

**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MEETING OF 28<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022**

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**Status:** For Discussion  
**Title:** Young Person Opportunities Plan  
**Report of:** James O’Connell, Young Persons Officer  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Whelband, Communities Cabinet Member  
**Where from:** Harborough District Community Wellbeing Partnership  
**Where to next:** Cabinet

Objective: To review and guide the Young Person Opportunities Plan

1. Outcome sought from Panel

1.1 The purpose of this meeting is to present the new Young Person Opportunities Plan proposal for 2023 / 28, and for the panel to consider its content, aims and objectives, providing any necessary input.

2 Background

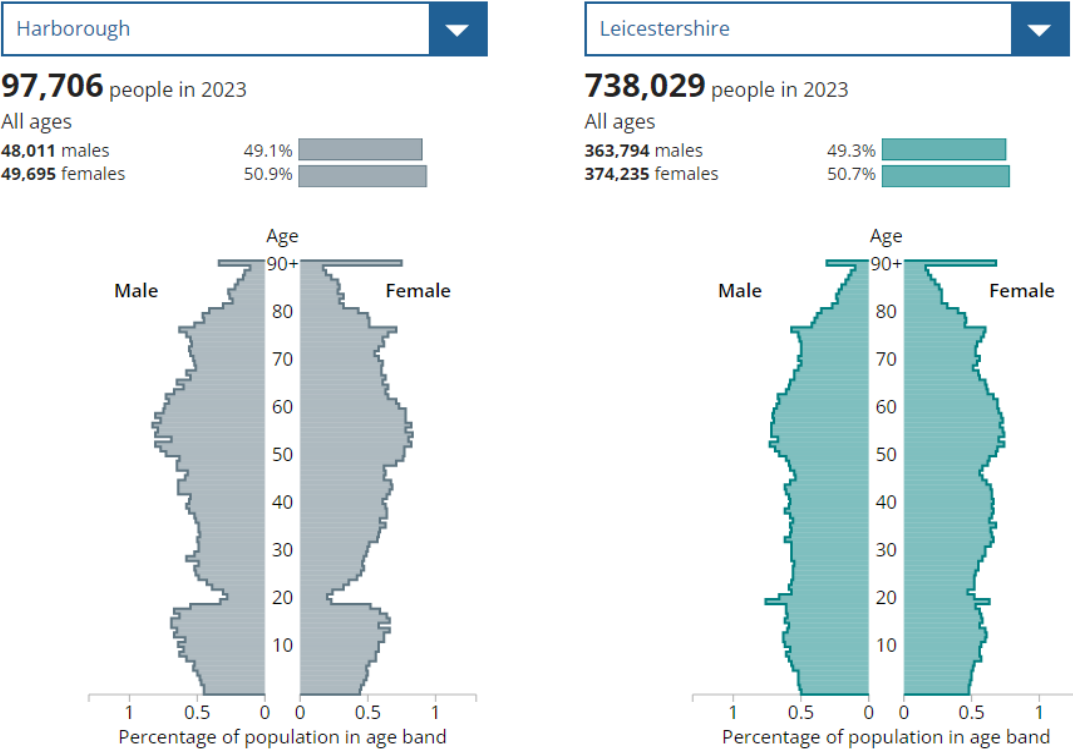
2.1 In the Corporate Delivery Plan for 2021/22, Harborough District Council identified the need for a “fit-for-purpose strategy to engage with young people to understand their needs specifically around skills, employment options and housing”.

2.2 The 12-month project is funded by Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) to understand the key issues faced by young people through Covid recovery via the implementation of a Young Persons Officer.

2.3 The project started identifying youth services across the county to understand existing provision and their 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 The district of Harborough is continually growing and is a desirable rural location. However, the District faces a number of key challenges in the growth and retention in populations of young people aged 15 – 34.
- 2.6 The following population projection for 2023, depicts the trends in Harborough’s (left / grey) young people leaving and returning to the district in comparison to Leicestershire as a whole (right / green). It is perceived that this is due to a lack of local opportunities surrounding education, employment and engagement, particularly between the ages of 18 – 34, contributing to outward migration.



\*ONS Subnational Population Projections for Harborough (based on 2018 data)

- 2.7 Through delivery of this Young Person Opportunities Plan, we are aiming 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.
- 2.8 This will be achieved by focussing 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 Points for discussion

- To discuss the proposals of the new Young Person Opportunities Plan and associated Action Plan
- For Members to ask questions of HDC Officers on this area of work

### 4 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

4.1 A thorough Equality Impact Assessment was completed prior to starting work on this Plan. It has been referred to throughout, ensuring equality of opportunity for the most vulnerable young people in our community, endeavouring to maintain focus on those from marginalised and minority groups as well as those with protected characteristics.

### 5 Impact on Communities

5.1 The aims of this plan are to have a positive impact on communities through:

- Raising awareness of, and access to, opportunities linked to learning, employment and housing options for 15 – 34 year olds in the district of Harborough
- Retaining and attracting more young people to live, work and learn in the district
- Supporting our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

### 6 Legal Issues

6.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act 2014 have consolidated and simplified the powers available to the Police and Local Authorities and in some cases Registered Social Landlords.

6.2 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.

6.3 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.

6.4 GDPR has been implemented during consultation processes, ensuring they are in-keeping with privacy law and a human rights-based approach

### 7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 The 12-month (October 2021-October 2022) role of Young Person Officer was resourced by Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) to understand the key issues faced by young people through Covid recovery.
- 7.2 In light of financial challenges and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, this plan will be implemented into existing workstreams within the Council's current service delivery.
- 7.3 This Young Person Opportunities Plan will align with 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

## 8 Community Safety Implications

- 8.1 Aligning with the delivery of the Harborough Community Safety Partnership Three Year Plan will see continued focus on further reducing instances of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) via the delivery of School Community Safety Roadshows.

## 9 Carbon Management Implications

- 9.1 A sub-focus of this plan is to work with partners to raise the profile of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects, particularly in relation to the need for Green Jobs and achieving carbon neutrality.
- 9.2 Engagement policies aiming for increased digitalisation will reduce the reliance on printed materials and the related posting processes.
- 9.3 Encouraging more local opportunities is hoped to encourage more sustainable means of transport

## 10 Risk Management Implications

- 10.1 Reduction in resource due to the short-term nature of the Young Person Officer role
- 10.2 The plan will need to work closely with other areas of work and strategy to ensure consistency of delivery

## 11 Consultation

- 11.1 Young people were engaged in the Residents Engagement Consultation, seeing 154 responses, equating to approximately one third of total participants
  - 11.2 Young people were consulted on their experiences and aspirations in relation to housing within the district of Harborough, seeing 152 responses.
  - 11.3 679 young people responded to feedback surveys carried out as part of the Schools Community Safety Roadshow events, informing quality of delivery and information around preferred modes of engagement.
  - 11.4 This plan aims to build on these levels of active participation from its demographic, with a priority of ensuring young people are consulted on matters directly impacting their futures to achieve diverse representation and equality of opportunity throughout our policy development and service delivery.
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**Previous report(s):** *n/a*

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure:** *N*

**Appendices:** *list any appendices here including title and filename in brackets (e.g. Performance Data 2010 (perfdata.doc)).*

**A. Young Person Opportunities Plan (YPOP)**

**B. YPOP Action Plan**

**C. YPOP Equality Impact Assessment**