

Welwyn Hatfield Youth Strategy 2019

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Young people should have opportunities, to express their views; thrive through education, employment and training; have activities that meet their interests and have access to information to enable them to lead healthy and rewarding lives.
- 1.2 This is the first Welwyn Hatfield youth strategy and action plan which brings together elements from several strategies and actions that area already in existence.
- 1.3 The draft strategy sets out the current local and nation data around young people and the challenges they face. The strategy also provide some information on what is already being done within the borough to help address some of the inequalities that exist locally.
- 1.4 The draft strategy sets out the key priorities that partnership working with and for young people within the borough should be focusing on. It sets out the key issues, and potential barriers and challenges faced by young people aged 11-19 living in the Borough of Welwyn Hatfield.
- 1.5 The strategy will try to address what partners can do independently and in partnership with one another to ensure that young people living in Welwyn Hatfield have the opportunity to maximise their full potential and thrive.
- 1.6 This Strategy and Action Plan was created by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (the council) in partnership with local agencies and providers. Once approved the strategy and action plan will be owned by Welwyn Hatfield Responsible Authority Group (RAG which is the strategic body of the community safety partnerships). The Welwyn Hatfield 11-19 Group (the borough's youth operational partnership) will monitor the delivery of the action plan. The strategy and action plan will require agencies from the voluntary, private and public sector to all work together to improve the lives and opportunities for young people in Welwyn Hatfield.
- 1.7 The overall aim for the strategy and action plan is to try to ensure that, through better partnership working, we all continue to drive forward actions which will improve the wellbeing and long term outcomes for young people in Welwyn Hatfield.
- 1.8 In mid-2017 there were 6,500 10-14s living in the borough and 8,000 15-19 year olds so a total of 14,500 10-19 year olds representing 11.9% of the total population in Welwyn Hatfield.
- 1.9 The strategy has four key priorities which are listed below, the strategy provides some data and analysis of that data to provide some context;

- 1.9.1 Education – ‘to provide opportunities for young people, so they can succeed in education and training and gain the skills they need to secure an apprenticeship or employment’.
- 1.9.2 Community safety – ‘to set positive role models for our young people and to provide opportunities and encouragement for them to stay safe and to participate positively in their communities.’
- 1.9.3 Youth provision and engagement – ‘To provide young people with opportunities to get involved in the democratic process and to have a say on matters that are important to them.’
- 1.9.4 Health and wellbeing – ‘To work to provide support, access and education around the importance of physical and mental health.’
- 1.10 The strategy then lists its key strategic objectives and outcomes which ultimately aim to provide both RAG and the 11-19 partnership with some direction and engagement opportunities to all those organisations working with and for young people and to make sure that everyone’s work has a coordinated approach.
- 1.11 The strategy has an action plan attached to it which highlights what is already being undertaken by the council.