



## Cabinet

**24 April 2024**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Development of 'It's Our Borough Too' St Helens Borough Children and Young People's Declaration</b>
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Children and Young People Services
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor David Baines / Councillor Nova Charlton
<b>Exempt Report</b>	No
<b>Reason for Exemption</b>	N/A
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Public Notice issued</b>	26 March 2024
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Report of</b>	Mark Palethorpe Executive Director of People's Services <a href="mailto:MarkPalethorpe@sthelens.gov.uk">MarkPalethorpe@sthelens.gov.uk</a>
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<b>Borough Priorities</b>	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life.	X
	Promote good health, independence, and care across our communities.	X
	Create safe and strong communities and neighbourhoods for all.	X
	Support a strong, thriving, inclusive and well-connected local economy.	X
	Create green and vibrant places that reflect our heritage and culture.	X
	Be a responsible Council.	X

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Over the last few months, we have been engaging with thousands of young people in the borough to understand their priorities and their vision for how we can work together to make St Helens a better borough for all.
- 1.2 '*It's Our Borough Too*' captures these findings and highlights the priorities that our young people want us to focus on over the next three years and outlines the key pledges the Council, local partners and young people themselves can focus upon to achieve real change in the Borough. This has been developed in partnership with our Youth Council.
- 1.3 The document being presented to Cabinet today is a 'work in progress' version. The aim is to gain early input and give members insight into our young people's priorities. We are also presenting a proposed timetable for the further development and launch of the document.

## **2. Recommendation for Decision**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1) Note the report and feedback on the working document of 'It's Our Borough Too'**
- 2) Note progress made and agree timetable for launch of 'It's Our Borough Too'**
- 3) Note the proposed additional areas for consideration and inclusion**

## **3. Purpose of this report**

- 3.1 Over the past year, in partnership with our Youth Council, Vibe and other local youth organisations, we have engaged with thousands of young people from all different backgrounds to co-produce '*It's Our Borough Too*'. This document outlines their priorities and their vision for a better, more child friendly borough and outlines the Council's, local partner's and young people's collective commitments to delivering this over the next three years.
- 3.2 To develop the priorities, we have worked with our Youth Council by sharing the findings of the consultation and engagement with them and asking them to identify six priorities (mirroring our Borough Strategy) to take forward. As a result of this they identified the following priorities, under which a series of 'undertakings' sit:
  - i) Make sure no one goes hungry in St Helens
  - ii) Make St Helens safer for young people
  - iii) More help for young people with mental health and wellbeing
  - iv) More places for young people to go that are affordable and accessible
  - v) Preparing young people for the future and helping them to achieve their ambitions

vi) Look after our environment and the climate, and ensure our borough is clean and tidy.

3.3 Cabinet is asked to endorse the Declaration prior to further development of the narrative and content via engagement with local partners, schools, and the voluntary and community sector.

#### 4. Background / Reason for the recommendations

4.1 The proposed delivery timeline for the document is as follows:

Action	Date
Cabinet – Working draft for wider consultation	23 April
Consultation with partners and schools (e.g., C&YP Partnership Board / People’s Boards/ etc)	April - June
Further development of the document	July
Sign off via Cabinet & Peoples Board	September
Launch	September

4.2 This is a live document and a number of amendments have already been identified for further consideration and incorporation as below:

- Clarification of presentation: what's the offer/what are our commitments to every child from birth to pre-school, school, sport and recreation, work/training/further education, housing, safe spaces, climate change.
- Greater emphasis on all ages - birth to work/further education/training. More to be included on Early Years/Primary including primary school's, school councils; school events at the town hall etc.
- Reformatting to promote all the positive things the Council are doing but to also ensure that it reads as ambitious.
- Revisions to Section 3 on mental health and wellbeing to be clearer that we and partners need to do more of.
- Revisions around SEND to ensure clear commitments, and acknowledgement that we need/want to do more for them.
- Inclusion of a reference that no schools in St Helens have Dyslexia friendly accreditation:<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/dyslexia-friendly-awards/dyslexia-friendly-quality-mark-awards>. and a commitment to promote and support schools to achieve it.

- Inclusion of references to protecting the most vulnerable children is a key priority and the improvements in Children's Services.
- Revisions to Section 4 on accessible places regarding parks and the work we're doing in Earlestown and St Helens town centres to involve and design it for children and young people.
- To reference more about the work of family hubs in the borough.
- Further reference to UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and a plan to either work with <https://www.childfriendlycities.org/initiatives/united-kingdom> as one of our commitments or to work towards being a child friendly borough (our own definition)

## **5. Consideration of Alternatives**

5.1 There are no alternatives to this report.

## **6. Conclusions**

6.1 As the report highlights, we are seeking to develop the document further to ensure it reflects the actions to be taken by all partners and stakeholders to ensure the whole borough is engaged in the development and delivery of the Declaration and takes responsibility for delivering our young people's ambitions. This document will be the cornerstone we all work from, and progress will be monitored by the Youth Council on a quarterly basis once it has been launched.

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 There is no statutory requirement to produce a Declaration. However, it is lawful to do so and considered to be best practice.

7.2 There are no legal implications arising. The Declaration aligns with both the constitution and the council's statutory obligations.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the declaration.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment**

9.1 The Equality Impact Assessment is to follow.

## **10. Social Value**

10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **11. Net Zero and Environment**

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **12. Health and Wellbeing**

12.1 Improving the physical and emotional mental health of young people. We have identified our priorities for things that together will make the biggest difference in the shortest time to improve the lives of our children and young people.

## **13. Customer and Resident**

13.1 Aligned to the first priority of the Borough Strategy 'Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life', our ambition is to make a difference to the lives of children and young people who live in St Helens, recognising the need for an intense focus on improving outcomes for those children who are experiencing significant harm or are at risk of significant harm.

13.2 We are achieving this by improving our practice and systems to protect children from harm, supporting them to achieve their aspirations, to be healthy, to have good emotional wellbeing and to live in safe situations with their families or with carers. The new status of "Good" will help increase public confidence in our service.

## **14. Asset and Property**

14.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **15. Staffing and People Management**

15.1 There will be no changes to the workforce in relation to this plan

## **16. Risks**

16.1 There are no inherent risks within the Declaration. Regular reporting is the key to ensuring that outcomes are improving and that challenges are swiftly identified, and remedial action is taken to mitigate the negative impact of those challenges.

## **17. Policy Framework Implications**

17.1 The recommendations contained within this report are in line with Council policies.

## **18. Impact and Opportunities on Localities**

18.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **19. Background Documents**

19.1 N/A

## **20. Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 - "It's Our Borough Too" Document