



TO COUNCILLOR:

N Alam
C J R Martin

R E R Morris
C A M Walter (Chair)

And To Whom It May Concern

I invite you to attend the following meeting to consider and discuss the items on the agenda below.

Meeting: Children & Young Peoples' Forum
Date & Time: Friday, 22 November 2024, 7.00 pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams
Contact: Mark Smith (Community Safety & Youth Officer)
t: (0116) 257 2675
e: mark.smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Council Offices
Oadby
13 November 2024

Anne E Court
Chief Executive



Meeting ID: 2725

ITEM NO.

AGENDA

PAGE NO'S

Microsoft Teams | Joining Instructions

This meeting will take place as a remote audio-video conference.

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 317 987 548 535

Passcode: VoW2zr

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Apologies for Absence | |
| 2. CYP Forum Terms of Reference | 3 |
| 3. Draft Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-27 | 4 - 22 |
| 4. Youth ASB Update | |



Postal Address: Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ

Refuse & Recycling Centre: The Depot, Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JE

Telephone: (0116) 288 8961 **Email:** customer.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



oadby-wigston.gov.uk

~ Page 1 ~



OadbyWigstonBC



@Oadby_Wigston

5. **Youth Council Promotion and Recruitment**
6. **Soft Touch Arts - South Wigston Development**
7. **Partner Updates**
8. **Any Other Business**
9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Access all available public meeting information, documents and live broadcasts on:



Our **website** at **oadby-wigston.gov.uk/meetings**



Our **Civico** platform at **civico.net/oadby-wigston**



Your **smart device** using the **Modern.Gov** app

Purpose

- To provide a partnership environment to discuss and coordinate matters relating to Youth Voice Work and Youth Provision in the Borough.
- To develop the Youth Strategy document for adoption by the wider Council, with buy-in from Partners.
- To encourage Partners to align their activities and resources to the Youth Strategy wherever it adds value to their workstreams.
- To monitor services for children and young people in the Borough through mystery shopping, and provide feedback to service providers on its outcome.
- To ensure that work with children and young people is primarily, but not exclusively, based around priority neighbourhoods and to identify and address areas of inequality.
- To seek funding opportunities to support young people in the Borough.
- To support and facilitate the development and operation of the Oadby & Wigston Youth Council.

Membership

- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council - Officer(s) and Elected Members
- Leicestershire County Council – Children, Families and Wellbeing Service Officer(s)
- Oadby & Wigston Youth Council – Nominated Member(s)
- Providers of Youth Provision in the Borough – Professional and Voluntary Sectors
- Further attendees can be invited to attend to give specific perspectives due to their expertise.

Review

- A review of these Terms of Reference will take place annually or where there are significant changes to the Purpose, or relevant legislation.

Meetings

- Meeting dates will be determined by the Chair and the Council's Democratic Services Team annually, with meetings to take place quarterly.
- The Chair will be the Elected Member with the Young Peoples' Remit.
- Meetings will take place via Microsoft Teams, although face to face meetings can be facilitated at the Chair's discretion.

Meeting Records

- All Minutes and Actions from this Forum will be recorded on the Council's established system, Mod.Gov, and published accordingly on the Council's website.

Youth Engagement Strategy

2024 - 2027

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction..... | 2 |
| About Young People in Oadby & Wigston..... | 3 |
| Youth Provision..... | 8 |
| Youth Voice..... | 10 |
| Youth Council..... | 12 |
| Moving Forward / Strategic Objectives..... | 14 |
| Appendix A – Population Data..... | 16 |
| Appendix B – Existing Borough Youth Provision..... | 18 |

Introduction

This document outlines how Oadby & Wigston Borough Council (“The Council”) will, over the next three financial years, work to engage with and provide opportunities for young people aged 11 - 19 years (or 10 - 25 years for care leavers or those with learning difficulties or disabilities) who live, work, or school in the Borough, or regularly visit youth provision within it.

Our Youth Engagement Strategy sets out the overall vision and objectives of the Council for young people and their families to engage with, and shape the future of, the services locally that affect and benefit them.

Through this strategy the Council evidences its commitment to place young people and their families at the core of our services and activities by involving them directly in developing, shaping, commissioning, delivering, and evaluating services that influence or affect their daily lives.

