

A Strategy for Young People in Rother

Consultation



We want to hear your views and ideas for how the Council can improve the lives of young people in the district. This will help us to draw up an action plan to deliver improvements.

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Young people are crucial to the future of Rother District. By creating an environment where young people will choose to remain and where families will come to live and work, we think Rother will be better equipped to deal with the social, economic and environmental challenges it will face.

Rother District Council's vision is to see that all young people in the district have access to the services, facilities, information and support needed to enable them to participate as active members of the community. That includes everything from jobs and affordable homes to youth clubs and sports facilities, plus much more.

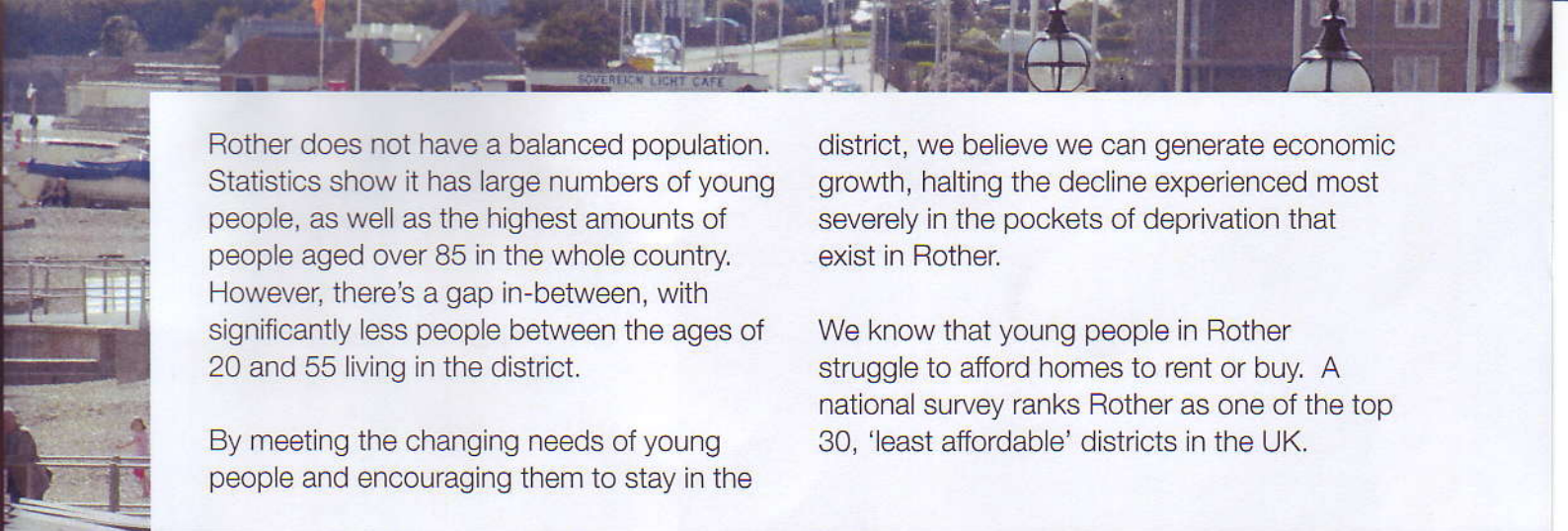
In order to achieve this, the Council, after hearing much evidence, has written a draft strategy aimed at improving the environment for young people. 'A Strategy for Young People in Rother' sets out how the Council, along with other agencies, will start to deliver this vision over the next six years.

Young people are crucial to the future of Rother District.

The strategy defines a young person as anyone between the ages of about 11 to 25. We realise that one-size doesn't fit all and the strategy will reflect the needs of different age groups, but we do believe by engaging with a wide range of young people we can find better ways of working with them.

Most importantly, we want to raise the profile of young people and help them realise their potential. We need to challenge the mindset that sometimes portrays them as a threat or a problem.





Rother does not have a balanced population. Statistics show it has large numbers of young people, as well as the highest amounts of people aged over 85 in the whole country. However, there's a gap in-between, with significantly less people between the ages of 20 and 55 living in the district.

