



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11th January 2007

Report from the Director of Children and Families

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Report Title: Review of Brent Children and Young Peoples Plan and Joint Area Review.

Forward Plan Ref:

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Brent's first Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) was published in April 2006, with support and collaboration of staff within the council and from across partner agencies. It is a strategic document setting out the vision and priorities for the delivery of services to children and young people in Brent.
- 1.2 Progress of the CYPP to date has been assessed in terms of progress made against the action plan for the building blocks identified in the CYPP. These are a key feature in the CYPP that will enable us to provide needs led personalised service to the children and families in Brent , deliver integrated services to children with similar needs , coordinate the work of stakeholders to achieve the five national outcomes and meet our six priority areas.
- 1.3 To date we have made steady progress on the CYPP.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the progress made on the CYPP to date.

3.0 Detail

Legislation

- 3.1 The Children Act (2004) places a duty on each local authority to prepare a single strategic, overarching plan for all services for children and young people in the area called a "Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) ". This Brent plan has been

agreed and is monitored by the Brent Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board. The plan was also approved by full council in March 2006. The CYPP applies to all statutory and voluntary agencies whose work impacts on Brent children and young people.

Brent Children and Young Peoples CYPP (2006/2009)

- 3.2 Brent's first CYPP was published in April 2006 and is shaped by the views of local children and families. It is a strategic document setting out the vision and priorities for the delivery of services to children and young people in Brent. The plan is based on an assessment of the needs of the local community.
- 3.3 The shared vision for children and young people in Brent is for them to be able to realise their dreams and live up to their true potential. The CYPP outlines six priority areas for children's services that will be the focus of development over the next three years. The six areas are :
1. Creating the conditions in which children and young people thrive
 2. Early Years development
 3. Education achievement and school improvement
 4. Support for young people and teenagers
 5. Focus on excluded and vulnerable groups
 6. Safeguarding, health and well-being
- 3.4 The recommendations for improvement identified in the Joint Area Review action plan have been incorporated into these priorities. Each of these priority areas is broken down further into actions to achieve the priority together with indicators, current performance and SMART targets for each year that the CYPP is active (2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09). Appendix 1 is an extract of the current Brent CYPP and identifies the six priorities and the 32 related objectives.

How We Monitor Progress of the CYPP

- 3.5 Progress of the CYPP is monitored on a regular basis by the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board. A multi – agency performance management group meets on a monthly basis and produces a quarterly report on progress which is presented at Board meetings. This information contributes to the Council's performance management process that assesses performance against the corporate priorities. The CYPP is reviewed annually as part of our Annual Performance Assessment (APA) programme.

Progress of the CYPP Against Agreed Priorities and Targets

Building Blocks

- 3.6 Progress of the CYPP is measured against the action plan for the building blocks identified in the CYPP. These are a key feature in the CYPP that will enable us to provide needs led personalised service to the children and families in Brent , deliver integrated services to children with similar needs , coordinate the work of stakeholders to achieve the five national outcomes and meet our six priority areas. The building blocks are divided into three main categories of key structures, processes and delivery mechanisms.

Building Blocks

KEY STRUCTURES	Service Planning and Delivery	Inter-agency Partnership Arrangements	Local Safeguarding Children's Board
KEY PROCESSES	Information Sharing (ISA) & Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	Children and Young People's Participation	Joint Commissioning
KEY DELIVERY MECHANISMS	Children's Centres	Integrated Service Delivery	Extended Services

Key Structures

- 3.7 There has been steady progress made in putting key structures in place to support the work outlined in the CYPP. The CYPP was completed in April 2006. A child friendly poster publicising the CYPP has been developed. Integration options considering the need for more locality based working have been developed alongside the proposals for an integrated service for children with disabilities.
- 3.8 To consolidate inter-agency partnership arrangements a parent and carers reference group and a multi agency practitioner's reference group have been established.
- 3.9 The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) has been established with the following sub groups being operational:
- policy and procedures,
 - training, prevention,
 - serious case review group,
 - safety in employment,
 - Monitoring and inspection.

The sub groups have multi-agency membership and chairs of the sub groups are members of the Board. An LSCB coordinator has also been appointed.

Key processes

- 3.10 Good progress has been made in developing key processes to support the implementation of the CYPP. Information sharing agreements have been developed for the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund projects. A project manager has been appointed for the Information Sharing index. A readiness assessment has been submitted to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and mechanisms are in place to ensure monthly reporting of progress to the DfES.

- 3.11 The CAF integrated service pilots in Kingsbury and Stonebridge are underway with ongoing evaluation to inform future joint commissioning and planning. Corelogic (existing suppliers for Social Care IT-Framework i) have been selected as suppliers to provide the long term solution to support the electronic enablement of CAF. On line CAF forms have been developed and are being used by practitioners to complete and store the electronic assessments.
- 3.12 We are continuing to develop processes for children and young people's participation. The development of the Youth Parliament, although slightly delayed, has now been approved constitutionally and full council endorsement was attained on 28th November 2006. Plans to launch the parliament in March 2007 are currently underway.
- 3.13 A Section 31 Umbrella Agreement has been signed between Brent Council and Brent PCT to support joint commissioning and pooled budget development. The first draft of the Commissioning Framework to ensure all service procurement aligns to the priorities in the CYPP has been written. Pooled budgets between Children and Families and Health for children and young people with exceptional needs is not considered feasible at present given the volatile financial climate affecting the NHS. Commissioning arrangements have supported integrated service pilots and proposals for integrated services for disabled children and young people.

Key Delivery Mechanisms

- 3.14 The main delivery mechanisms identified for the CYPP are Children's Centres integrated service delivery and extended services. Phase one of Children's Centre development is now completed and five centres have opened. Work is underway to develop an additional seven Children's Centres, as part of the second phase of the programme, by March 2008.
- 3.15 We are in the early stages of developing a neighbourhood model for delivering preventative services. An evaluation of existing preventative services was completed which resulted in a recommissioning of services considered to have a good impact on outcomes for children and young people. Services are being delivered through integrated services project, extended services and will continue to support community-based provision. We are on track to open a family centre in partnership with Barnardos in May 2007.
- 3.16 We are making steady progress with developing extended services for children and families. We have developed an Extended Services Strategy following consultation with all stakeholders. All schools have been invited to participate in the Extended Service agenda, within the five localities. Ongoing Head teacher cluster meetings began in September. To facilitate local partnership working Schools, statutory, community and voluntary services were invited to locality based multi-agency meetings with good levels of engagement.

Future Work on the CYPP

- 3.17 The CYPP will be reviewed as part of our Annual Performance Assessment in May 2007. This review will be informed by the views of children and young people, parents and carers and the views of statutory and voluntary agencies. The Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board will also review the plan in accordance with progress made against key priorities and targets.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications contained within this report. However the department has submitted growth bids for 2007/08 to take forward the recommendations from the JAR and CYPP. These will be considered as part of the overall budget process. A final decision will be made by Full Council on 5th March 2007.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The CYPP responds to the legal requirements of the Children Act 2004

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The Brent Children and Young People's Plan is reflective of our diverse community and therefore ensures that the strategic priorities encapsulate these diverse needs. The Plan further seeks to redress issues of equality to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children and young people are equally considered.
- 6.2 The Children & Families Department has developed an equalities action plan that directly links to the six strategic priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan and considers all six strands of the Equalities Standards for Local Government.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 No staffing/accommodation implications arise as a result of this Plan.

Background Papers

1. Children Act (2004)
2. Brent Children and Young Peoples Plan

Appendices

1. CYPP 6 Priorities and 32 Objectives

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