Our commitment ensures that young people and their families will have the confidence, skills and ability to speak out, and that the Council will talk with, listen to, and value young people in our community. We will ensure that young people and their families are provided opportunities, and given choices, to actively participate in decisions that affect them at a time and level which is right for them. The Council will also respond to the views and feedback of young people by reviewing and amending our services, or developing new services, as required.

These commitments are grouped together under the principle of ‘Youth Voice’, and will be aligned with the work and practices of all the Council’s teams and services, as well as broader workstreams involving partner agencies and community engagement such as the Community Safety Partnership and resident forums.

All percentages given in this strategy document are stated to the nearest whole number.

About Young People in Oadby & Wigston

The 2021 Census found that 24% (14,069 individuals) of the Borough’s total population of 57,762 were aged 19 years or under, with 7,703 individuals (14% of the total population) falling within the 10 - 19 age range¹.

It should be noted, however, that a disproportionate number of 18 - 19 year olds reside in the Oadby area due to the University of Leicester student accommodation found within the Oadby Grange Ward. The figures stated above, therefore, are not a true reflection of the 10 - 19 population residing full time in the area. This statistic also skews the Borough’s total population figures by a variable amount annually.

A conservative estimate of the true figures, arrived at by removing the Oadby Grange Ward’s 2021 Census data from the calculations (1,247 individuals aged 18 - 19), provides the table below.

| Age | Oadby | | Wigston | | South Wigston | | Total Population | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total 0 - 9 | 2,592 | 11% | 2,760 | 11% | 1,014 | 12% | 6,366 | 11% |
| Total 10 - 19* | 2,728 | 12% | 2,857 | 11% | 871 | 11% | 6,456 | 11% |
| Total 20 - 64 | 12,722 | 56% | 13,929 | 54% | 4,727 | 58% | 31,378 | 56% |
| Total 65+ | 4,752 | 21% | 6,052 | 24% | 1,511 | 19% | 12,315 | 22% |
| Borough Total | 22,794 | 40% | 25,598 | 45% | 8,123 | 14% | 56,515 | 100% |

* Amended.

This revision means that 22% (12,822 individuals) of the Borough’s total population (revised to 56,515 individuals) is now aged 19 years or under, with 6,456 individuals (11% of the total population) falling within the 10 - 19 age range. This statistic is marginally lower than Leicestershire² (12%) and the East Midlands (12%).

Across the Borough’s ten Wards, with the above noted amendments, most populations average between 10% - 13% aged 10 - 19 years. Oadby Brocks Hill, Oadby Uplands, Oadby Woodlands and Wigston Fields have, on average, the highest 10 – 19 years populations at 13%.

This dataset is the basis for all additional statistics presented throughout this document.

¹ All data sourced via www.nomisweb.co.uk Census 2021 interrogation tools.

² Excluding Leicester City and Rutland.

In addition to age, the ethnic and cultural composition of the Borough is diverse. The overall Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population, i.e. residents in categories other than White British³, is 40% (22,731 people). This figure is 2.5 times the Leicestershire average of 16% seen in the 2021 Census.

| Ethnicity | Leicestershire* | | Oadby & Wigston | | Variance |
|---------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|----------|
| White British | 595,796 | 84% | 33,786 | 60% | 24% |
| BAME | 116,570 | 16% | 22,731 | 40% | |

* Excluding Leicester City and Rutland.

The ethnic composition of the Borough’s three distinct settlement areas is highlighted below. Oadby in particular has a significantly higher percentage of BAME residents than Wigston or South Wigston, with the second highest BAME population in the East Midlands next to Leicester City.

| Ethnicity | Oadby | | Wigston | | South Wigston | | Totals | |
|---------------|--------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|-----|--------|-----|
| White British | 7,749 | 34% | 19,252 | 75% | 6,785 | 84% | 33,786 | 60% |
| BAME | 15,051 | 66% | 6,355 | 25% | 1,325 | 16% | 22,731 | 40% |

By compiling available Ethnicity by Age by Ward data collected through the 2021 Census, and incorporating the population amendment for the Oadby Grange Ward as noted in this section, the following table is produced showing the ethnic composition of the Borough by age bracket.

| Age | White British | | BAME | | Total Population | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total 0 - 9 | 2,984 | 9% | 3,390 | 15% | 6,374 | 11% |
| Total 10 - 19 | 3,171 | 9% | 3,289 | 14% | 6,460 | 11% |
| Total 20 - 64 | 17,667 | 52% | 13,704 | 60% | 31,371 | 56% |
| Total 65+ | 9,964 | 29% | 2,348 | 10% | 12,312 | 22% |
| Borough Total | 33,786 | 60% | 22,731 | 40% | 56,517 | 100% |

The ethnic composition informed by the population changes within the 10 - 19 age range now shows 49% (3,171 individuals) identifying as White British, and 51% (3,289 individuals) identifying as BAME. It is only within the 65+ age range where the majority of individuals identify as White British at 81% (9,964 individuals).

