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### What's this plan about?

This is a plan for the children and young people who live, study in, or visit the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It's your vision of what a good life looks like for children and young people in the borough and the things that need to change to make that happen.

A large number of you helped make this plan by sharing what's going well for you and your worries, as well as ideas about what would make your lives better and give you the best start in life.

The Youth Council, which is a group of democratically elected young people, worked with us, Richmond Council to gather as many of your views as possible, because it was important that we heard about different experiences of living in the borough.

We also spoke to some parents and carers, which helped us to understand the views of very young children so that we could include them in this plan.

Lastly, organisations that work with you and support children, young people and their families across the borough have contributed to this plan. This includes Richmond Council, Achieving for Children, the police, health services and many

organisations in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

There are four stages to this plan:

LISTEN > ACT > CHANGE > CHECK



## A message from the Youth Council

We have been working with Richmond Council to draft a very inclusive and representative Children's and Young People's Plan. Involving young people so early in the process was a fundamental step towards hearing the voices of young people in the borough.

The Kingston and Richmond Youth Council care deeply about the issues in the plan. However, as enthusiastic as the members of the Youth Council are (and we can assure you that we are all very enthusiastic), there's only so much we can do to make truly sustained change. We need help from people in power: people like you. We would therefore like you to think deeply about how you can act on the concerns raised by children and young people.

We'd like you to take an active role in collaborating and partnering with us. We invite you to tell us how much you've made change, really listen to the voices of young people, and show us that you're willing to do what it takes to deliver the actions in this plan.





"This plan needs to be different and not just another boring document."

You are at the centre of this plan: the children and young people of our borough. We asked you for your thoughts about what makes a good life, the challenges you have, and the chances there are to improve the things that are important to you.

We wanted to be sure that everything you've already told us is included in the plan. Information from consultations and the surveys you've already completed have been used to inform our priorities for change. Feedback from 19,263 children and young people in 13 different consultations and surveys has helped us to better understand what you want to achieve from this plan. It includes feedback from children aged 0 to 5 years, which has mostly been shared by their parents and carers, and direct responses from 7 to 25 year olds collected in primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, colleges, youth clubs and community groups.

#### We collected information from these consultations and surveys:

- Mi-Voice online survey for young people, 2019
- Climate change and air quality questionnaire with young people, 2019
- SEND Futures Plan consultation with young people, 2019 and 2021
- SEND young people's voices, 2020
- Richmond youth wellbeing survey, 2020
- Rocket Science's youth needs analysis for Richmond, 2020
- Kingston and Richmond Youth Council's sexual harassment in schools survey, 2020
- Kingston and Richmond Youth Council's Make Your Mark survey, 2020
- Young people's health and wellbeing survey, 2022
- Mi-Voice online survey for young people, 2022
- Children in Care Council consultation, 2022
- Kingston and Richmond Youth Council's Make Your Mark survey, 2022
- Richmond children's and young people's survey, 2022

In these consultations, the main things you told us you wanted to change were to:

- feel safer on public transport and in public places, like parks
- have better, more reliable and cleaner public transport
- get more children and young people involved in after-school and holiday activities
- do more to tackle climate change and encourage sustainable living
- include, listen to and respect the views of all children and young people
- help children and young people with their emotional health







"I want children's and young people's priorities in the plan the way we have raised them."

We used the information from the previous consultations held between 2019 and 2022 to develop a final series of consultation events with children and young people to choose the actions for this plan. This consultation was led by Richmond Council's community engagement team and the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council, who were supported by Achieving for Children.

They developed a board game which was used to talk to 181 children and young people about the chances (good things) and challenges of living in Richmond upon Thames, and what a good life in the borough would look like. The board game was especially useful in getting the views of children and young people who find it difficult to share their views in a group setting or complete surveys.

#### You told us that you want action on:

- good health, especially mental health and wellbeing
- · tackling the climate crisis
- improvements to public transport
- meaningful pathways into further education, training and work
- safety and freedom from sexual harassment, especially at night
- inclusive activities for children with special educational needs and disabilities
- reducing inequalities during the cost of living crisis

To achieve this, you wanted there to be genuine partnership working with you on a small number of achievable actions. You also wanted regular progress reports so that you can check that the agreed actions in the plan are being delivered.

In January 2023, the initial findings from the different consultation activities with children and young people were discussed at a special meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This meeting included people from the Council, Achieving for Children, the police, the NHS and voluntary sector organisations working with children, young people and families in the borough.

