

SUPPORTING AND INSPIRING YOUNG LONDON – DELIVERY PLAN

Introduction

The GLA has defined a number of London-level, long-term outcomes, which reflect Londoners' aspiration for the city and towards which the GLA, in partnership with others, is working. The Mayoral mandate makes it clear that the core London-level outcomes to which this programme should contribute are:

- Children and young Londoners achieve the health and learning outcomes they need to thrive at every stage of development
- Children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful
- Londoners have the skills they need to improve their lives.

These London level outcomes will be measured by:

Children and young Londoners achieve the health and learning outcomes they need to thrive at every stage of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at age 5• Average Attainment 8 Scores (Key Stage 4/GCSEs)• Proportion of children in Year 6 that are overweight or obese (ages 10-11)• Self-reported happiness (school years 1-11) (slightly different question for years 1-2)• <i>Additional measure for young people under consideration</i>
Children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of 18–24-year-olds Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET)• Percentage of students who achieve level 3 by age 19
Londoners have the skills they need to improve their lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of Londoners without qualifications• Percentage of Londoners with Level 3+ qualifications• Percentage of further education (FE) and skills learners with a positive destination (incl. employment and further learning)

The mandate also makes it clear that this programme should make a substantive contribution to a wider London-level outcome: children and young Londoners are safe from harm.

Setting out the scale of the challenge

Our capital is a city of opportunity for the majority of the young people growing up here. However, too many young Londoners are facing acute challenges too or find themselves unable to experience the benefits of our city.

The proportion of children living in poverty in London has consistently been higher than anywhere else in the UK, with 24% of all children (500,000) living in persistent poverty. The advent of the cost-of-living crisis means that many thousands more may be struggling to meet day-to-day needs.

Youth unemployment in London (16- to 24-year-olds) is consistently higher than pre pandemic levels and has been rising. The ONS (2023) estimated that 14.6% of Londoners aged 16 to 24 were not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

Poor mental health is also one of the most significant challenges facing young people today – with 85% of Londoners aged 18 to 24 in London reporting struggling with mental health issues in the previous six months (2022 Hestia survey). But support services are under strain with many young people unable to access the support they need in a timely way. Access to sports and physical activity, which has such a positive impact on health and wellbeing overall, can be difficult too, with provision sometimes being expensive and inaccessible.

Experience of poverty, alongside health, wider socio-economic background, housing provision and the ability to engage with the educational system, all impact Londoners' ability to fulfil their potential and gain full access to all the employment opportunities the city has to offer.

Some young Londoners are at increased risk of involvement in violence. This can be due to a number of factors including socio-economic background, experience of violence in the home and others. The evidence is clear that the provision of positive activities and support for youth work can have a vital role in diverting young people at risk away from violence, as well as supporting all young people with the opportunities they need to thrive – but access to opportunities can be scarce. Holiday periods, when there is a reduction in formal activity, are a time of particular vulnerability for young people which leaves them open to risky behaviour and without the chance to engage in activities, learn and develop their skills.

Delivering the outcomes through Supporting and Inspiring Young London

The Mayor's manifesto commits to providing 250,000 positive opportunities for young people this term. As part of this commitment, the Mayor will work to enhance all young Londoners' ability to access high quality, positive opportunities – particularly targeting those facing the most acute barriers who otherwise would be less likely to receive support.

The Mayor has limited statutory powers in this area so will primarily act through a combination of limited direct delivery and working with and through partners to commission programmes which provide activities and support.

The interventions recommended in this delivery plan have been chosen because they address the challenges facing young people and help achieve the outcomes the Mayor wants to see for London. Each of the projects in this delivery plan is evidence-led and proven to be an effective intervention. That includes a number of commitments in the Mayor's manifesto, including delivering 250,000 opportunities for young people, continuing universal free school meals in London's state primary schools, and delivering the Holiday Hope scheme, among others.

The introduction of the Mayor's Universal Free School Meals scheme has been shown through independent evaluation to have significant positive impacts for the household income of low-income families, as well as children's ability to learn and thrive. This has proved an effective Mayoral response to the cost-of-living crisis, and this plan delivers on the Mayor's commitment to continue this project.

The interventions to be carried out by the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have been chosen both because there is strong evidence base that they deliver the outcomes the Mayor wishes to see; and also because engagement with local communities has informed a view about which approach works solve particular issues. These decisions are informed by the VRU's work with partners across London including local authorities, community sector partners, parents, schools, and peers on a strategic approach focussed on violence prevention and early intervention.