³ Comprised of individuals identifying as English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British.

Oadby & Wigston – Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-27

A full overview of the Borough’s population by age, settlement area, and ethnicity can be found in *Appendix A*.

Annual official statistics on the number of children (aged under 16 years) living in Relative Low-Income Families in Oadby & Wigston, compiled by the Department for Work & Pensions⁴, highlight that at the end of the 2019-20 financial year 13% of children (1,466 individuals) in the Borough were living in Relative Poverty. This is below the National figure of 19% and has remained consistent (within 2% - 3%) since the 2014-15 financial year.

Provisional data for Oadby & Wigston in the 2020-21 financial year, the most current available data as of February 2023, shows this figure decreasing to 1,384 children but remaining at 13%.

A breakdown of the above data by individual Council Wards is shown below.

| Children in Relative Low-Income Families | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21(p) |
| Oadby Brocks Hill | 72 | 75 | 91 | 65 | 55 | 73 | 65 |
| Oadby Grange | 109 | 106 | 89 | 80 | 70 | 75 | 97 |
| Oadby St Peter’s | 95 | 116 | 120 | 142 | 150 | 172 | 136 |
| Oadby Uplands | 107 | 121 | 125 | 117 | 121 | 138 | 113 |
| Oadby Woodlands | 90 | 91 | 100 | 107 | 84 | 86 | 58 |
| South Wigston | 243 | 254 | 289 | 299 | 240 | 286 | 279 |
| Wigston All Saints | 104 | 118 | 140 | 114 | 109 | 97 | 115 |
| Wigston Fields | 229 | 275 | 267 | 243 | 219 | 236 | 211 |
| Wigston Meadowcourt | 112 | 119 | 134 | 173 | 111 | 143 | 147 |
| Wigston St Wolstan’s | 124 | 129 | 189 | 146 | 133 | 160 | 163 |
| Borough Totals | 1,285 | 1,404 | 1,544 | 1,486 | 1,292 | 1,466 | 1,384 |

(p) – Provisional Data.

Relative Low-Income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the referenced year. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Absolute Low-Income is defined as per Relative Low-Income but in comparison with Incomes in the 2010-11 financial year.

⁴ Available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2021>

At the end of the 2019-20 financial year 11% of children (1,226 individuals) in the Borough were living in Absolute Poverty. This is significantly below the National figure of 16% and has remained consistent (within 2% - 3%) since the 2014-15 financial year.

Provisional data for Oadby & Wigston in the 2020-21 financial year, the most current available data as of February 2023, shows this figure decreasing to 1,082 children (10%).

A breakdown of the above data by individual Council Wards is shown below.

| Children in Absolute Low-Income Families | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21(p) |
| Oadby Brocks Hill | 73 | 65 | 77 | 57 | 42 | 61 | 39 |
| Oadby Grange | 108 | 97 | 84 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 89 |
| Oadby St Peter's | 90 | 110 | 99 | 122 | 131 | 141 | 119 |
| Oadby Uplands | 107 | 105 | 111 | 90 | 110 | 125 | 98 |
| Oadby Woodlands | 90 | 83 | 89 | 92 | 67 | 71 | 46 |
| South Wigston | 245 | 226 | 245 | 261 | 191 | 244 | 206 |
| Wigston All Saints | 107 | 109 | 113 | 102 | 101 | 72 | 88 |
| Wigston Fields | 226 | 253 | 246 | 195 | 165 | 192 | 159 |
| Wigston Meadowcourt | 107 | 105 | 112 | 130 | 81 | 121 | 99 |
| Wigston St Wolstan's | 121 | 122 | 153 | 142 | 107 | 130 | 139 |
| Borough Totals | 1,274 | 1,275 | 1,329 | 1,258 | 1,063 | 1,226 | 1,082 |

(p) – Provisional Data

Within both sets of statistics South Wigston, Wigston Fields, and Wigston St Wolstan's are the three Council Wards with the highest number of children living in poverty as per the 2020-21 provisional data.