They discussed your feedback and what they thought should be included in this plan. They thought that more work needed to be done to find out about the needs of younger children, either by talking to them directly or by talking to their parents or carers.

They wanted to make sure that the plan celebrated the good things that are already happening for you in the borough, so that more children, young people and their families know about them and know where they can go for help.



"I want this plan to bring about real change."

#### **Our priorities**

This plan doesn't describe everything that is being done by every organisation supporting you and other children and young people in the borough. It sets out your priorities for change. We have asked the people and organisations working with children and young people in our borough to sign up to make these changes by adding them to their existing action plans and reporting back to you regularly about how well they are doing. Your priorities for change are arranged in six themes.

- Our health and wellbeing
- Protecting our environment
- Including all children and young people
- Feeling safe in our communities
- Learning and developing our skills
- Getting support for our families

We want to ensure that all children and young people benefit from the opportunities already available in Richmond upon Thames and the positive changes that this plan aims to deliver. We know that some of you may face additional challenges to taking part in activities or using services. This may be because you have special educational needs or disabilities, are a young carer, have arrived here from another country as a refugee, or because you are growing up in care.

We have made this plan with you in mind and will regularly check back with you to make sure you are included. We will do this through formal groups, such as the Children in Care Council, and through the people and organisations that help you, such as the Richmond Carers' Centre.

#### THEME 1: Our health and wellbeing



"We need to know that we are heard on issues that impact our health and wellbeing, and most importantly, we get the support we need."

The Health and Wellbeing Board will be responsible for making sure the actions in this part of the plan are delivered. Through the Youth Council and other groups, you will be invited to go to a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board at least once each year to check on the progress that has been made and challenge its members if your priorities are not on track.

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want support in schools on how to overcome peer pressure and bullying, and information on where to get help.	Increase the number of children and young people getting access to online support for peer pressure and bullying through Kooth.	NHS South West London	We will make sure that there are actions to support schools to reduce peer pressure and bullying in the following plan:  Transforming Mental Health Services for Children, Young People and their Families across South West London.
	Ensure there are mental health practitioners in all schools in the borough providing advice and support to children and young people on bullying and peer pressure.	Achieving for Children	
	Encourage schools to deliver the Healthy Schools London programme which has a good evidence-base for reducing peer pressure and bullying.	Public Health	



You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want shorter waiting times for mental health services and more support for depression and anxiety.	Reduce the waiting times for mental health services by investing in those services that have the most impact at supporting children and young people with depression and anxiety.	NHS South West London Integrated Care System	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Transforming Mental Health
	Expand the virtual waiting room to support children and young people waiting for mental health support for depression and anxiety.	NHS South West London Integrated Care System	Services for Children, Young People and their Families across South West London.
I want sexual health advice including access to free contraception, and concerns about drug and alcohol use to be discussed more in schools	Deliver activities in the youth service programme to increase young people's awareness of sexual health and risktaking behaviours (such as smoking, vaping, alcohol and drug use), and provide advice on where to go for help, including www.gettingiton.org.uk.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan.
	Expand outreach services to schools to raise awareness of drug and alcohol misuse, and provide targeted advice and support to those children and young people who need it.	Achieving for Children	
	Promote the school resources available to support delivery of relationships and sex education (RSE).	Public Health	
	Invest in relationships and sexual health training for all professionals working with children and young people to improve their knowledge and confidence in providing information and advice.	Achieving for Children	

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want more to be done to help develop higher self-esteem and body confidence, especially in girls and young women.	Enhance the youth service's activity programme so that there is a stronger focus on healthy weight, body confidence and self-esteem.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:
	Work with organisations in the Community Sport and Physical Activity Network (CSPAN) to increase selfesteem through sport programmes, particularly targeted at girls and young women.	Richmond Council	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan.
I want earlier communication and support with the transition from children's to adult's mental health services.	Further develop the transition pathway so that planning for young people's transition to adult mental health services starts at a sufficiently early stage.	South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Transforming Mental Health  Convince for Children Versor
	Ensure transition workers are in place to support young people with their transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services from the age of 17 years.	South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust	Services for Children, Young People and their Families across South West London.
	Implement methods to get feedback from young people about their experience of transition from children's to adult mental health services, and use these to improve the support available.	South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust	M

### **THEME 2: Protecting our environment**

"Like many young people, I'm worried about climate change. I want to be reassured that real climate action is happening, and I want to be part of a positive movement that protects our environment and promotes sustainable living."