The Mayor's manifesto also identified the need for increased focus on positive activities during school holidays; we will draw on the Mayor's ability to coordinate and strengthen existing provision through partnership and funding, to improve access to high quality holiday activity through a new and integrated Holiday Hope project. Sport in particular can play a critical role in engaging young people in positive activity, so this plan continues to work with partners to increase access including through the Go! London programme and will work to open-up facilities and allow more young people to benefit from them.

Access to acute mental health support is under strain. The most effective intervention the Mayor can make in this space is to both work with the NHS to improve provision (referenced in London's All Age Crisis Care Concordat) whilst also providing targeted interventions to prevent young people needing acute help. The proposals in this plan have been developed to draw on the GLA's track record of working with schools to support children's physical health. The most effective role the GLA can play is to marshal resources upstream, to deliver a mental health offer based in and around schools – to help prevent young people from reaching crisis.

Given the role the Mayor plays in the wider skills system thanks to delegation of the Adult Skills Fund, the Mayor will work with educational and skills providers and across the system to ensure that young Londoners have more of the skills they need for work – particularly focussed on employers and sectors identified in the Inclusive Talent Strategy of the London Growth Plan. This will include drawing on established relationships with partners such as the Mayor's Fund for London and the private sector. This work is primarily included in the Ensuring Londoners Benefit from Growth delivery plan.

Additionally, this plan delivers on the Mayor's commitment to commission an exploration of the potential for an Erasmus style programme that could give young Londoners the ability to access training and learning opportunities in other countries.

Finally, the Mayor's recognises that hearing young people's voices is essential in order to fully understand the barriers they face and design the most effective responses.

Collectively these interventions are the most effective ways of using the Mayor's inherently limited powers and resources to achieve the outcomes he wants to see for young people and deliver his manifesto.

GLA delivery plan

This delivery plan aims to ensure that more young Londoners can experience positive outcomes growing up in London. The delivery plan has five strands:

1. continue universal free school meals
2. enabling more young people to be safe and thriving
3. enabling more children and young people to have good physical and mental health
4. enabling more young people to be equipped to gain good employment and career progression
5. enabling young people's voices to be heard and lead to meaningful change.

1. Continue universal free school meals

- 1.1 *Universal free school meals.* Continue the delivery of universal free school meals to all primary school aged children and children in state funded schools.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) the scheme continues to be effectively delivered and c. 43 million high quality nutritional meals have been provided to all children in KS2 state funded primary schools each academic year.

Expected delivery:

- a) delivery in progress.

2. Enabling more young people to be safe and thriving

The VRU projects below are included as a key element of this programme but are covered by the MOPAC decision-making process. Many of these projects deliver outcomes relevant to safety theme outcomes primarily addressed through other programmes.

- 2.1 *VRU Positive Opportunities - expanding access to positive opportunities for young people.* Expand access to positive opportunities by giving children and young people the support they need to thrive. The VRU delivers a variety of opportunity focused projects including Stronger Futures, training for community and faith leaders and sports programmes to provide physical activity opportunities. Stronger Futures, as a project which delivers during the summer holiday period, will receive £300k of GLA funding in 2025-26 from the Holiday Hope budget. These activities are in delivery for the 2025-26 financial year.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) at least 75% of projects achieve their targets across Stronger Futures and Sports programmes (further detail to be developed).

Expected delivery:

a) Q4 2025-26.

- 2.2 *VRU Families - developing stronger and more resilient families.* Build strong family relationships and support organisations and agencies to work together to engage and support families. The VRU is delivering projects working with parents and carers, supporting young people impacted by domestic abuse and working with those impacted by violence.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) at least 65% of parents/carers being supported across the VRU's intensive parenting projects remain engaged.

Expected delivery:

a) Q4 2025-26.

- 2.3 *VRU Education - promoting healthy relationships and reducing exclusions and dis-engagement in education.* Promoting healthy relationships and reducing exclusions and disengagement in education by improving young people's experience and engagement within educational settings. This includes providing pupils in PRUs with mentors, working with schools to implement an Inclusive and Nurturing whole school approach and working to provide targeted support for children falling behind with speech and language.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) the target number of pupils have been engaged (further detail to be developed as we work with schools and delivery partners over Q1 of 2025-26).

