

Young Harrow Foundation (YHF)

Strategy Plan 2016-2019

Background

“It’s early days in our engagement with Young Harrow Foundation but we’ve been really impressed so far and can see the wide ranging benefits of the Foundation”

The Young Harrow Foundation was set up in 2015 and is funded for three years by the John Lyon’s Charity and City Bridge Trust. It is designed to be a new model of local support for not for profit organisations working with children and young people in Harrow within a climate of increasing cuts in statutory funding and reduction in support for children and young people and increasing needs. YHF aims to develop and implement new ways for funders and not for profit organisations to develop in partnership more effective ways of supporting and delivering activities to meet the needs of children and young people in Harrow.

It is managed overall by a Board of trustees with a range of skills and experience and day to day by a CEO supported by three staff. It is a registered charity and a member-led organisation. Similar foundations are being set up in the eight other local authority areas covered by John Lyon’s Charity. YHF will share its lessons and work in partnership with these other Foundations as appropriate.



Needs

“I think in the short amount of time since Young Harrow Foundation was established it has made great progress in bringing together different organisations and strengthening local links”

Harrow is an area in North West London that is home to more than 230,000 people. There is increasing deprivation, particularly affecting children and young families, and significant health inequality. It is ranked 7th nationally for ethnic diversity and 2nd for religious diversity in London.

The 2011 Census showed that Harrow’s residents were born in approximately 200 different countries and the percentage of Harrow’s residents born in the UK is the 6th lowest ranking nationally.

The 2011 National Census revealed that the 0-4 age group in Harrow has increased by 4,945 between mid-2001 (12,058) and mid 2013 (17,003), which represents a 41% increase. There have also been increases across all the statutory school age groups.

Eight Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Harrow are in the bottom 10% for multiple deprivation within the wards of Hatch End, Edgware, Marlborough and Roxbourne. The wards of Pinner South, Headstone North and Rayners Lane each have a LSOA in the most deprived 5% in the country.

At LSOA level the range of pupils eligible for Free School Meals was above 34% for the wards of Marlborough, Edgware, Canons and Roxbourne.

Harrow has high levels of child income deprivation with 18 (13%) out of the 137 LSOAs ranked in the country’s 20% most deprived LSOAs. Eight of the top ten ranked areas for child income deprivation are in London Borough’s, with Harrow ranked 23rd in London, where 1st is the most deprived.

Wealdstone is the most deprived ward, with four of the ward’s six LSOAs falling within the country’s 20% most deprived LSOAs and the other two in the next range.



The available financial support from statutory sources for resources for young people available within Harrow is declining and is set to decline further with substantial cuts planned for early Intervention services and Children's Centres.

Voluntary and Community Sector groups working with children and young people within Harrow have a poor record of securing funding from all sources due to lack of capacity – most have no paid staff - and lack of skills in fundraising.

Areas of risk and unmet needs which would benefit from more funding include:

- The development of children and young people, including their emotional and social development, behavioural development
- Identity, including self-esteem and self-image
- Health, Including their general health, physical development, or speech and language
- Family and home life, such as family breakdown, negative reputation, unemployment and financial issues
- Housing
- Educational issues
- Negative peer group effects

These factors increase the possibility of the most disadvantaged children and young people in Harrow engaging in negative behaviour, such as offending / anti-social behaviour in gangs, substance misuse, poor self-care, inappropriate sexual behaviour, having mental health issues, poor attendance at school, college or training or being NEET (Not in Education, Training or Employment).



Our Mission

“It’s great to know that there is someone working to support us in communicating with funders and Harrow council. We really appreciate the value this adds to the work we are doing”

Our mission is to ensure that every child and young person in Harrow is properly and effectively supported and safeguarded to enable them to reach their full potential and to access every opportunity available to make this happen.

Our Values

- Inclusivity
- Diversity
- Fairness
- Children and Young People centred
- Partnership working
- Cross-sector working
- Grassroots involvement

Our Strategic Objectives

- To develop a sustainable model of support for not for profit organisations working with children and young people in Harrow
- To strengthen the capacity of not for profit organisations working with children and young people in Harrow
- To increase external funding and other resources in Harrow for not for profit organisations working with children and young people in Harrow
- To increase effective partnership working in Harrow between organisations working with children and young people in Harrow
- To be an effective voice and representative body for not for profit organisations working with children and young people in Harrow

Our Operational Objectives

- To develop a strong, inclusive and active membership
- To bring in to Harrow increased external funding and other resources
- To develop and support member organisations on training, networking opportunities, advice sessions and forums for sharing information
- Develop a bank of affordable premises for member organisations
- Develop wide stakeholder engagement and support for YHF including from funders, businesses, individuals and private, public, voluntary and statutory organisations
- Promote and publicise YHF effectively through a wide and tailored range of social media and other communication channels
- Develop a local Youth Panel and other forums for including the voice of children and young people in the delivery of our work
- Develop an effective small grants’ programme
- Implement processes for research, evaluation, learning from and sharing the impact of our work
- Ensure effective processes for ensuring our operational, financial, organisational and staffing, (including volunteers and trustees) capacity