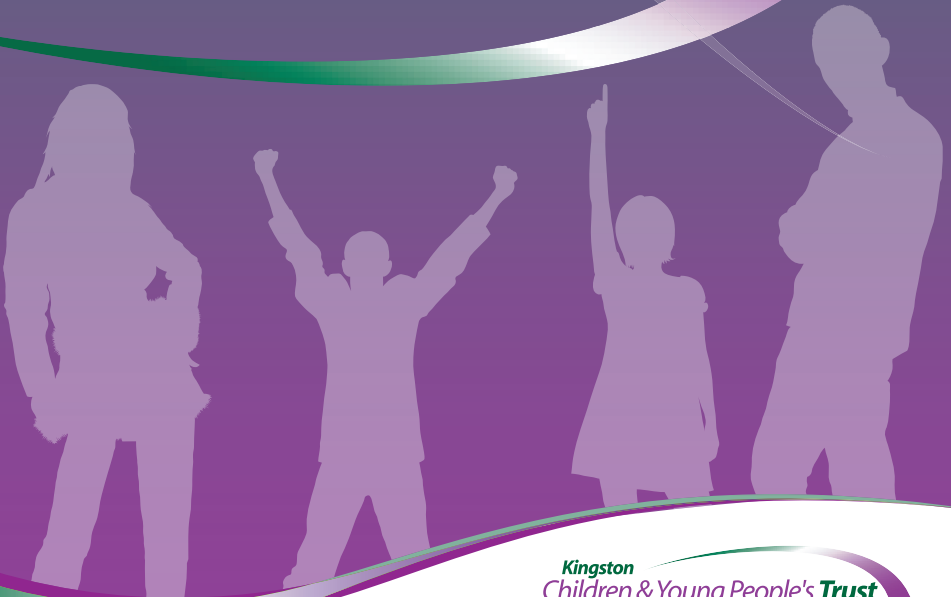


Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames



# Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2013

This summary has been written by  
young people for young people



*Kingston*  
**Children & Young People's Trust**  
*Making a Difference Together*



## The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames **Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2013**

Kingston's Children and Young People's Trust, made up of the Council and a range of partners (including the Police, Health and Schools), takes the wellbeing of children and young people very seriously. After consulting widely, including young people, they have produced a "Children and Young People's Plan", which sets out ideas that will improve the life of children and young people from now to 2013.

**The aims are to make sure that children and young people are:**

- **Being Healthy**
- **Staying Safe**
- **Enjoying and Achieving**
- **Making a Positive Contribution**
- **Achieving Economic Wellbeing**

This **Children and Young People's Plan** has been made to give young people - just like you - more information on their rights and what is being done to improve the quality of life of young people in Kingston. Many different organisations contributed and worked together in the making of this plan, which sets out what will happen for children and young people until 2013. So spend a few minutes of your time reading this and learn a bit more about what's planned for your future.

### **Young people have told us that they want:**

- more sports activities in schools
- more help and advice with education and employment choices
- better, healthier school meals
- more activities for young people
- better advice on health issues
- better support when changing to secondary schools
- opportunity to be involved and have a say on services in Kingston

## Being Healthy

### At the moment

Young people in the borough are generally very healthy. In fact, 87% of young people in Kingston say that they are healthy! In 2006, 50% of schools participated in the Healthy Schools Programme, and now the number is even higher. The number of children and young people taking part in physical education in schools has increased dramatically – now 82% of schools have achieved the Active or Sports Mark awards. Obesity rates in Year 6 children are slightly higher than the national level, but the plan to stop rising levels of child obesity has progressed well. Kingston also has very few teenage pregnancies compared to other areas.

### The Plan

- lower the rates of childhood obesity
- create a better substance abuse strategy
- improve the help given to children and young people with emotional difficulties and mental health problems
- reduce availability and waiting times for health services for children and young people
- have all schools participate in the Healthy Schools programme
- reduce number of cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections and teenage pregnancies

## Staying Safe

### At the moment

Children's care, welfare and safety are very good in Kingston. Most young people feel safe in the community. There is a low rate of road accidents, and the incidence of child abuse and neglect has gone down. Children who are referred to the Social Services Safeguarding Team receive a fast response, meaning that foster places can be found sooner. Good progress has also been made in reducing bullying in schools.