The Council's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee and Transport and Air Quality Committee will jointly be responsible for making sure the actions in this part of the plan are delivered. Through the Youth Council and other groups, you will be invited

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want reliable, clean and less crowded buses and trains.	Lobby Transport for London and South Western Railways to make sure local buses and trains are reliable, clean and safe for young people to use.	Richmond Council	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:
	Lobby Transport for London to make changes to the local bus network so that it better matches the changing needs and patterns of use by children and young people.	Richmond Council	Local Implementation Plan
I want better cycling proficiency training in schools and safer cycling zones.	Work with local primary schools to promote and increase the take up of Bikeability cycle training.	Richmond Council	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:
	Promote cycle training schemes for children and young people: basic cycle skills, urban cycle skills and advanced cycle skills, as well as The Bike Academy for very young children.	Richmond Council	Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan
	Increase the number of schools accredited for school travel planning as part of the STARS scheme, including the promotion of safer cycling through events such as Bike Week and The Big Pedal.		

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want more practical education about climate change and sustainable living, and more opportunities to get involved in local climate projects.	He helps schools to develop climate action plans that include teaching and learning resources on climate change, climate action and sustainable living, including national education initiatives to improve biodiversity and tackle climate change, such as the Climate Ambassadors Scheme and National Education Nature Park.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.
recyc/e	Continue to provide the Youth Council with funding to enable them to provide grants to young people with innovative ideas to promote biodiversity, sustainable living and tackle climate change.	Richmond Council	
	Actively promote local volunteering opportunities and events for children and young people to get involved in practical projects to protect the environment and tackle climate change.	Richmond Council for Voluntary Services	
I want to help keep rubbish off the streets and make our borough a nicer place to live.	Work with the Council's commissioned street cleansing services to promote local opportunities and events for children and young people to get involved in activities that clean up streets, parks and other public places.	Richmond Council	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.

## THEME 3: Including all children and young people

#### "I do Parkour at TAG. I jump over things with my friends."

The SEND Partnership Board will be responsible for making sure the actions in this part of the plan are delivered. Through the Youth Council and other groups, you will be invited to go to a meeting of this Partnership at least once each year to check on the progress that has been made and challenge its members if your priorities are not on track.

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to have	Upskill the workforce to better understand the needs of children and young people with SEND.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plans:
access to trained and consistent key workers who understand and respond to their needs.	Work with partner organisations to increase the update of inclusion training and best practice.	Achieving for Children	SEND Futures Plan and the Learning Disability Big Plan
	Increase opportunities for children and young people with SEND to provide feedback on their needs and the support they receive.	Achieving for Children	
I want local organisations to provide more inclusive activities for young people with disabilities and their young carers.	Work with children, young people and families to improve the inclusivity of universal services, including libraries, parks and mainstream youth clubs.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plans:
	Develop more inclusive activities for children aged 0 to 5 with SEND as part of the development of the family hub offer.	Achieving for Children	SEND Futures Plan and the Learning Disability Big Plan
	Support voluntary sector organisations and clubs to deliver inclusive activities for children and young people.	Richmond Council for Voluntary Services	6.6

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want local organisations to provide more inclusive activities for young people with disabilities and their young carers.	Increase inclusive short breaks for children with disabilities promoting the Activity Fund and the Additional Support Fund.	Achieving for Children	
(Continued)	Improve and promote the SEND Local Offer so that more children, young people and families are aware of it as a one-stop-shop for local services and support.	Achieving for Children	
	Promote the use of AccessAble guides to help families plan inclusive activities for children and young people.	Achieving for Children	
	Better identify young carers and their needs through young carers' assessments and ensure they have access to activities and short breaks.	Achieving for Children	
I want people with hidden disabilities to feel more comfortable when accessing	Promote uptake of the Richmond Disability Awareness Card to children, young people and their families.	Richmond Council	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plans:
services or sitting in priority seating on public transport.	Promote the use of digital technologies that can help those with disabilities, including hidden disabilities, to use public transport, such as Brain-in-Hand.		SEND Futures Plan and the Learning Disability Big Plan.







### THEME 4: Feeling safe in our communities

"I want to feel safer in my community when I go out alone. As a person of colour, I don't want to feel limited in the places I can go."

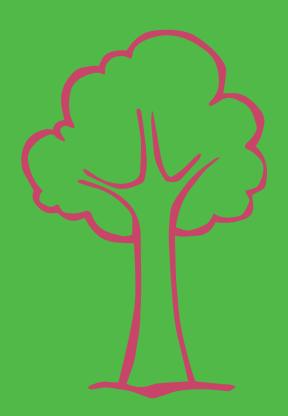
The Community Safety Partnership will be responsible for making sure the actions in this part of the plan are delivered. Through the Youth Council and other groups, you will be invited to go to a meeting of this Partnership at least once each year to check on the progress that has been made and challenge its members if your priorities are not on track.