- 2.4 *Holiday Hope, youth focused activity & youth schools.* Tackling the challenges of safety, access to positive opportunities and food insecurity experienced by young Londoners in school holiday periods. The creation of the Holiday Hope programme, bringing existing Mayoral holiday provision together with wider City Hall and key partner delivery, will help tackle these challenges. Stronger Futures, the VRU project, is part of the Holiday Hope offer and will receive £300k of GLA funding from this project in order to enable activation during the holiday periods in 2025-26.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) an annual target of 25,000+ meaningful positive opportunities are accessed by young people.

b) young people accessing Holiday Hope provision demonstrate progress against one (or more) of the following outcome domains. The domains have been tested through successful activities delivered during February half-term 2025 and Easter 2025.

- improved mental health and wellbeing
- improved socio emotional learning
- improved relationships
- improved engagement
- improved learning and work
- reduced risky and harmful behaviour.

Expected delivery:

a) phase 2 delivery in Summer 2025 with expanded activity to take place over the following two summers. The plans for Summer 2025 include the mixture of sports, employability and access to food that has been successfully trialled at Easter 2025. New activities for Summer 2025 include a pilot of youth volunteering opportunities. Activities also running in additional holiday periods.

3. Enabling more children and young people to have good physical and mental health

3.1 *Supporting a whole school approach to mental health in secondary schools.* Working with 16 schools across eight boroughs to enable the GLA to pilot supporting schools to take a preventative and proactive approach across the wide range of school activities to support and improve young peoples' mental health.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) 16 schools in the pilot scheme have a robust action plan about how to implement a whole school approach to improve its pupils' mental health
- b) school staff have increased confidence in their ability to support students' mental health and wellbeing (further detail to be developed)
- c) increase in the number of students experiencing a positive change around mental health and wellbeing awareness and support (further detail to be developed)
- d) the pilot has been evaluated and a decision taken following this on how to roll-out the learning through London's school system.

Expected delivery:

- a) a selection of partner boroughs and schools by end of Q1 2025
- b) delivery partner selection by end of Q2

c) delivery initiation from Q3 2025.

- 3.2 *Mentoring support for young people.* Continuation and completion of mentoring programme delivery and enhancement of provision of training and support for volunteer mentors. There are some projects still in delivery from the New Deal for Young People mentoring programme and these projects will now run their course and complete. Following on from the development of the Mayor's Mentoring Quality Framework, part of this programme, there is also the decision to invest in ensuring further connection and collaboration between mentoring organisations, boroughs and prospective volunteers. The Virtual Mentoring Academy Platform (VMAP) will be added to and further developed, with a particular focus on positive mental health. VMAP and the Mentoring Support Programme will then work closely with London Anchor Institutions Network (LAIN) so that additional mentors are recruited, trained and supported.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) 10,000+ high quality, new, mentoring opportunities are accessed by young people
- b) 1000+ mentors have completed training and support.

Expected delivery:

- a) updates to VMAP by end Q3 2025-26
- b) up to 1,000 volunteer mentors received training and support by Q4 2027-28.

- 3.3 *Analyse access to sports facilities and spaces and places for young Londoners.* Understand the challenges facing young people in terms of access to sports facilities and places and spaces, and, linking with the London Plan and the work of partner organisations, particularly sporting partners, create a series of recommendations about how to improve this. Once the initial work has been completed the GLA will work with partners to set a target for the number of sporting and leisure facilities that will be opened up to a wider range of Londoners.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) it has produced evidence-based recommendations about how to improve access to sporting and leisure facilities, for example, and subject to approval, working with private leisure providers to unlock underused spaces at non-peak times and brokering partnerships with local youth providers for better (subsidised or free) access
- b) target KPIs met including a measurement of facilities and spaces unlocked (further detail to be developed)
- c) through the Go! London Innovation Challenge Fund we will seek to improve the affordability, safety, and availability of spaces. KPIs will be developed by Q4 2025-

26 post data collection, comprehensive literature review and roundtables with key stakeholders including young people.

Expected delivery:

- a) London-wide access recommendations to be produced by end of Q2 2025-26 to inform future funding rounds of Go! London.

3.4 *Enhance physical and mental wellbeing of young Londoners, working in partnership with three US sports brands: NFL, NBA and MLB.* Boost participation in basketball and flag American football, improving mental health and wellbeing, and building employability skills through training, opportunities, and skills sessions.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) up to 80 young coaches have been trained
- b) up to 5,000 young people have been supported by these coaches, basketball participation and employability programmes, and clinics have been delivered
- c) over 20 community organisations have been funded to deliver flag football
- d) the London Basketball taskforce has produced findings and recommendations about growing the game in London including the potential for an NBA centre of excellence training facility.