The above data closely follows the Borough's statistics regarding individuals aged 17 years or older who have achieved a post-16 (Level 3 or Higher) qualification. With a Borough wide average of 49% of the population (23,325 individuals aged 17+) having never gained any post-16 qualifications, six of the Borough's 10 Council Wards have the same or higher figures;

- South Wigston, 58% (3,775 individuals)
- Wigston All Saints, 57% (2,826 individuals)
- Wigston Fields, 56% (3,057 individuals)
- Oadby Grange, 50% (2,621 individuals)
- Oadby St Peter's, 49% (1,814 individuals)

Oadby & Wigston – Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-27

- Wigston Meadowcourt, 49% (2,636 individuals)

The figures for Leicestershire (excluding Leicester City and Rutland), by comparison, show 46% of the total population (272,540 individuals) holding no post-16 qualifications.

Youth Provision

Post-Covid, youth provision in the Borough is now comprised of 21 separate groups based within Oadby, Wigston, or South Wigston, and one youth club situated just over the Leicester border, within Eyres Monsell, with a catchment covering South Wigston and the surrounding area (See 'Appendix B'). This figure discounts sports clubs as they are, usually, open to all ages and supported directly by their sport's national body.

The existing groups are primarily uniformed or religious groups, such as Scouting and young Christian groups, which often presents a barrier to young people seeking a sense of ownership or inclusion within a social setting. Only four of the combined 22 groups offer generic, open-access youth provision that meets this young person set criteria.

The landscape of post-Covid youth provision in the Borough can be directly attributed to two main factors;

1. The resilience of groups with access to funding from, and the backing of, a national governing body or movement with the ability to survive an extended period of reduced income, and
2. Access to grant funds, or other income streams, with which comes a set of specific criteria that must be achieved in order to qualify for the funding.

Generic, open-access youth provision usually does not meet either of the above case examples and provision in this category has, as a result, faced significant hardship since March 2020 due to their primary 'hand to mouth' income, such as weekly subs, evaporating as lockdown and other Covid measures came into effect. For many groups any reserve funding they may have had access to has, due to the extended period of closure, been utilised to cover overheads present regardless of the provision they offer operating or not. Similarly the number of grant schemes available that can provide support to generic provision has decreased dramatically as specific outcomes are chased to justify future funding opportunities.

Staff retention, due to the above, is also proving to be a barrier to the successful reopening of youth provision in the Borough, as well as its reinvigoration, with some groups unable to pay workers for their time or cover expenses for volunteers.

Additional local provision exists in the Borough in the form of recreational infrastructure (excluding paid leisure infrastructure), such as Wigston and South Wigston's skate parks, 'green gym' equipment in parks across the three settlement areas, and play equipment for children in the majority of the Council's parks. This provision does not form part of any formal youth work however due to its nature, but can be utilised by existing or future groups as a resource. Presently these spaces are used by young people as informal social extensions, often fulfilling the role of 'somewhere to go' and / or 'something to do' in lieu of organised provision.

Oadby & Wigston – Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-27

These spaces are infrequently utilised by detached youth work teams within the Borough, with a remit of engaging with young people 'on their own turf'. These detached teams fulfil a number of roles but are more commonly, particularly during the Covid pandemic and the immediate post-Covid period, deployed in response to ongoing or increasing youth-related anti-social behaviour within identified hotspot areas.

Traditionally detached youth work teams would be an extension of existing provision, signposting young people to established groups or support that they could access. With limited open-access youth provision in the Borough, by volume and accessibility, the effectiveness of detached youth work has been diminished by Covid.

Additionally, a number of background resources and engagement routes for young people, developed and delivered primarily by Leicestershire County Council, have ceased since this Council's previous ten year youth strategy was published in 2005. These included websites that acted as a directory for youth services locally and across the County, forums and messages boards for young people where campaigns and information could be distributed, printed youth newsletters (including a dedicated issue of this Council's former newsletter, 'Letterbox'), radio projects, and significant participation across all youth provision in Local Democracy Week and similar initiatives nationally.

