

April 2009

Time for Action

Summary of consultation responses



MAYOR OF LONDON



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Background

This document gives a summary overview of the almost 600 responses received from members of the public, practitioners, young people and statutory agencies to the publication of the Mayor's 'Time for Action' proposals to improve opportunities for young people and reduce youth violence in London.

Since his election to office in May 2008, the Mayor and his team have listened closely to bereaved families, young people, residents, practitioners, academics, and voluntary organisations on the issue of youth violence.

These discussions informed Time for Action, the Mayor's long-term plan for tackling serious youth violence. Launched in November 2008, this 'call to partners' sought feedback on six themes that aim to prevent violence by extending the opportunities available to young people in the capital and better equipping them for the future.

The proposals include: supporting young people who are in custody for the first time (Project Daedalus); keeping young people in education (Project Brodie); Mayor's Scholars, London Academies and Apprentices; developing character and responsibility (Project Titan);

expanding sport and music opportunities; and establishing and disseminating what works best (Project Oracle).

The Consultation

The Mayor sought views through a variety of channels, including targeted online questionnaires, workshops, and events such as the London Schools and Black Child Conference and the African Diaspora Conference on 19 February 2009.

Respondents were asked to consider the broader plan as a whole, its individual proposals, and their potential for positive impact. Additionally, the consultation sought offers of assistance and views on any omissions for future consideration.



The Response

Time for Action attracted a total of 585 responses. Some 533 of these were from individuals through online questionnaires or workshop participation (with 41 per cent of these being young people).

An additional 52 written responses were received from practitioners and partner organisations, with 23 of these being from councils and other statutory bodies.

Attitudes towards Time for Action

Respondents were strongly supportive of Time for Action, welcoming the Mayor's support and drive towards tackling serious youth violence and improving youth opportunities in London.

Encouragingly, over three quarters of those surveyed think that Time for Action will make a positive difference to the lives of Londoners. Keeping young people in education (Project Brodie) and developing character and responsibility (Project Titan) were considered to be the most important proposals, with young people being particularly supportive of Project Brodie.

Both the survey responses and written submissions confirmed that the Mayor was targeting the right



groups of children and young people. Some respondents who work with young people encouraged the Mayor to consider working with young victims of crime in addition to those most at risk of becoming offenders.

There was also support for covering gaps in service provision by extending the target group to include young people aged up to 25, as well as for focusing resources on young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training.

Practitioners highlighted to importance of a focus on health, and especially mental health, for all of the proposals under Time for Action. This group also called for more support for young people who have siblings involved with criminal activity.

The six proposals

Project Daedalus

Members of the public, as well as practitioners, responded positively to plans for supporting young people who are in custody for the first

time (Project Daedalus). Partners suggested that there was a strong role for the health services to play – particularly in addressing the mental health needs of those in custody – and supported an emphasis on resettlement.

Partners supported further investment in skills and training, as well as encouraging pathways to employment, while also encouraging a broader targeting of resources on those most motivated to turn their lives around – many of whom will not necessarily be entering custody for the first time.

Project Brodie

The Mayor's proposal to keep young people in education (Project Brodie) was one of the most popular of all proposals outlined under Time for Action. The consultation response brought attention to the need for addressing the underlying causes around truancy – particularly at the early stages – as well as the need for more communication between schools and parents where problems occur.

A number of practitioners involved in education felt that Project Brodie would benefit from broadening its emphasis from enforcement to a comprehensive effort on issues such as exclusion, learning difficulties, bullying, and domestic violence.

Project Titan

The Mayor's focus on developing character and responsibility (Project Titan) attracted very strong support from parents, practitioners, and young people themselves, who would all welcome support for parenting, mentoring and structured activities. Parenting support was viewed as a crucial area for tackling serious youth violence, with support most needed for parents of pre-school and secondary students.

Young people were keen to see a broad range of activities on offer (such as those offered by the Prince's Trust) in addition to uniformed activities. They argued this would be crucial to ensuring that the opportunities offered to young people were local, engaging, and relevant.

A number of voluntary and community groups stressed the importance of retaining a voluntary ethos within their provision, and requested the Mayor's support in recruiting adult volunteers to lead youth groups.

Mayor's Scholars, London Academies and Apprentices

The majority of respondents welcomed the Mayor's commitment towards children and young people in care as a group that would benefit

greatly from more support. However, many felt that a greater focus could be placed on prevention in order to ensure that fewer children were taken into care in the first place.

The expansion of apprenticeship places was similarly applauded, provided that placements led into real opportunities in the longer term. All groups of respondents supported the use of less formal alternatives to schools and stressed the need for a range of learning opportunities to be provided.

Sports and music

Most respondents supported the Mayor's plans for an expansion of sporting and musical opportunities across the capital. Young people told us that they want to have input into the types of activities and opportunities that are available in their local areas.

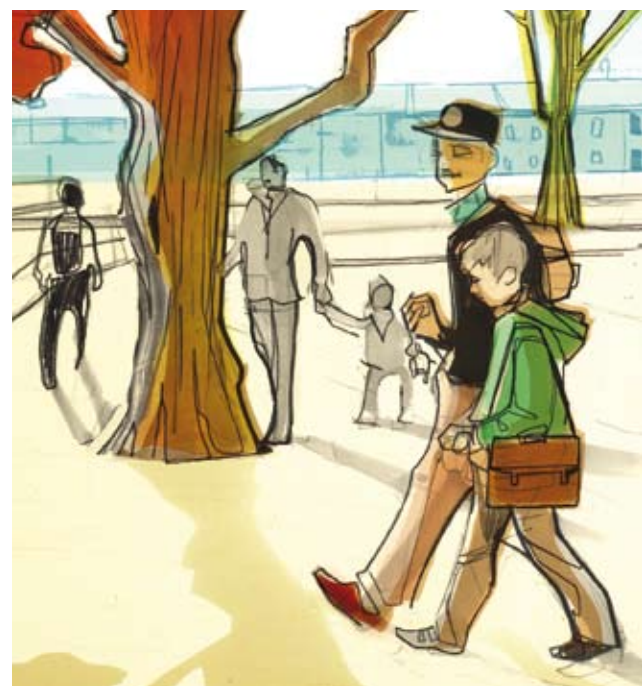
Project Oracle

Practitioners and statutory partners were particularly positive towards the proposal for establishing and disseminating what really works (Project Oracle). This cohort valued the potential for Project Oracle to cater for various audiences across London, including those commissioning projects as well as those involved in delivering work.

These respondents asked for consideration of a range of interventions related to serious youth violence, including parenting, engaging young people, and deterring young people from joining gangs. There was also strong support for an approach that reduced the duplication of effort around developing and sharing best practice.

The next steps

The Greater London Authority would like to thank all of the respondents who took the time to answer the Mayor's call to partners. Discussions are currently underway with the key agencies that will be helping shape and deliver the six proposals. These plans will be finalised over the coming months – further announcements will be made in due course as the plans develop.



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Chinese

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Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn có văn bản tài liệu này bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, hãy liên hệ theo số điện thoại hoặc địa chỉ dưới đây.

Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinizde hazırlanmış bir nüshasını edinmek için, lütfen aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arayınız veya adrese başvurunuz.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਰਾਬਤਾ ਕਰੋ:

Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دیئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

Arabic

إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الوثيقة بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو مراسلة العنوان أدناه

Gujarati

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજની નકલ તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી આપેલ નંબર ઉપર ફોન કરો અથવા નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક સાધો.