Expected delivery:

- a) partnership with NBA ongoing
- b) basketball taskforce report and recommendations in Q4 2025-26. 250+ sector organisations engage with research/call for evidence exercise, 1500+ plus stakeholders engaged life of the taskforce
- c) flag American football delivery from Q2 2025-26.

3.5 *Develop a strategic partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)* to improve access to tennis for young people from underserved communities and upskill 250 to join the tennis workforce, prioritising young women and girls. The partnership will ensure activity in parks and community spaces in deprived areas of London by carrying out outreach activity to ensure under-represented young people are more aware of the sport. It will also provide the resources and coaches for them to be able to access tennis sessions. The GLA will invest £200,000 over three years (2025-26 to 2027-28) matched by circa £250,000 over the same period from the LTA.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) 250 young Londoners have been upskilled to join the tennis workforce (50%+ women and girls) by Q4 2027-28
- b) over 5,500 young Londoners and their families have gained access to tennis participation opportunities by Q4 2027-28
- c) 40+ London parks and community spaces in priority areas have been activated by Q4 2027-28.

Expected delivery:

- a) upskilling for tennis workforce by Q4 2027-28
- b) 5,500 young Londoners tennis participation by Q4 2027-28
- c) parks and community spaces activated by Q4 2027-28.

- 3.6 *Support London's schools and nursery communities (Healthy Schools LDN) to provide healthier environments for young Londoners through our Healthy School and Healthy Early years programme.*

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) There has been an increase of 20% of new or renewed Bronze Awards across Healthy Schools London and Healthy Early Years London programmes. The target for 2025-26 is 1,419 new or renewed awards, and then for subsequent years the 20% increase target will be against a baseline of the previous year's performance.

Expected delivery:

- a) engage with borough leads to review existing programmes and agree updates – May 2025
- b) launch of the refreshed programme including new website hosted by our delivery partner – September 2025
- c) deliver termly learn and share events to borough leads – March 2028
- d) schools and early years settings accessing the programme for the award – ongoing to Q4 2028.

4. Enabling more young people to be equipped to gain good employment and career progression

- 4.1 *Explore opportunity to create an Erasmus-style scheme for young Londoners.* The GLA is working with the support of Bloomberg to explore the characteristics of what an Erasmus style scheme could look like for young Londoners. At the same time we are

also lobbying government and adapting our work programme in light of national policy developments to ensure our work is timely and effective.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) the scoping complete, recommendations are reviewed, and decisions made around next steps (where relevant), in line with emerging national government strategy development.

Expected delivery:

- a) scoping complete and decisions made by Q4 2025-26.

- 4.2 *Employment and training opportunities for young people who are, or are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training).* Inclusive programmes delivered through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which will explore how to extend the uptake of available programmes to more recipients and/or a wider age range and/or groups facing certain inequalities. This approach means even more targeted and personalised support will be available. The pathway for young people to access support will be simplified and this will be accompanied by the one-to-one support of a mentor. Primarily funded by UKSPF, there are two distinct strands:
- Universal NEET – an universal offer available to any young Londoner who needs additional support to develop interpersonal skills that increase their employability and support to progress into education, employment, or further training
 - Targeted NEET – targeted, holistic support for young Londoners who are furthest from the labour market and who have significant support needs and/or other barriers to entering education, employment, or further training.

Participants in all projects receive one-to-one mentoring support as part of the offer. The programmes are pan-London, with a Universal NEET project in each of the four Sub-Regional Partnership areas and nine Targeted NEET projects operating in different areas of the city. The projects will complement employment support for young people delivered by councils and will connect to the London Youth Trailblazers, helping to create an integrated approach.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) 3,000 young people have benefited from these interventions
- b) 1,200 moving into employment, education or training.

Expected delivery:

- b) Q4 2025-26.

- 4.3 *London Youth Guarantee Trailblazer*. Working with the central government funded Youth Trailblazer to pilot more effective integrated and accessible support for young people at key transition points in their education and career journey.

Year one focus of the London Youth Guarantee will be the Youth Trailblazers – two youth trailblazers in London.

The first of these, operating across 12 boroughs and delivered by the Central London Forward sub-regional partnership, will deliver a care leavers specific intervention.