The loss of these resources can be attributed to a substantial reduction in funding for youth services seen in the County in 2014-15 as a response to budget cuts made by Central Government. These cuts are seen as the impetus for the emphasis on outcome driven, non-generic youth work seen presently across the country, and for the closure of much of the County Council operated youth provision across Leicestershire. Their absence presents a barrier to accessing remaining youth provision as there is no central information resource available to young people or their parents / carers, or that can be promoted by those working in, or adjacent to, youth work.

Youth Voice

This strategy utilises the literal definition of participation as ‘the action of taking part’. Engagement is defined as the genuine involvement of young people in service planning and decision making. ‘Youth Voice’ is the combination of these two definitions, and is supported by Article 12 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, of which the United Kingdom is a signatory.

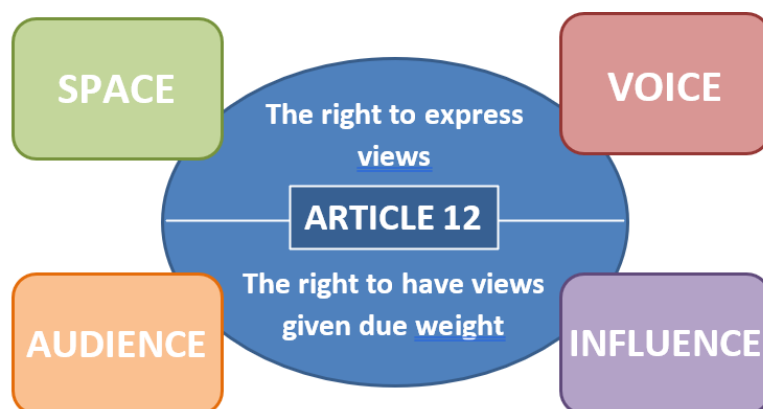
Article 12 confirms that;

1. Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

Youth Voice within the Council shall, at its heart, afford young people and their families the following;

- The opportunity to be involved in decision making,
- The right to have a say in services that affect them,
- The ability to influence and shape outcomes,
- The right to be listened to, and assurances that they will be heard, and
- The right to be informed of the impact their views and ideas have had.

The above, and the Council’s responsibilities under Article 12, will be practiced through the deployment of the Lundy Model of Participation. This framework has already been successfully incorporated into the youth engagement approaches at both Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council, as well as a number of different authorities at various tiers across the country.



The Lundy Model of Participation, Professor Laura Lundy (2007)

Oadby & Wigston – Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-27

The Lundy Model, shown overleaf, provides a way of conceptualising Article 12 which is intended to focus decision-makers on the distinct, albeit interrelated, elements of the provision. The four elements have a rational chronological order;

- **SPACE:** Provide a safe and inclusive space for young people to form and express their views.
- **VOICE:** Provide appropriate information and facilitate the expression of young people's views.
- **AUDIENCE:** Ensure that young people's views are communicated to someone with the responsibility to listen.
- **INFLUENCE:** Ensure that young people's views are taken seriously and acted upon, where appropriate.

The Council will ensure that these four elements are considered in any formal participation groups, voice related activity, and any direct work with individual young people.

The Council will also take proactive steps to ensure that the following 'non-participation' elements are avoided;

- **TOKENISM:** Young people appear to be given a choice, but in reality they have little or no choice about what they do or how they participate.
- **DECORATION:** Young people are used to help a cause in an indirect way on an issue not inspired by young people.
- **MANIPULATION:** Young people are used by adults to support causes under the pretence that things are inspired by young people.

Youth Council

The Council is fortunate to have facilitated the longest continuous Youth Council in Leicestershire, and to have Elected Members recognise the importance of Youth Voice by holding a remit for young people as part of the Councillor role. Despite the direct involvement of Elected Members within the Oadby & Wigston Youth Council it remains a politically neutral group.

The Youth Council will be instrumental in the development, delivery, and sustainability of this Youth Engagement Strategy, and forms the foundation of Youth Voice work across the Council. This is developed on the back of the Youth Council's previous, and current, workstreams and campaigns.

Currently the Youth Council is scheduled to meet on a monthly basis to discuss local youth issues, such as youth provision and engagement, alongside County and National level issues and campaigns as influenced by CYCLe (the County Youth Council) and the UK Youth Parliament ("UKYP").

In line with the Youth Council's own Terms of Reference, voting membership of the Youth Council is available to any young person aged 11-19 who lives, works, or schools in the Borough, or regularly attends a youth group or project based in the Borough. The Borough's representatives for CYCLe and UKYP are also eligible for voting membership regardless of geographic location to assist collaborative working across the varied tiers of youth government.