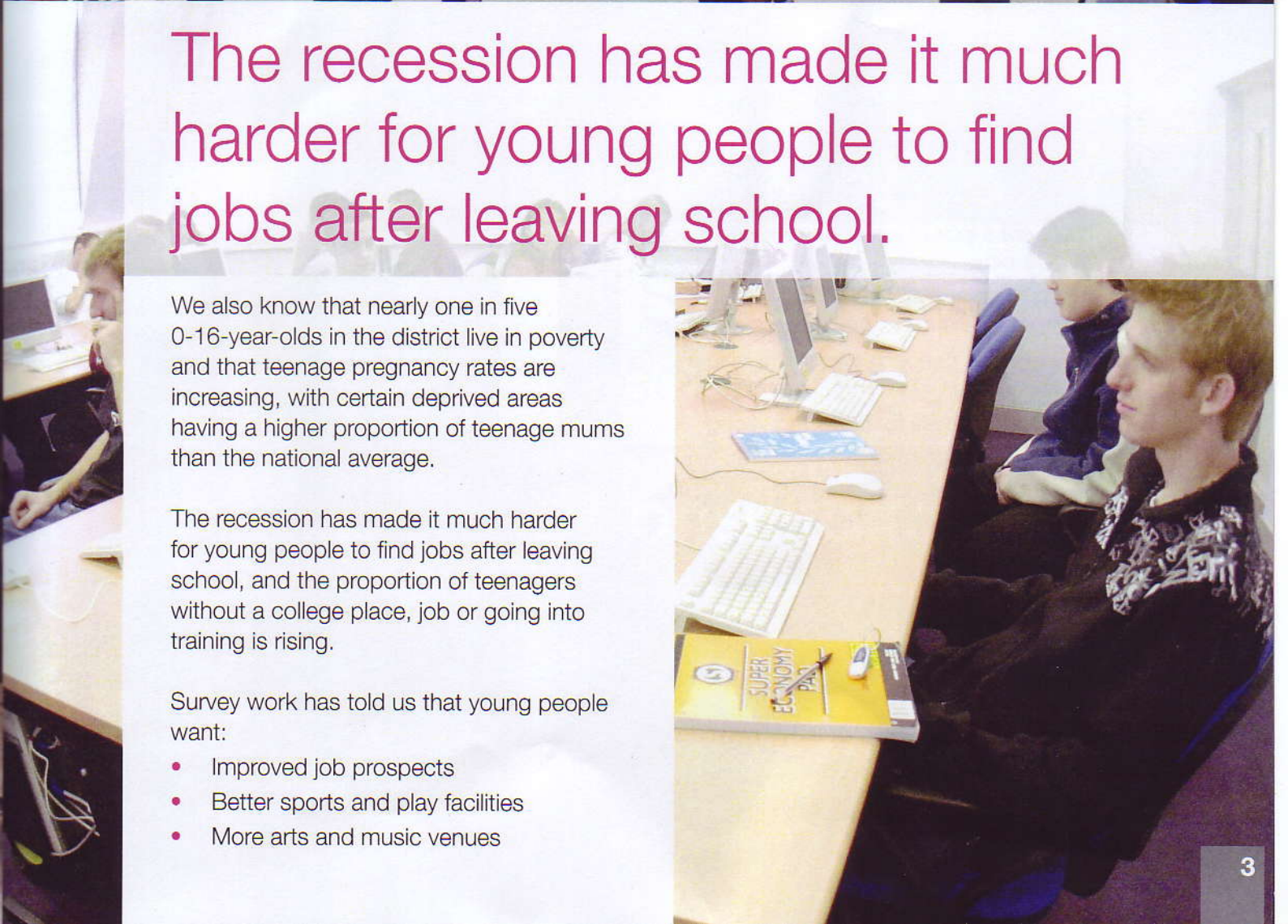
By meeting the changing needs of young people and encouraging them to stay in the

district, we believe we can generate economic growth, halting the decline experienced most severely in the pockets of deprivation that exist in Rother.

We know that young people in Rother struggle to afford homes to rent or buy. A national survey ranks Rother as one of the top 30, 'least affordable' districts in the UK.



The recession has made it much harder for young people to find jobs after leaving school.



We also know that nearly one in five 0-16-year-olds in the district live in poverty and that teenage pregnancy rates are increasing, with certain deprived areas having a higher proportion of teenage mums than the national average.

The recession has made it much harder for young people to find jobs after leaving school, and the proportion of teenagers without a college place, job or going into training is rising.

Survey work has told us that young people want:

- Improved job prospects
- Better sports and play facilities
- More arts and music venues



We know many young people play an active role in community life and enjoy living in Rother. The Council and its partners are already delivering on schemes to give young people more of what they want.

However, we know that more work needs to be done in the long-term to help them and the Youth Strategy will go towards achieving this better future for young people. Having gathered evidence from a range of groups who work with young people, we know that:

- Transport and access need improving.
- There needs to be a greater supply of homes to rent or buy
- We must continue to give advice and guidance to those in housing need
- There are a lack of job opportunities for 16-25 year olds
- Young people need to be informed of social, leisure and recreational opportunities
- Investment is needed to enhance leisure facilities
- The right channels for engaging young people need to be found
- Opportunities for greater partnership working must be grasped

We want to...

Create opportunities for young people in Rother to find good jobs and homes.

This includes investing in more affordable housing, creating youth employment and training and campaigning for better public transport.

Improve the understanding, inclusion and recognition of young people.

We will celebrate the achievements of young people in Rother, involve them more in decision making and find better ways of giving them the information they think is important.

Contribute to healthy and active lifestyles among young people.

Adult volunteering for youth activity will be promoted across the district, we will act with partners to improve the health of young people and improve leisure and recreation facilities.

To read the strategy in detail visit www.rother.gov.uk/youthstrategy

Editorial by Rother District Council.
Images by Bob Mazzer.
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This information can be made available in large print, Braille, audiotape/CD or in another language upon request.

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