### The Plan

- closer monitoring and support for children
- minimise the impact of domestic violence and better support to the families involved.
- improve support for young people in foster care

## Enjoying and Achieving

### At the moment

A large majority of schools in Kingston are already good or outstanding and children and young people do well in their exams. Kingston offers support for young people from a very young age, so it is no surprise that the attendance rate in schools is excellent, and there continues to be a low exclusion rate. Disadvantaged children and young people are being targeted to receive extra support, so that they can be just as successful as others in the borough. About 78% of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities are employed or in education / training, which is a massive improvement. However, the level of young offenders in education, employment or training is still lower than it should be.

### The Plan

- to support young people in making a successful move to adult life, continuing education and employment
- to expand the range of accredited learning opportunities for disadvantaged or vulnerable groups
- the YOS (Youth Offending Service) will improve prospects for young offenders and try and offer more opportunities to take part in education or employment, as well as reduce risk of re-offending
- further consulting with children and young people to improve services in Kingston, and introducing more activities for young people
- to improve levels of pupil motivation, behaviour and attendance in school, and to support all young people throughout their education

# Making a Positive Contribution

## At the moment

There are many opportunities to contribute and make a difference. As well as the Council's website for young people, YoungLivin', young people in the borough can join their school council or Kingston Youth Council for a chance to really make an impact in the running of Kingston borough. There are many youth centres that run throughout the year, with facilities to take part in arts and music, sports and much more. Recently there has been the opening of the successful Basement Youth Café, which offers many activities geared towards young people.

The government also gives Kingston money each year to be spent for young people, by young people. This is called the Youth Opportunities Fund. So, if you have an issue that you want to change, any young person can apply for a grant of up to £5000.

## The Plan

- a new Youth Participation Strategy will ensure that more young people make positive contributions to their community
- every year, a new Member of Youth Parliament for Kingston is elected. This young person, aged 11 - 18, is responsible for promoting the voice of young people within Kingston. This plan aims to increase their profile and get a higher voter turnout
- consultations with the youth of Kingston over important issues, with information and answers given back afterwards





## Achieving Economic Wellbeing

### At the moment

Overall, Kingston's youth are high achievers. The number of young people in Kingston without a qualification is quite low. Thanks to advice given from schools and Connexions, which provides information on jobs and education, most people are either in education, employment or training. In 2008-09, 96% of Year 11 students from Kingston schools received an offer of post 16 education, employment and training. In fact, Kingston has a very low number of NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) compared with the national average.

### The Plan

- further reduce the number of NEETs by giving young people a wider range of opportunities and choices, such as vocational teaching instead of the traditional route, which focuses on just doing well in exams. The plan aims to provide more courses like these, and improve existing courses
- increase the number of young people from low income families taking part in post-16 education, training and higher education, as well as improving their economic well being
- create more activities and opportunities for disadvantaged young people that can help them achieve accredited outcomes

## Conclusion

As you can see, the **Children and Young People's Plan** could bring about some worthwhile changes. But what are the key aims of the plan? By 2012, the following improvements will have been brought in:

- 70% of students at GCSE will achieve 5 or more A\* - C grades
- Almost all children going into year 7 will be offered a place at one of their preferred schools
- There will be more 14 – 19 Learning Diplomas
- No more than 16% of children aged 11 will be obese
- Almost all young people will participate in at least 2 hours of sport at school
- There will be a 40% reduction in teenage pregnancy from 1998 levels
- No more than 2.5% of 16- 18 year olds should be NEETs
- There should be no more than 373 families in temporary accommodation
- Most youth offenders should be in education, employment or training
- There will be a reduction in the number of youth offenders
- 80% of looked after children should have a stable foster placement
- 95% of care leavers should be in education, employment or training

**This is only a summary, so if you want the full copy of the plan please contact:**

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## What is Kingston Youth Council?

Kingston Youth Council, or simply KYC, is a group that represents the young people of Kingston. KYC is made up of a variety of young people from different schools, ethnic and cultural backgrounds from the ages of 13 to 19.

KYC meet once a month to discuss issues that they believe matter to young people, they have recently put together a manifesto covering the following areas: Crime and Safety, Travel and Transport, Positive Activities, Better Communication with Councillors, Bullying Issues, and Building on Better Communities. It may all sound like work, work, work, but the youth workers know that some members of KYC have school work and/or have a job so you can join in as much or as little as you want.

**For more information or to join KYC please find contact details below:**

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