The Youth Council is directly supported by the Council Officer with responsibility for children and young people, and the Elected Member nominated as Young Persons' Champion.

The rights guaranteed under Article 12 sit at the core of the Youth Council, with the Lundy model evidenced through its work and approaches. Through this the Youth Council is, as seen by neighbouring authorities in recent years looking at Oadby & Wigston as best practice for the development of their own youth councils, known to be;

- Fair and Democratic,
- Representative of the diverse community of young people present in the Borough,
- Accessible to all young people, and
- Able to effectively engage with Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

At a minimum the Youth Council's voting membership is expected to be made up of 11 young people, comprising the following;

- 3 x Young People per Settlement Area (Oadby, Wigston, and South Wigston)
- 1 x CYCLe Representative for Oadby & Wigston

Oadby & Wigston – Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-27

- 1 x Member of Youth Parliament for East Midlands

Where possible each of the seven secondary schools and colleges in the Borough, particularly where those schools operate a School Council, should also be represented on the Youth Council. This can be in addition to the above membership, or with a young person representing both their Council Ward and school or college, as there is no upper limit on the number of young people who can have Youth Council membership.

Through this strategy the Council will look to expand membership of the Youth Council to ensure the inclusion of representatives of the following groups or communities where applicable to the Borough;

- Young Parents
- Young Carers
- Young People with Additional Support Needs and Disabilities
- LGBTQ+ Community
- BAME Community

The work of the Youth Council is reported to the Council's Children and Young People's Forum, the purpose of which is to ensure that Youth Voice is heard and recognised by the Council. Through the Children and Young People's Forum information can be filtered through to Full Council meetings, where all Elected Members can be made aware of the views, needs, and wants of young people, as well as enabling a formal process where actions supported by / developed via the Youth Council can be incorporated into the Council's own workstreams for action and monitoring.

Locally the Youth Council has perhaps been the most significant casualty in terms of services offered to the community by the Council, with a successful meeting of the Youth Council having last taken place in February 2020. Predominantly this is due to the necessary national closure of schools and youth provision throughout the pandemic directly impacting on the Youth Council's ability to recruit new members, and the decline of existing Youth Council membership as individuals moved on to further education or employment opportunities. Meetings of the Youth Council, when reconvened virtually, were often not quorate, as per the Youth Council's Terms of Reference, and by the time it was suitable to hold in person meetings membership had declined to a fully non-quorate level.

Moving Forward / Strategic Objectives

The current landscape of youth provision locally is both fractured and limited, with challenges around funding, staffing, and limiting access criteria. Youth Voice is not captured outside of general surveys and consultations, with engagement in these from young people being minimal as they are not tooled specifically to attract their input.

Schools appear largely reluctant to engage with external services as a lasting consequence of Covid-19, and the reduced services operating locally are doing so largely independently from one-another.

The mechanisms available for young people to engage in local democracy, recognised by the UK Youth Parliament as an integral part of forming 'A Curriculum for Life', are marginal at a County level and stalled locally with the Youth Council currently being inoperable due to a lack of members.

The sense of ownership and belonging in the Borough for young people, especially those aged 11-19 as a core group, is understood to be very low, and is replicated nationally outside of large towns and cities due to continued central reductions in youth services. Students who attend college within the Borough, or live within student accommodation locally, are often a transient group, whose skills and qualifications do not remain within the local community after their studies conclude, due to there being a perception of 'nothing to return to' in the Borough.

In effect, the opportunity now exists to reshape the landscape of youth provision locally into something greater, with enhanced networking, superior youth involvement, and a much wider offer of provision influenced by both statistical data and the views of the Borough's youth community. This development, and a commitment to engaging young people in local democracy, is intended to provide a greater sense of belonging and ownership for young people in Oadby, Wigston, and South Wigston, alongside providing meaningful services and activities for them to participate in.

By taking action to address current youth provision now, the Council can develop the sense of community felt by young people and strengthen the quality and impact of its work for all residents.

To achieve this five overarching Strategic Objectives are recommended as part of this three-year strategy, detailed below;

- 1) A network of youth provision providers in Oadby & Wigston is developed, allowing for the sharing of best practice, resources, and cross-promotion / signposting.
- 2) Youth Voice becomes an active consideration for the Council at all levels, particularly within service delivery and forward planning.