The GLA will also deliver a pan-London youth trailblazer to support young people across London through the following interventions:

- early identification and outreach to engage Hidden NEETs and young people with mental health challenges, linking them to essential services. This approach will embed mental health support into the youth employment, education and training landscape and test employer engagement models for young people who require non-traditional learning and employment pathways
- a digital resource hub providing young people with real-time access to local employment, education and training opportunities with wrap-around support. This platform will allow youth advisors to guide young people through their options using mobile devices, ensuring they can take the next step towards employment, education, or training
- stronger service integration through sub-regional youth integration networks, bringing together youth service providers to improve coordination, increase awareness of available support, and align local provision with the broader London-wide youth offer
- enhanced data sharing to track young people's journeys and tailor interventions effectively, ensuring services are responsive to individual needs.

Beyond the trailblazer initiatives, London's Youth Guarantee will include:

- the London Careers Hubs programme (four established Careers Hubs in London) which brings together secondary schools, FE colleges, Alternative Provision, Special Schools and apprenticeship providers in each sub-region, together with employers, to collaborate on the development and delivery of high-quality careers education for all students. The Hubs aim to improve social mobility and equalities for young people progressing from education to work.
- the London Early Connect pilot, a two-year programme to increase apprenticeship starts amongst 18-year-olds. Participants will be provided with light-touch support, such as signposting to existing resources, or intensive support which offers one-to-one guidance with CV writing, interview preparation and information about labour market opportunities.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

Outcomes for pan London youth trailblazer (900 young people supported):

- a) increased confidence: 70% (630 young people) report increased confidence due to Trailblazer activity (further detail to be developed)
- b) enhanced engagement: 50% (450 young people) demonstrate greater engagement in the system or have meaningful employer interactions (e.g., work experience) (further detail to be developed)
- c) transition to employment/education/training: 40% (360 young people) move into employment, education, or training.

Provider knowledge:

- a) 80% of engaged providers report increased knowledge of the youth EET and wraparound support system resulting in better engagement and outcomes.

Referral pathways awareness:

- a) 90% of engaged providers report enhanced awareness of referral pathways between youth services.

A more integrated approach to ensuring that young people are supported into work:

- a) learnings from the most effective way to improve outcomes for young people are embedded into future programme design and delivery

Outcomes for care-leavers youth trailblazer (1000 young people supported) operated by Central London Forward:

- a) care leavers will have meaningful engagement with an employer (through work experience, a placement, a regular mentoring session)
- b) care leavers will be supported into education and training
- c) increased confidence of care leavers (measured through self-identification and through their personal advisor upon referral and upon finished the programme).

- 4.4 Additionally, *training opportunities will be provided for young people age 19-23* through the Adult Skills Funds (ASF) and Skills Bootcamps projects including support for groups facing certain inequalities. Both projects are reported separately under the *Supporting Londoners to Benefit from Growth* programme delivery plan and are estimated to support around 25,000 young people per year.

5. Enabling young people's voices to be heard and lead to meaningful change

- 5.1 *Go London!* Deliver improved access to sports and physical activity to young Londoners from backgrounds less likely to be able to participate. Working in partnership with Sport England, London Marathon Foundation and in association with London Sport, the GLA will deliver the Go! London fund that builds capacity in the community sports sector and enables access for young Londoners. There will also be continuing activity supporting sport and physical activity in London funded by Sport Unites reserves.

We will know when this project has succeeded when:

- b) 70,000 Children and Young People (CYP) have been supported to engage in sports and physical activity between April 2025 and March 2028; of the 70,000 CYP supported:
- 70% improve or increase their physical activity
 - 60% improve their attitude towards sports and physical activity
 - 30% improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing
 - 20% improve their sense of belonging and connection
 - 10% of young people supported move closer to employment or/and education
 - 20 young people supported to start a sport-related social enterprise.

Additionally, Go! London will enable 10% increase of new sport and physical activity sessions for the targeted young people as a result of the funding awarded.

Expected delivery:

- a) in progress, to continue until Q4 2027-28.

- 5.2 *Youth engagement & partnership.* Scope and review existing youth engagement approaches across City Hall, and continue engagement and resourcing work with key partners including Mayor's Fund for London and the London Music Fund.

We will know when this project has succeeded when:

- a) we have a model of youth voice and engagement that follows best practice and gives the most effective support to the Mayor and GLA family, as set out in an agreed framework, and our partners are supported to continue the work they do with Young Londoners.