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want parks, shopping centres and other public spaces to be safe and free from drug-dealing,	Continue park guard patrols in parks and open spaces to tackle reports and incidents of anti-social behaviour.	Richmond Council	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:
racism, homophobia, disability discrimination, bullying and antisocial behaviour.	Use local intelligence to identify public places and spaces where children and young people are at greater risk of harm.	Achieving for Children	Community Safety Partnership Plan
	Deliver a targeted multi-agency approach to reducing the risk of harm to children and young people from exploitation, crime, anti-social behaviour and extremism.	Metropolitan Police	
I want to feel safe and free from sexual harassment when going out at night and on public transport.	Identify, prevent and respond to violence against women and girls by providing them with the right support at the right time.	Metropolitan Police	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Action Plan



You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want more to be done to tackle knife crime so I can feel safe when I am outside my home.	Use Project X and other youth service programmes and initiatives to raise awareness and prevent serious youth violence, such as knife crime.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:
	Address the impact that crime has on young people and work with them to reduce serious youth violence.	Achieving for Children	Community Safety Partnership Plan.
	Continue to seek opportunities to increase the reporting of knife-related crimes involving young people.	Metropolitan Police	





### **THEME 5:** Learning and developing our skills



"We need to be equipped to understand and deal with the real world. Good education and skills are paramount as they allow us to develop our view of the world, shape our values and help us lead more fulfilling lives."

The Education and Children's Services Committee will be responsible for making sure the actions in this part of the plan are delivered. Through the Youth Council and other groups, you will be invited to go to a meeting of this partnership at least once each year to check on the progress that has been made and challenge its members if your priorities are not on track.

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want young carers to have extra support at school and someone to go to for support if they have concerns.	Improve the identification of young carers and the completion of young carer needs assessments so that they receive the coordinated support they need.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Carers' Strategy and Action Plan.
	Continue to deliver advice, support and short breaks programmes for young carers.	Richmond Carers' Centre	
	Encourage and assist local schools to participate in the Young Carers in Schools programme.	Richmond Carers' Centre	
	Implement the Young Carer Health Champions programme established by NHS England.	NHS South West London	

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want personal, social, health and economic (PHSE) education in schools to be taken more seriously and to focus on the	Support schools with delivery of the PSHE curriculum to ensure it is relevant and responsive to those issues that are important to children and young people.	Public Health	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Joint Health and Wellbeing
important issues for young people.	Promote PSHE training, resources and opportunities available through the Healthy Schools Programme.	Public Health	Strategy and Action Plan.
	Develop resources for schools to support children and young people with their gender identity.	Achieving for Children	
I want to have access to information and advice about further education, training, work experience, apprenticeships and career opportunities.	Promote information, advice and guidance on further education, training and employment opportunities for young people aged 16 to 24, including Way2Work, Work Match and the South London Partnership (SLP) Careers Hub.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Employment and Skills Strategy and Action Plan.
	Work with the SLP Careers Hub to ensure that all schools in the borough have access to a careers information, advice and guidance offer for their students.	Achieving for Children	
	Work with the SLP No Wrong Door Hub to advertise local training, employment and support opportunities for young people aged 16 to 24.	Richmond Council	
	Develop more supported internship opportunities for young people with SEND as a pathway into workbased training, apprenticeships and employment.	Achieving for Children	
		Mi	

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want those with special educational needs to have the support they need when they need it.	Ensure children and young people with SEND and their families are able to access independent information, advice, guidance and peer support.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plans:  SEND Futures Plan and the Learning Disability Big Plan.
	Improve early intervention and inclusion support for children and young people with SEND in mainstream schools through Quality First Teaching.	Achieving for Children	
	Improve the identification of children's special educational needs and the processes for assessing and planning the support and provision they need in education, health and care plans (EHCPs).	Achieving for Children	
	Expand the number of special school places available in the borough for children and young people who need more specialist educational support.	Achieving for Children	
	Develop local therapy services so that children and young people have the support and interventions they need in a timely manner.	NHS South West London	
	Ensure children, young people, families and professionals are aware of the SEND Local Offer (LINK) and the available support from statutory and voluntary sector organisations in the borough.	Achieving for Children	

### **THEME 6:** Getting support for our families



"We need our families to have the support they need so that we can grow up safe, secure and feeling loved from the very start of our lives, into our teenage years and beyond."