Oadby & Wigston – Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-27

- 3) Young people are empowered and supported to shape and assess the quality of youth services in the Borough.
- 4) The sense of community and belonging amongst young people aged 11-19 years is increased.
- 5) Young people are actively engaged within local democracy, with an overall goal of the Borough electing a Youth Mayor to be the first citizen for young people.

Annual plans containing Tactical Actions will be developed to realise the Strategic Objectives within the three-year timeframe. These Tactical Actions will have clear, measurable outcomes to quantify success, and progress against them will be reported on to the Children and Young People's Forum.

The Children and Young People's Forum will sit as a strategic partnership incorporating representatives from local youth provision, including both formal and informal settings such as schools and church groups, to drive forward the Strategic Objectives recommended here and ensure the success of the supporting Tactical Actions annually.

Overall responsibility for the development of work under this Strategic Plan will sit with the Council's Community Safety and Youth Officer, with support from the wider Community and Wellbeing Team, and other teams and service areas within the Council as required.

Appendix A – Population Data

Table A: Population by Age by Settlement Area (Census 2021)

| Age | Oadby | | Wigston | | South Wigston | | Whole Borough | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0 - 4 years | 1,109 | 4.9% | 1,247 | 4.9% | 509 | 6.3% | 2,865 | 5.1% |
| 5 - 7 years | 859 | 3.8% | 894 | 3.5% | 299 | 3.7% | 2,052 | 3.6% |
| 8 - 9 years | 624 | 2.7% | 619 | 2.4% | 206 | 2.5% | 1,449 | 2.6% |
| 0 - 9 years | 2,592 | 11.4% | 2,760 | 10.8% | 1,014 | 12.5% | 6,366 | 11.3% |
| 10 - 14 years | 1,539 | 6.8% | 1,471 | 5.7% | 468 | 5.8% | 3,478 | 6.2% |
| 15 years | 291 | 1.3% | 295 | 1.2% | 102 | 1.3% | 688 | 1.2% |
| 16 - 17 years | 576 | 2.5% | 602 | 2.4% | 158 | 1.9% | 1,336 | 2.4% |
| 18 - 19 years* | 322 | 1.4% | 489 | 1.9% | 143 | 1.8% | 954 | 1.7% |
| 10 - 19 years | 2,728 | 12.0% | 2,857 | 11.2% | 871 | 10.7% | 6,456 | 11.4% |
| 20 - 24 years | 1,291 | 5.7% | 1,182 | 4.6% | 448 | 5.5% | 2,921 | 5.2% |
| 25 - 29 years | 1,189 | 5.2% | 1,391 | 5.4% | 582 | 7.2% | 3,162 | 5.6% |
| 30 - 44 years | 4,252 | 18.7% | 4,656 | 18.2% | 1,627 | 20.0% | 10,535 | 18.6% |
| 45 - 59 years | 4,520 | 19.8% | 5,091 | 19.9% | 1,627 | 20.0% | 11,238 | 19.9% |
| 60 - 64 years | 1,470 | 6.4% | 1,609 | 6.3% | 443 | 5.5% | 3,522 | 6.2% |
| 20 - 64 years | 12,722 | 55.8% | 13,929 | 54.4% | 4,727 | 58.2% | 31,378 | 55.5% |
| 65 - 74 years | 2,336 | 10.2% | 2,982 | 11.6% | 724 | 8.9% | 6,042 | 10.7% |
| 75 - 84 years | 1,579 | 6.9% | 2,085 | 8.1% | 574 | 7.1% | 4,238 | 7.5% |
| 85+ years | 837 | 3.7% | 985 | 3.9% | 213 | 2.6% | 2,035 | 3.6% |
| 65+ years | 4,752 | 20.8% | 6,052 | 23.6% | 1,511 | 18.6% | 12,315 | 21.8% |
| Total Population | 22,794 | 40.3% | 25,598 | 45.3% | 8,123 | 14.4% | 56,515 | 100.0% |

* Amended (1,247 individuals removed, see 'About Young People in Oadby & Wigston').