Expected delivery:

- a. review of ongoing mechanisms Q1 2025-26
- b. implementation of new approach Q3 2025-26
- c. ongoing relationships with partners including Mayor's Fund for London and London Music Fund.

Delivery plan consolidated resources

Project	Revenue (£000)		
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
1. Continue universal free school meals			
Sub-total	140,812	149,600	152,600
1.1 Universal free school meals	140,812	149,600	152,600
2. Enabling more young people to be safe and thriving			
Sub-total	12,062	2,532	2,232
2.1 VRU Positive Opportunities - expanding access to positive opportunities for young people	3,800	0	0
2.2 VRU Families - developing stronger and more resilient families	1,700	0	0
2.3 VRU Education - promoting healthy relationships and reducing exclusions and dis-engagement in education	4,030	0	0
2.4 Holiday Hope, youth focused activity & youth schools	2,532	2,532	2,232
3. Enabling more children and young people to have good physical and mental health			
Sub-total	7,567	1,362	998
3.1 Supporting a whole school approach to mental health in secondary schools	810	0	0
3.2 Mentoring support for young people	6,059	664	300
3.3 Analyse access to sports facilities and spaces and places for young Londoners	0	0	0
3.4 Enhance physical and mental wellbeing of young Londoners, working in partnership with three US Sports brands: NFL, NBA and MLB	440	425	435
3.5 Develop a strategic partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	60	75	65
3.6 Support London's schools and nursery communities (Healthy Schools LDN)	198	198	198

4. Enabling more young people to be equipped to gain good employment and career progression				
Sub-total		20,080	10,264	10,257
4.1	Explore opportunity to create an Erasmus style scheme for young Londoners	0	0	0
4.2	Employment and training opportunities for young people who are, or are at risk of becoming NEET	10,080	264	257
4.3	London Youth Guarantee Trailblazer	10,000	10,000	10,000
5. Enabling young people's voices to be heard and lead to meaningful change				
Sub-total		1,231	2,731	2,477
5.1	Go London!	1,000	2,500	2,246
5.2	Youth engagement & partnership	231	231	231
Staff costs funded through programme		3,664	3,676	3,681
Supporting and Inspiring Young London TOTAL		185,416	170,165	172,245

Contribution to the GLA's cross-cutting priorities

Supporting and Inspiring Young London programme will primarily contribute to delivering the following GLA Cross Cutting Priorities:

- **Addressing structural inequalities:** Young Londoners from lower socio-economic backgrounds and minority ethnicities (and the intersectionality existing between the two) are more likely to be unemployed, to not be able to access skills and find the job market more challenging. The programme of work targets and prioritises these young Londoners to ensure that there can be a reduction in the equality gap between some young Londoners and others.
- **Health in all policies:** Young Londoners from minority ethnicities and lower socio-economic background are more likely to have issues in accessing sports and physical activity, healthy food, and positive mental health. The programmes focus on providing free school meals, sports, and physical activity for those that need in most and opportunities for schools to make themselves places that prioritise health and wellbeing contributes to positive health benefits in multiple ways.
- **Net Zero:** Young Londoners will benefit from Careers Hubs that will advise and guide them into pathways to green careers. Pathways will include skills and training that will equip young Londoners with the sustainability skills and experience they need to contribute towards the workforce needed to support London's ambition to be net zero by 2030 and longer-term climate adaptation.

Monitoring delivery

The London-level outcomes - will be monitored using the following indicators, reported annually in the Mayor's State of London report:

London-level outcome statement	Proposed indicator(s)	Source	Frequency	Lag	Availability
Children and young Londoners achieve the health and learning outcomes they need to thrive at every stage of development	% children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at age 5	DfE	Annual	3 months	Publicly available
	Average Attainment 8 Scores (Key Stage 4/GCSEs)	DfE	Annual	2-6 months	Publicly available
	Proportion of children in Year 6 that are overweight or obese (ages 10-11)	PHOF	Annual	3 months	Publicly available
	Self-reported happiness (school years 1-11) (slightly different question for years 1-2)	Active Lives: Children and Young People Survey - Sport England	Annual	6 months	Publicly available
Children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful	Percentage of 18-24 year olds NEET	DfE / Labour Force Survey (LFS)	Annual (2023 data does not contain regional data for 18-24)	3 months	Publicly available (but see note)
	Percentage of students who achieve level 3 by age 19	DfE	Annual	8 months	Publicly available

Children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful

- The percentage of 18–24-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)
 - o ONS published the 2024 data on 20th March and the low response rate to the Labour Force Survey remains problematic and, again, no regional data has been provided for 18–24-year-olds despite previous reassurances.
 - o The reason for choosing 18–24-year-olds rather than 16–24, which is the standard measure, is because those aged 18–24 will not be subject to Raising Participation Age (RPA), and thus in our view provides a better estimate of percentage NEET.
 - o However, given that it is now two consecutive years that data has not been produced for this age group, it is proposed that we switch the measure to 'Percentage of 16–24-year-olds NEET'.

