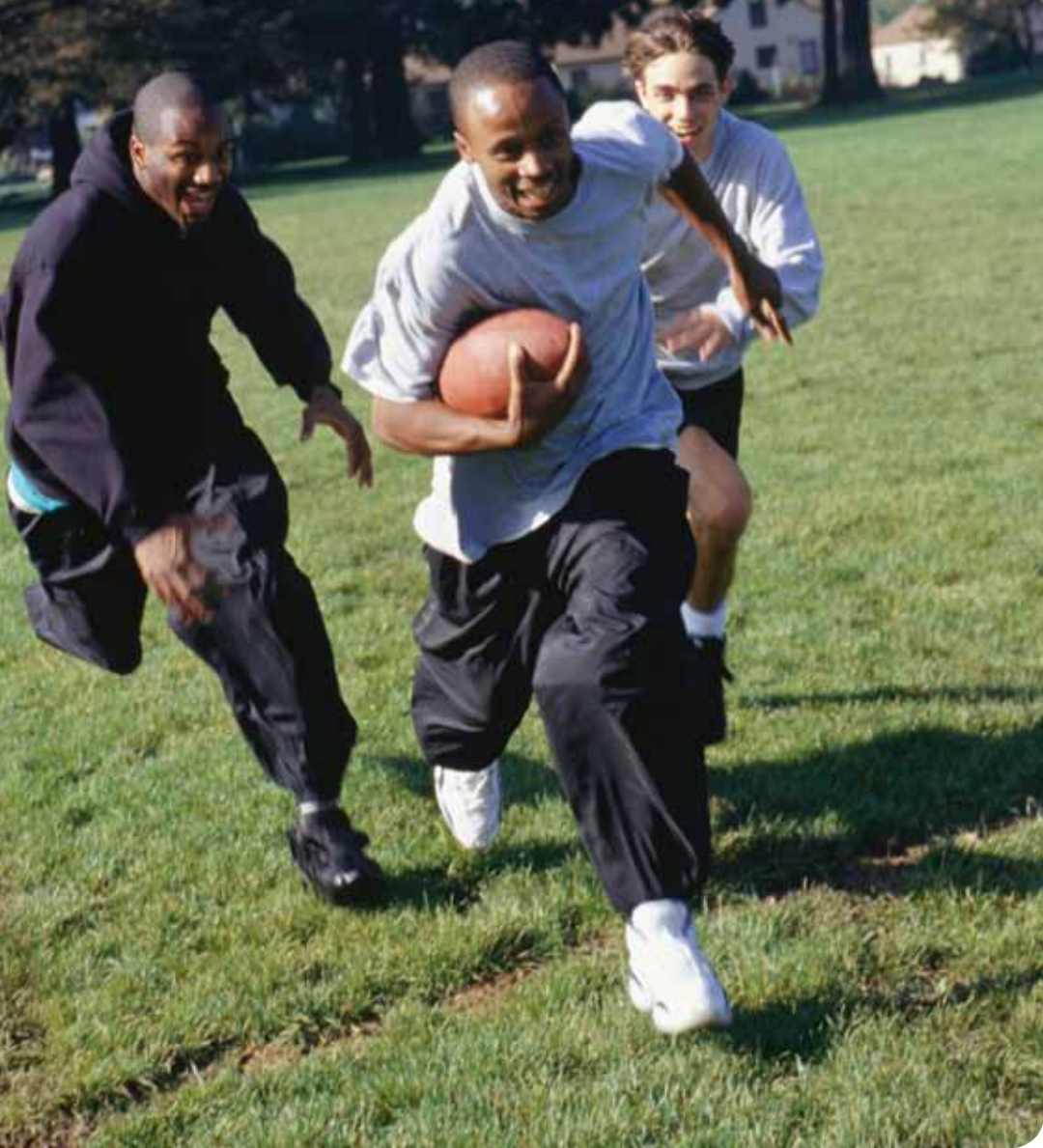
We will:

- Support children and young people with disabilities in a coordinated way
- Listen to the views of children with disabilities and their parents to help make things better

A close-up photograph of three young children of diverse backgrounds huddled together outdoors. On the left, a young boy with dark skin and a short haircut is smiling broadly, looking down. In the center, a young girl with long brown hair and freckles is smiling at the camera. On the right, a young girl with long blonde hair and a yellow bow is also smiling at the camera. They are all wearing casual clothing, and their hands are visible, clasped together in front of them. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting with a building's edge visible.

***“I like it how even
young children can
get respect”***

***“We need more
activities for young
people”***



Priority **9** **Raise educational achievement of all children and young people and improve school standards**

We will:

- Help young people improve their behaviour and make sure fewer pupils are excluded from school
- Help support schools that are facing challenges
- Continue to improve education outcomes for all our students
- Carefully plan how many places we need in our schools for the growing number of students

Priority **10** **Reducing the numbers of young people not in education, training or employment**

We will:

- Provide advice and guidance to all young people in schools
- Focus support for those not in education, employment and training

Priority **11** **Helping struggling families access learning and work opportunities**

We will:

- Make sure there are opportunities to learn for parents who most need them
- Provide enough childcare places for all three & four year olds and two year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds

Priority **12** **Supporting vulnerable young people and they are provided with safe and appropriate accommodation**

We will:

- Continue to work with Housing and other agencies for the needs of young people
- Provide suitable accommodation for young people's different needs

Priority **13** **Improving the life chances of looked after children**

We will:

- Do better to improve education, health and employment opportunities for children who are in care
- Ensure appropriate care and placements are provided

Priority **14** **Children and young people are actively engaged in the community and influence local decision making processes**

We will:

- Engage young people in decision-making
- Make special effort to involve young people with disabilities and those who wouldn't normally get the chance to participate

Priority **15** **Children and young people are engaging in a range of affordable play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities**

We will:

- Increase the number of young people taking part in sports - particularly girls and children and young people with disabilities
- Provide more places for children and young people to play, do sport and take part in activities

The Youth Council

Hounslow Youth Council is a group of young people who come together to take part in activities and improve services for other young people as well as having a lot of fun. We have taken part in making this new Childrens and Young Peoples Plan, and so if you would like to find out more and get involved in similar activities, you can call Steve Hutchinson on **020 8572 8842** or by emailing **Stephen.hutchinson@hounslow.gov.uk** You can also find Steve and friends at Hounslow Youth Centre, where you can drop in to see us.



***“It’s a great
place to live”***

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