



Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-2028

Our Vision

Working with our communities, we will build a future for the people of Harborough district that gives them the best life chances and opportunities through:

- Community leadership to create a sense of pride in our place
- Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices
- Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations
- Supporting residents and businesses to deliver a prosperous local economy

Introduction

The district of Harborough continues to retain and grow its popularity as a desirable rural location, yet still faces a number of key challenges in the growth and retention in populations of young people aged 15 – 34. To bridge the gap of inequality in opportunity and to strengthen social fabric for our young people, the following key factors require focus:

- A rapidly rising cost of living not reflected in local wages for young people
- Limited Post-16, further or higher education opportunities within the district, contributing to outward migration
- Some of the highest housing costs in the country
- Insufficient amounts of suitable and affordable housing to meet young peoples' needs
- Limited opportunities for young people to directly and effectively engage in shaping their communities

Our Aim

Through delivery of this Young Persons Opportunity Plan, we are aiming to:

- 1) Raise awareness of, and access to, opportunities linked to learning, employment and housing options for 15 – 34 year olds in the district of Harborough
- 2) Retain and attract more young people to live, work and learn in the district
- 3) Support our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

Strategic Priorities:

We have identified three overarching strategic priorities for young people of the Harborough district between 2023 / 28.

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

Harborough District Council will:

- Promote employment and learning opportunities for young people within the Council, including continuing to offer meaningful apprenticeships.
- Encourage local businesses and the voluntary sector to help the creation of local opportunities for young people, through viable apprenticeships and employment.
- Maximise the potential for young people through the unique education and training opportunities at the Centre for Logistic Education and Research (CLEAR) at Magna Park.
- 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.

- Work with partners to reduce barriers to learning for young people, in order to tackle economic inactivity and increase social mobility.

2. Increase awareness and availability of suitable and affordable housing for young people

Enabling young people the opportunity to access independent housing options, we aim to:

- Increase the availability of suitable and affordable properties to meet identified needs
- Raise awareness of government affordable housing schemes
- Reduce instances of youth homelessness.

3. Ensure young people are consulted on matters directly impacting their futures

Enabling young people to have measurable input on matters that impact their futures, we aim to:

- Explore opportunities to engage with young people in relation to policy development
- Achieve diverse representation and equality throughout our service delivery

Action Plan

We will develop priorities and measure our success through an action plan, which will be reviewed and updated every year.