The Education and Children's Services Committee will be responsible for making sure the actions in this part of the plan are delivered. Through the Youth Council and other groups, you will be invited to go to a meeting of this partnership at least once each year to check on the progress that has been made and challenge its members if your priorities are not on track.

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want my family to have the practical support we need to give babies and very young children the best start in life.	Ensure children and young people with SEND and their families are able to access independent information, advice, guidance and peer support.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Achieving for Children's
	Commission support from the voluntary sector to help new parents who may be struggling to support their children in their first 1,001 days.	Achieving for Children	Strategic Plan.
I want my family to have access to information and advice on how to be a good parent to children at different ages and stages.	Maintain and promote the Family Information Service which provides information, advice and guidance to parents on childcare and support at all stages of their child's development.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plan:  Achieving for Children' Strategic Plan.
	Develop and implement family hubs across the borough to provide integrated support for children and young people aged 0 to 19 and their families, including parenting advice and training programmes.	Achieving for Children	
	Develop the health visiting offer by implementing the Maternal Early Children Sustained Health Visiting (MECSH) programme for children aged 0 to 5.	Public Health	

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You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want my family to have access to information and advice on how to be a good parent to children at different ages and stages.  (Continued)	Maintained collections of books and other resources in libraries to support parents with practical parenting issues.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that then actions to support this prior the following plan:
	Support and promote voluntary sector organisations that offer parenting support to families at all ages and stages of child development, including as part of the digital family hub offer.	Achieving for Children	Achieving for Children Strateg
I want more children and young people to be aware of the services, support and activities already on offer to us in the borough.	Improve the Local Offer website to ensure it reflects the full range of activities, events and support for children and young people aged 0 to 19 in and around the borough.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that ther actions to support this prior the following plan:  Achieving for Children Strat
	Work in partnership with young people to develop targeted campaigns to promote the Local Offer to children and young people especially those from low-participant groups and communities.	Achieving for Children	<u>Plan</u> .
I want safe, inclusive and free (or affordable) clubs and places to go, especially sports activities for under-16s.	Work with local organisations to offer a range of activities (including sport and physical activities) as part of the FUEL holiday activity programme.	Achieving for Children	We will make sure that ther actions to support this prior the following plans:
	Support leisure centres and local sports clubs to deliver activities for children and young people, including the RISE programme that gives children and young people with SEND the chance to take part in sport and physical activities.	Richmond Council	Culture Richmond and the Y Strategy and Local Action P

You said	What will we do by 2028?	Who will lead on it?	How will it be done?
I want safe, inclusive and free (or affordable) clubs and places to go, especially sports activities for under-16s.	Support libraries, arts and heritage venues in the borough to develop and deliver holiday and after-school activities for children and young people.	Richmond Council	
(Continued)	Maintain a full programme of activities and events in the borough's children's centres and youth centres that are relevant and responsive to their needs, especially as they develop as family hubs.	Achieving for Children	
	Encourage, support and promote local voluntary sector organisations who provide free and low-cost activities for children and young people, such as Scouts and Guides.	Richmond Council for Voluntary Services	
I want my family to be supported with the impact of the cost of living crisis.	Promote the information, advice and support available through the Cost of Living Hub, including support for food and fuel insecurity.	Richmond Council	We will make sure that there are actions to support this priority in the following plans:  Corporate Plan and Achieving for Children Strategic Plan.
	Use the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) to target campaigns and directly contact families who may be missing out on the support they are entitled to and need.	Richmond Council	
	Actively participate in the Community Spaces Initiative to provide comfortable and welcoming environments for children, young people and families in public buildings.	Richmond Council	
	Ensure the development of the family hubs includes a focus on providing practical information, advice and support to families with the key issues that affect family wellbeing and resilience, including housing, benefits advice and debt management.	Richmond Council	



"I want to know that the work we have put into this plan makes a real difference."

# How will we know the plan is working?

"I want the plan to celebrate the positive activities in the borough."

"I want to show young people what we are doing for them as a result of this plan."

"I want organisations to commit to taking forward our priorities."

"I want all partners to share their work with each other to avoid duplication."

Throughout the year, the Youth Council will work with you to find out if your lives have improved as a result of this plan and, if not, to ask you what more needs to be done. They will also ask you whether there are any new issues or priorities that should be included in an updated plan. Using your feedback, members of the Youth Council and other groups, such as the Children in Care Council, will attend meetings and other events at least once each year to check on the progress that has been made with the actions in this plan and provide feedback and challenge if this is needed. If you would like to get involved, contact the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council to find out how.