This delivery plan lays out the projects we will deliver across this programme to make a positive difference to the London-level outcomes – Children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful; Children and young Londoners achieve the health and learning outcomes they need to thrive at every stage of development. This following table collates the key programme outputs by the three strands. We will track delivery of these to be sure that our work to contribute to the London-level outcome is on track:

1	Continue universal free school meals
1.1	<p><i>Project: universal free school meals</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the scheme continues to be effectively delivered, and C. 43 million high quality nutritional meals have been provided to all children in KS2 state funded primary schools each academic year. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) delivery in progress.
2	Enabling more young people to be safe and thriving
2.1	<p><i>Project: VRU Positive Opportunities - expanding access to positive opportunities for young people</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) at least 75% of projects achieving their targets across Stronger Futures and Sports programmes (further detail to be developed). <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Q4 2025-26.
2.2	<p><i>Project: VRU Families - developing stronger and more resilient families</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) at least 65% of Parents/Carers being supported across VRU's intensive parenting programmes remain engaged. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Q4 2025-26.
2.3	<p><i>Project: VRU Education - promoting healthy relationships and reducing exclusions and disengagement in education</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the target number of pupils have been engaged in consultation with schools and delivery partners.

2.4	<p><i>Project: Holiday Hope, youth focused activity & youth schools</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an annual target of 25,000+ meaningful positive opportunities are accessed by young people. b) young people accessing Holiday Hope provision demonstrate progress against one (or more) of the following outcome domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improved mental health and wellbeing ○ improved socio emotional learning ○ improved relationships ○ improved engagement ○ improved learning and work ○ reduced risky and harmful behaviour <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) phase 2 delivery in Summer 2025 with expanded activity to take place over the following two summers. The plans for Summer 2025 include the mixture of sports, employability and access to food that has been successfully trialled at Easter 2025. New activities for Summer 2025 include a pilot of youth volunteering opportunities. Activities also running in additional holiday periods.
3	Enabling more children and young people to have good physical and mental health
3.1	<p><i>Project: Supporting a whole school approach to mental health in secondary schools</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 16 schools in the pilot scheme have a robust action plan about how to implement a whole school approach to improve its pupils' mental health b) school staff have increased confidence in their ability to support students' mental health and wellbeing (further detail to be developed) c) increase in the number of students experiencing a positive change around mental health and wellbeing awareness and support (further detail to be developed) d) the pilot has been evaluated and a decision taken following this on how to roll-out the learning through London's school system. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a selection of partner boroughs and schools by end of Q1 2025 b) delivery partner selection by end of Q2 c) delivery initiation from Q3 2025.
3.2	<p><i>Project: mentoring support for young people</i></p> <p>Success:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 10,000+ high quality, new, mentoring opportunities are accessed by young people b) 1000+ mentors have completed training and support. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) updates to VMAP by end Q3 2025-26 b) up to 1,000 volunteer mentors received training and support by Q4 2027-28.
3.3	<p><i>Project: analyse access to sports facilities and spaces and places for young Londoners</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it has produced evidence-based recommendations about how to improve access to sporting and leisure facilities, for example, and subject to approval, working with private leisure providers to unlock underused spaces at non-peak times and brokering partnerships with local youth providers for better (subsidised or free) access b) target KPIs met including a measurement of facilities and spaces unlocked (further detail to be developed) c) through the Go! London Innovation Challenge Fund we will seek to improve the affordability, safety, and availability of spaces. KPIs will be developed by Q4 2025-26 post data collection, comprehensive literature review and roundtables with key stakeholders including young people. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) London-wide recommendations about access by end of Q2 2025-26 with recommendations informing future funding rounds of Go! London.
3.4	<p><i>Project: enhance physical and mental wellbeing of young Londoners, working in partnership with three US Sports brands: NFL, NBA, and MLB</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) up to 80 Young coaches have been trained b) up to 5,000 young people have been supported by these coaches, basketball participation and employability programmes, and clinics have been delivered c) over 20 community organisations have been funded to deliver flag football d) the London Basketball taskforce has produced findings and recommendations about growing the game in London including the potential for an NBA centre of excellence training facility. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) partnership with NBA ongoing b) basketball taskforce report and recommendations in Q4 2025-26. 250+ sector organisations engage with research/call for evidence exercise, 1500+ plus stakeholders engaged life of the taskforce

