

# Harborough District Council

## Report to Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panel 11 April 2024



<b>Title:</b>	Update on Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Report Author:</b>	Rachael Felts – Head of Community Partnerships
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Jim Knight – Wellbeing
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix A – Young Persons Opportunities Plan 2023-2028 Appendix B – Young Persons Action Plan

### Executive Summary

This report presents an update on the Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28, the purpose of which is to raise awareness of, and access to, opportunities for 15–34-year-old in the district of Harborough such as employment and housing.

This report provides Members with an update on the actions undertaken since the Young Persons Opportunities Plan as approved by Cabinet at their meeting in October 2022.

Once recruited, the new Youth Council Support Officer will support the actions and outcomes of the Young Person Opportunities Plan.

### Recommendations

- **To note the actions undertaken which supports the aims of the Young Persons Opportunities Plan.**

### Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure the Council can continue to support our young people and enable them to engage with the Council so that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To note the work the council has undertaken to support the Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28.



## 2. Background

- 2.1 Harborough District Council identified the need for a “fit-for-purpose strategy to engage with young people to understand their needs specifically around skills, employment options and housing”.
- 2.2 Previously a 12-month project, funded by Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) was undertaken to understand the key issues faced by young people through Covid recovery via a Young Persons Officer post for one year.
- 2.3 The project identified youth services across the county to understand existing provision and approaches to engaging young people. This highlighted gaps in district wide provision, particularly for those from harder to reach, marginalised and minority groups.
- 2.4 A review of the Council's approach to youth engagement was conducted. Working across different departments, gaps were identified in our own service development and delivery.
- 2.5 At the time it was identified the district of Harborough was continually growing its popularity as a desirable rural location yet faced a number of key challenges in the growth and retention in populations of young people aged 15 – 34.
- 2.6 The outcome of the project identified the need for a Young Person Opportunity Plan which was produced and was approved by Cabinet at its meeting in October 2022.

## 3. Details

- 3.1 Through delivery of this Young Person Opportunities Plan, the Council aimed to:
  - Raise awareness of, and access to, opportunities linked to learning, employment and housing options for 15–34-year-olds in the district of Harborough.
  - Retain and attract more young people to live, work and learn in the district.
  - Support our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.
- 3.2 This would be achieved by focusing on three overarching strategic priorities:
  1. Encourage and support skills, training, and employment opportunities within the district for young people.
  2. Increase awareness and availability of suitable and affordable housing for young people.
  3. Ensure young people are consulted on matters directly impacting their futures.
- 3.3 A detailed action plan can be found at Appendix B of this report. The tables below have grouped the work carried out to support the Young Person Opportunities Plan against the three overarching strategic priorities.
- 3.4 With the introduction of the new Youth Council Support Officer, further work will be able to be undertaken to support the delivery of this Young Person Opportunities Plan.

### **Objective 1 - Encourage and support skills, training, and employment opportunities within the district for young people.**

Career activities below have been carried out in partnership between the Economic Development Team and HR/Learning and Development Business Partner.

- Delivered a careers day for Welland Park students at the council offices in March 2023. This educated students on what the council does, inspired them to think about their local community and informed them of career pathways in the council.
- Attended Welland Park and Lutterworth College careers fair in October 2023 to promote careers in the council.
- Volunteers at Welland park mock interviews Nov/Dec 2023. Support students to developed skills and discussed roles in the council.
- Careers talks at Robert Smyth Academy in December 2023.
- Careers talks at Lutterworth College in March 2023
- Mock interviews Thomas Estley in October 2023
- Student and employer networking event at Kibworth Mead Academy in November 2023. Students networked with employers, asking questions about their jobs, the sector and career paths.

The Councils' Economic Development Team have arranged job fairs throughout 2023 with HR team attended a couple of the events to promote HDC roles and opportunities.

The Council hosted an event in February 2023 at the Harborough Innovation Centre to promote apprenticeships and educate employers.

Officers continue with regular attendance at secondary school careers events and at the end of 2023, both the Council's HR and Economic Development teams gave talks a local secondary school about careers in local government.

The Council continues to host year on year work experience placements at the council.

### **Objective 2 - Increase awareness and availability of suitable and affordable housing for young people**

Council officers have been and continue to work with Leicestershire County Council's Change Manager on a project called "staying close". This project is aimed to support young people aged 18+ take steps to independent living. The project is in the initial stages of interest seeking registered housing provider partners to help develop a project further.

Development of the Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029 approved by Cabinet at their meeting in March 2024, identifies and supports the need/consideration for affordable homes and homes for young people. The delivery of this objective will be led through the Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029.

### **Objective 3 - Ensure young people are consulted on matters directly impacting their futures**

With the introduction of the new fixed term Youth Council Support Officer post, work will be undertaken to better understand how the Council can ensure young people are consulted on matters impacting their futures.

## 4. Implications of Decisions

### 4.1. Corporate Priorities

- 4.1.1. The Opportunities Plan will contribute towards the delivery of two of the four key Corporate Priorities:
- i. Promoting health & wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.
  - ii. Community Leadership to create a sense of pride in our place.

### 4.2. Financial

- 4.2.1 Initially the Opportunities Plan was to be implemented into existing workstreams within the Council's current service delivery and would align to other key pieces of work within the Council, such as:
- HDC Corporate Plan
  - Rural Strategy
  - Health and Wellbeing Strategy
  - Economic Development Strategy
  - Engagement Strategy
  - Harborough Community Safety Partnership Three Year Plan
  - Housing Strategy
- This alignment of key pieces of work will continue to support the delivery of the Young Person Opportunities Plan.
- 4.2.2 At their meeting in February 2024 Council agreed £100k to support the Young Persons Opportunities Plan which included costs for a new fixed term Youth Council Support Officer, and costs to support the implementation of a Youth Council and the ongoing delivery of the Young Person Opportunities Plan.

### 4.3. Legal

- 4.3.1 The Housing Act 2004, Armed Forces Act 2021, the Care Act 2014 and the Children Act 1989 will continue to inform housing processes for eligible populations. Other laws around the safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults also dictate output.
- 4.3.2 The Equality Act 2010 ensures that people with protected characteristics are supported as well as maintaining inclusion and diversity best practice throughout policy development and service delivery. Whilst The Human Rights Act 1998 has further underpinned inclusive best practice.

### 4.4. Policy

- 4.4.1 No policy issues arise directly from this report.

### 4.5. Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

- 4.5.1 No environmental issues arise directly from this report.

#### 4.6. **Risk Management**

4.6.1 No risk management issues arise directly from this report.

#### 4.7. **Equalities Impact**

4.7.1 The Equality Analysis was completed to support the Young Person Opportunity Plan and formed part of the report papers to Cabinet in October 2022.

#### 4.8. **Data Protection**

4.8.1 No data protection issues arise directly from this report.

### 5. **Alternative Options Considered**

5.1 This report is to note the actions undertaken to support the delivery of the Young Person Opportunities Plan. As there are no decisions, no alternative options have been considered.

### 6. **Recommendation**

6.1 To note the actions undertaken outlined above in this report which supports the Young Person Opportunities Plan.

### 7. **Background papers**

- Scrutiny Panel – Communities 28 July 2022 [Meetings and Events \(harborough.gov.uk\)](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/Meetings-and-Events)
- Cabinet Report 10 October 2022 - [Meetings and Events \(harborough.gov.uk\)](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/Meetings-and-Events)