

## **Cabinet Member Update - December 2025**

### **Councillor Sabrina Francis, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Young People and Culture**

#### **1. Purpose of the Cabinet Member update**

This Cabinet Member update is the second report using a new format – themed items from the Cabinet Members’ Portfolio. The previous update focused on Camden’s Youth Mission. Led by the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Young People and Culture, the report provides the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to reflect on key achievements, ongoing challenges, and emerging opportunities related to children and young people in the borough.

Building on the Annual Report which will be presented in February, this report provides insight on Camden’s Youth Hubs offer.

Future updates will explore additional themes within the Cabinet Member’s wider portfolio. The Committee is invited to review the information presented and, at the Chair’s discretion, raise any questions for clarification during the meeting. Further details or follow-up information can be requested from the relevant director(s) outside of the session. These updates are also intended to support the Committee in shaping its scrutiny work programme for the year ahead, ensuring that collective focus is directed where it can make the greatest difference.

#### **2. Camden’s Youth Hubs**

Camden’s Youth Hubs offer sits within Integrated Youth Support Services, within the Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding Directorate and focuses on adolescents and supporting their transition to adulthood. Under Section 507b of the Education Act 1996, Camden has a statutory requirement to ensure all young people aged 13 to 19 \*and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disability) have the right to access youth work activities which are for the improvement of their wellbeing and promote their personal and social development.

Youth Hubs are a model of service delivery which were rolled out in 2010 – this is to ensure there is a network of youth service providers in each locality, provided by both Camden and the Voluntary and Community Sector. They play a key role in ensuring there is sufficient recreational and leisure time activities for children, young people up to age of 25, and also have wider benefits around building relationships, developing key social and educational development and knife crime prevention.

There are 3 youth hubs in Camden. Somers Town Youth Centre; Netherwood Youth and Family and Highgate Haven Youth hub (formerly Fresh Youth Academy). Each Youth Hub is staffed by a multidisciplinary team, which includes Youth Workers, Connexions and Careers Advisers, Substance Misuse Workers, and YEH Case Managers. The hubs provide universal, targeted, and specialist services tailored to meet young people’s personal, social and emotional needs.

Rooted in the community, each youth hub aims to offer a comprehensive universal and targeted support to local young people. Additionally, youth hubs act as a resource for local communities and services to access when not used by young people, for example, Supplementary school using on weekend, tenant and residents’

association meeting, employment support team using the hubs to offer support to local community members. Youth Early Help also provides support through hubs.

Three Youth Hubs in Camden work collaboratively not only with local voluntary sector youth organisation in each of the locality, but also with children centre and family hub and schools. Three locality-based area youth partnerships have been up to encourages collaborative working sharing of resources and expertise between voluntary and statutory sector youth. Camden Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) funds a number of voluntary and community sector organisations (VCSO) who form an integral part of youth provision in Camden, ensuring a networked model of delivery through close working between the Council and the VCSOs. This help to achieve a balance between universal and targeted youth offers across the borough.

There are also national work around Youth Hubs – the government announced Youth Future Hubs in July 2025 as part of its cross-departmental strategy to improve outcomes for 10-25 years old. Camden has hosted a number of Department for Education visits to Camden's Youth Hubs – this has influenced the direction of National Policy. There is also a large amount of work in Camden around national reform in children's social care – this includes looking at all-age family support including Youth Hubs, and moving to a Family Help model.

