

Youth Strategy Consultation – Consultation Plan. January 2024

Why are we consulting?

Bracknell Forest and its partners recognises the need for a clear strategy to support young people and we are consulting to ensure that everyone can provide feedback, offer suggestions, and inform the final youth services strategy.

In addition, Bracknell Forest Council has a duty to secure sufficient youth services in the borough. In 2020–21, the government set out to review the statutory guidance for local authorities on providing youth services, related to Section 507B of the Education Act (1996), as amended by the Education and Inspections Act (2006), which sets out the governments expectations for (upper tier) local authorities when securing services and activities for people aged 13 to 19, and those up to age 24 with learning difficulties, with the purpose of improving young people’s well-being.

The duty states that Bracknell Forest Council must, ‘so far as reasonably practicable,’ secure for qualifying young persons in the authority’s area access to:

- Sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities, and,
- Sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.

Who are we consulting?

- Young people,
- Parents, carers, and families,
- The wider public,
- Council Members,
- Town and Parish Councils,
- Council services including but not limited to: Early Help, Children’s Services, Education, Housing, Adult Social Care, Youth Offending Service, Children’s Services, Public Health, Welfare and Community Safety
- Other statutory services including but not limited to: NHS Trust, Berkshire Primary Care, Police, Health, Drug and Alcohol, CMHT, Probation, Prison Service, and the DWP.
- Voluntary sector including but not limited to voluntary and third sector youth providers and Faith Groups.

What are we consulting on?

The youth strategy proposes five key priority areas for focus over the lifetime of the youth services strategy. The strategy also provides a narrative of the data and consultation headlines and pathways to support.

Theme	Proposals	Questions
1. Priorities	To adopt the five priorities as part of the youth services strategy.	Do you agree with the priorities? Yes/No. If No, please explain why and provide any suggestions you may have.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We want to keep young people safe and intervene early to prevent and reduce harm. 2. We will support young people to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. 3. We will develop a multi-agency offer of support for Young Carers. 4. We will create more opportunities for young people to participate in democratic engagement across their communities. 5. We will invest in the workforce to support youth workers/professionals and develop pathways for young people to have a career in youth and early help work. <p>We are asking these questions to help us understand if we have captured the right priorities and where we should focus our resource first.</p>	<p>Out of the five priorities, which priorities is most important to you. (Select one)</p> <p>Please explain why.</p> <p><i>(Why are we asking these questions?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We will be confident that the priorities are correct following the analysis of the data and consultation work that has taken place.</i> • <i>To ensure that resources are allocated in need order.)</i>
<p>2. Providing the right support at the right time.</p>	<p>To ensure the right support for young people is provided, at the right time and in the right way.</p>	<p>To what extent do you agree with the following statements, in relation to the strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy will enable support to be provided to young people at the right time, in the right place and in the right way. • It will support effective partnership working. <p style="text-align: center;">Agree</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Somewhat Agree</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Neither Agree nor Disagree</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Somewhere disagree.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Disagree</p> <p>Please explain the reason for your answer.</p>

		<p>The strategy seeks to be inclusive and sets out the vision that all young people should be able to access youth services provision. Do you agree with this statement?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No Not sure</p> <p>If you answer is no or not sure, please outline what we could do better.</p> <p><i>(Why are we asking these questions?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We will gain a position on stakeholders view on the inclusivity of the strategy and how inclusivity is embedded within the strategy.</i> • <i>To gain an understanding on the effectiveness of the strategy in outlining the objectives.)</i>
<p>3. Access to youth services</p>	<p>Ensure that the pathways to accessing support is clear for young people, families, and key stakeholders.</p>	<p>As a result of the strategy, I am clearer as to how to access youth services support?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No Not sure</p> <p>In addition to the Local Offer website (to be updated), do you believe it would be beneficial for a leaflet/information guide to be produced for young people?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No</p> <p><i>(Why are we asking these questions?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure that pathways in accessing support is clear, which will support an increase in participation in youth services activities.</i> • <i>To ensure that services are promoting offers and interventions to reach more young people from all communities in Bracknell Forest)</i>

4. Working in partnership	To work with partners across the borough to support young people in Bracknell.	<p>Does the strategy reflect our commitment to partnership working to support positive outcomes for young people?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes No Not sure</p> <p>What further action do you feel we could take to strengthen partnership working?</p> <p>(For young people – how would you like professionals to work together to support you?)</p> <p><i>(Why are we asking these questions?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To enable the wider partnership to consider how effective the offer and interventions are and how they will impact the strategy priorities)</i>
6.	Overall views on the strategy	Please provide any further comments or suggestions that you have on this strategy and its implementation.

There will be an opportunity for respondents to provide any additional comments at the end of the survey.

Not included in the consultation

Some aspects of youth services are not subject to change as per the strategy and are not featured within the consultation document as they do not relate to the strategy content. Some areas below were considered and discussed during focused conversations.

Theme	Reason
Access to youth services	There are no proposed changes to who can access youth services, there remains both a universal and targeted offer for young people. The youth offer will be clear because of the strategy and its implementation.

Pathways to youth services	No significant change to pathways in accessing youth services, there will remain universal and targeted provision across the borough that young people can access. As a result of the strategy and its implementation that pathways will be clearer for young people and key stakeholders.
Supporting key groups	Youth services and voluntary sector will continue to provide targeted groups for key groups such as LGBTQI+, newly arrived young people and SEND. Provision for young carers is explicitly included as a priority area within the strategy. This will ensure the profile of key groups are raised across the borough.

When will consultation take place?

Once Executive has given approval, the consultation period is likely to be from the 7th of February 2024 until the 6th March 2024.

Methods of consultation

- Online consultation survey lasting for 4 weeks (paper versions available on request)
- Council Members session (to be booked)
- Schools and other key stakeholder session/workshop from February 7th onwards.
- One to one and group sessions with young people
- Early Help Forum Meeting session
- Targeted emails inviting comments via survey or email drop box.
- Meetings with key stakeholders on strategy affecting service users.

Promotion of consultation

A separate Communications Plan is being developed to ensure profile of consultation is raised. This will include promotion of Bracknell Forest Council’s social media accounts, activities at youth centres and within schools.

Consultation resources to be prepared.

Quick Guide

This will provide the background to and purpose of the consultation for the youth services strategy. This is the text to go on the website and other documents to introduce the consultation., why we are doing it and who we want to hear from. – Completed.

Consultation questions for the online survey – Completed.