	c) flag American football delivery from Q2 2025-26.
3.5	<p><i>Project: Develop a strategic partnership with the LTA</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 250 young Londoners have been upskilled to join the tennis workforce (50%+ women and girls) b) over 5,500 young Londoners and their families have gained access to tennis participation opportunities c) 40+ London parks and community spaces in priority areas have been activated. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) upskilling for tennis workforce by Q4 2027-28 b) 5,500 young Londoners tennis participation by Q4 2027-28 c) parks and community spaces activated by Q4 2027-28.
3.6	<p><i>Project: support London's schools and nursery communities (Healthy Schools LDN)</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an increase of 20% of new or renewed Bronze Awards across Healthy Schools London and Healthy Early Years London programmes. The target for 2025-26 is 1,419 new or renewed awards, and then for subsequent years the 20% increase target will be against a baseline of the previous year's performance. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) engage with Borough Leads: to review existing programmes and agree updates – May 2025 b) launch of the refreshed programme including new website – September 2025 c) deliver termly learn and share events to borough leads – March 2028 d) schools and early years settings accessing the programme for the award – ongoing to Q4 2028.
4	Enabling more young people to be equipped to gain good employment and career progression
4.1	<p><i>Project: explore opportunity to create an Erasmus-style scheme for young Londoners</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the scoping complete, recommendations are reviewed, and decisions made around next steps, in line with emerging national government strategy development. <p>Expected delivery:</p>

	a) Q2 2025-26
4.2	<p><i>Project: employment and training opportunities for young people who are, or are at risk of becoming NEET</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 3,000 young people have benefited from these interventions b) 1,200 moving into employment, education or training <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Q4 2025-26
4.3	<p><i>Project: London Youth Guarantee Trailblazer</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <p>Outcomes for pan London youth trailblazer (900 young people supported):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increased confidence: 70% (630 young people) report increased confidence due to Trailblazer activity (further detail to be developed) b) enhanced engagement: 50% (450 young people) demonstrate greater engagement in the system or have meaningful employer interactions (e.g., work experience) (further detail to be developed) c) transition to employment/education/training: 40% (360 young people) move into employment, education, or training. <p>Provider knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 80% of engaged providers report increased knowledge of the youth EET and wraparound support system. <p>Referral pathways awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 90% of engaged providers report enhanced awareness of referral pathways between youth services. <p>A more integrated approach to ensuring that young people are supported into work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) learnings from the most effective way to improve outcomes for young people are embedded into future programme design and delivery <p>Outcomes for care-leavers youth trailblazer (1,000 young people supported) operated by Central London Forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) care leavers will have meaningful engagement with an employer (through work experience, a placement, a regular mentoring session) b) care leavers will be supported into education and training

	<p>c) increased confidence of care leavers (measured through self-identification and through their personal advisor upon referral and upon finished the programme).</p>
5	Enabling young people's voices to be heard and lead to meaningful change
5.1	<p><i>Project: Go! London</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 70,000 Children and Young People (CYP) have been supported to engage in sports and physical activity between April 2025 and March 2028; Of the 70,000 CYP supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 70 % will improve or increase their physical activity ○ 60% improving their attitude towards sports and physical activity ○ 30% improving their mental and physical health and wellbeing ○ 20% improve sense of belonging and connections ○ 10% of young people supported moving closer to employment or/and education ○ 20 young people supported to start a sported related social enterprise. b) additionally, Go! London will enable 10% increase of new sport and physical activity sessions for the targeted young people as a result of the funding awarded. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in progress, to continue until Q4 2027-28.
5.2	<p><i>Project: youth engagement & partnership</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) we have a model of youth voice and engagement that follows best practice and gives the most effective support to the Mayor and GLA family, as set out in an agreed framework, and our partners are supported to continue the work they do with Young Londoners. <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review of ongoing mechanisms Q1 2025-26 b) implementation of new approach Q3 2025-26 c) ongoing relationships with partners including Mayor's Fund for London and London Music Fund.