### **3. Service offer within Youth Hubs**

- All youth hubs offer open access youth provision: provide free drop-in activities and support that are open to young people of secondary school age and up to 25 for disabled children and those with special educational needs. The project offers a range of activities including sports, games, music, arts, homework club, workshops, trips and residentials, alongside one-to-one support. These activities and services have been shaped by the ideas and input of the young people who use our centres. The programme helps young people build skills, resilience, and confidence, with some activities helping young people earn certificates or qualifications, such as AQA Awards Unit, First Aid, Food Hygiene certificate etc. Netherwood Youth Hubs is open after school, evenings, and during school holidays.
- Careers and Connexions: Locality based Careers and Connexions Advisers provide impartial high-quality Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) to young people aged 13–19, with a focus on Year 11 pupils transitioning from statutory education in schools. In addition, targeted support is available for those at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) through locality-based Connexion and Carer Advisers.
- FWD Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service: offers information, advice, guidance and tailor-made support and interventions targeted at children and young people who are using or at risk of substance misuse or who may be affected by parental and peer substance use. FWD also offers training to parent and professional working with young people.
- Targeted one to one youth support: offering one to one tailor made support for vulnerable and at-risk young people who are referred to the service.
- All 3 youth hubs in Camden also deliver the Holiday Activity and Food programme during summer, Easter holidays primarily. Two out of 3 youth hubs also offer winter HAF programme. In addition to HAF programme, they

also deliver holiday programme during February, May and October half term. Youth Club sessions run until usually for 3 hours per session either from 4/5 – 7/8 or 6- 9pm – with different offers at different Youth Hubs – some Youth Hubs have drop-in sessions where others have a combination. Activities across clubs include:

- Accredited courses: AQA Awards, First Aid, Food Hygiene, Duke of Edinburgh
- Sports: football, boxing, gym, basketball, boxing, martial arts, gym
- Arts, Creative workshops, volunteering, and youth forums
- Careers advice and study support
- One-to-one support
- Girls-only sessions
- Arts, cooking, DJing, filmmaking, gardening, healthy relationships sessions
- Careers advice, CV writing, budgeting
- Music studio sessions
- Trips, residentials, and holiday programmes

We are also constantly working to improve our Youth Hubs Offer – work is currently ongoing to both explore how to link our Youth Hubs to Family Hubs. And, we are looking at how to ensure our Youth Hubs are accessible as possible for autistic and neurodivergent children and young people.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable young people, we are developing a targeted transition programme within our youth hubs for year 6 children. This initiative will focus on children who may face challenges moving from primary to secondary school. In collaboration with local primary schools located within each hub area, we aim to support year 6 children to ensure a smoother, more confident transition into secondary education.

In addition, we are strengthening our mental health support offer. From 24th November 2025, the South Hub CAMHS Crisis Service (NCL – Islington & Camden) will operate from our Highgate Youth Hub two days a week. This service will provide on-site mental health crisis assessments for children and young people.

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By co-locating this mental health service within youth hubs, we create a more holistic support environment. Young people accessing these services will also have the opportunity to engage in recreational activities, which are known to have a positive impact on mental wellbeing. This integrated approach not only enhances access to care but also promotes resilience and emotional health through social connection and structured activities.

We are currently working in collaboration with the Health School to design a bespoke programme aimed at supporting children with persistently low attendance. This includes those experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA). The

initiative will offer creative and engaging activities tailored to each child's interests, with the goal of fostering positive connections and gradually reintroducing them to educational settings. This programme once developed will be piloted in one of our youth hubs.

Camden also has Opportunity Centres. These were a commitment within Camden's Education Strategy and offer learning beyond the school day. There are 2 school based opportunity centres – LSU and Achland Burghley and Opportunity Centres at the AI Campus and Euston Skills Centre. These offer specific employability support.

#### **4. Youth Hubs data**

In 2024–25, a total of 805 young people accessed our three youth hubs. Of these:

- 273 achieved Recorded Outcomes, meaning they gained or enhanced skills, confidence, and resilience.
- 189 earned some form of accreditation, including AQA Award Units, Food Hygiene certificates, First Aid qualifications, and more.

In terms of demographics: Gender: 63% identified as male, 35% as female, and 2% chose not to disclose their gender.

Ethnicity:

- 32% identified as White
- 22% as Black or Black British
- 18% as Mixed
- 11% as Asian
- 9% as Chinese, Arabic, or other ethnicities
- 8% did not declare their ethnicity

#### **5. Where to find out more**

Further information about Camden's Youth Hubs and broad Youth Offer is available on Camden Rise - [Youth clubs and projects - Camden Rise - Camden Council](#)



Signed:

Councillor Sabrina Francis  
Cabinet Member for Jobs, Young People and Culture

Date: 25 November 2025