Table B: Population by Age by Ethnicity (Census 2021)

| Age | White British* | | BAME | | Total Population | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| 0 - 4 years | 1,324 | 3.9% | 1,541 | 6.8% | 2,865 | 5.1% |
| 5 - 7 years | 973 | 2.9% | 1,084 | 4.8% | 2,057 | 3.6% |
| 8 - 9 years | 687 | 2.0% | 765 | 3.4% | 1,452 | 2.6% |
| 0 - 9 Years | 2,984 | 8.8% | 3,390 | 14.9% | 6,374 | 11.3% |
| 10 - 14 years | 1,654 | 4.9% | 1,821 | 8.0% | 3,475 | 6.1% |
| 15 years | 323 | 1.0% | 365 | 1.6% | 688 | 1.2% |
| 16 - 17 years | 657 | 1.9% | 685 | 3.0% | 1,342 | 2.4% |
| 18 - 19 years** | 537 | 1.6% | 418 | 1.8% | 955 | 1.7% |
| 10 - 19 Years | 3,171 | 9.4% | 3,289 | 14.5% | 6,460 | 11.4% |
| 20 - 24 years | 1,682 | 5.0% | 1,244 | 5.5% | 2,926 | 5.2% |
| 25 - 29 years | 1,787 | 5.3% | 1,376 | 6.1% | 3,163 | 5.6% |
| 30 - 44 years | 5,026 | 14.9% | 5,497 | 24.2% | 10,523 | 18.6% |
| 45 - 59 years | 6,774 | 20.0% | 4,461 | 19.6% | 11,235 | 19.9% |
| 60 - 64 years | 2,398 | 7.1% | 1,126 | 5.0% | 3,524 | 6.2% |
| 20 - 64 Years | 17,667 | 52.3% | 13,704 | 60.3% | 31,371 | 55.5% |
| 65 - 74 years | 4,587 | 13.6% | 1,449 | 6.4% | 6,036 | 10.7% |
| 75 - 84 years | 3,570 | 10.6% | 672 | 3.0% | 4,242 | 7.5% |
| 85+ years | 1,807 | 5.3% | 227 | 1.0% | 2,034 | 3.6% |
| 65+ Years | 9,964 | 29.5% | 2,348 | 10.3% | 12,312 | 21.8% |
| Total Population | 33,786 | 59.8% | 22,731 | 40.2% | 56,517 | 100.0% |

* Comprised of Individuals identifying as English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British.

** Amended (1,247 individuals removed, see 'About Young People in Oadby & Wigston').

Appendix B – Existing Borough Youth Provision

Oadby

- **Generic Provision**
 - *Oadby Youth Centre*, Wigston Road
- **Uniformed Groups**
 - *41st / 58th Oadby Scout Group*, Woodland Grange Primary School, Beaufort Way
 - *88th Oadby Scout Group*, St Peters Church Hall, Wigston Road
 - *1st Oadby Boys Brigade*, Oadby Baptist Church, Leicester Road
- **Religious Groups**
 - *Oadby Baptist Church*, Leicester Road
 - *Oadby Youth Project*

Wigston

- **Generic Provision**
 - *Wigston Club for Young People*, Thythorn Hill Community Centre, Horsewell Lane
- **Uniformed Groups**
 - *TS Elizabeth Sea Cadets*, Wigston College, Station Road
 - *28th / 61st Wigston Scout Group*, Central Avenue
 - *112th Leicester Scout Group*, Little Hill Primary School, Launceston Road
 - *99th Wigston Scout Group*, Methodist Church, Moat Street
 - *14th Leicester Boys Brigade*, Wigston United Reformed Church, Long Street
- **Religious Groups**
 - *Thursday-Night Inferno*, Hope Church, The King's Centre, Bull Head Street
 - *Youth @ Life Church*, Life Church, Frederick Street

South Wigston

- **Generic Provision**
 - *Step Out Youth Group*, Elliott Hall, Albion Street
- **Uniformed Groups**
 - *Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland Army Cadet Force*, Tigers Road
 - *1st South Wigston Boys Brigade*, Eyres Monsell Baptist Free Church, Dorset Avenue
- **Religious Groups**
 - *Youth at St Mary's*, St Mary's RC Church, Countesthorpe Road
 - *Salvation Army Youth Zone*, Ladysmith Road

Whole Borough Coverage / External Catchment

- **Generic Provision**
 - *Eyres Monsell Club for Young People*, Whittenev Drive South, Eyres Monsell
- **Uniformed Groups**
 - *Police Cadets*
 - *Girlguiding Oadby & Wigston Division*