

London Borough of Brent
Report from the Director of Social Services

EXECUTIVE – 8 December 2003

For Action

Name of Wards Affected

ALL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2003-2004

1.0 SUMMARY

This report explains the requirements for a Children & Young People's Services Strategic Plan. The attached plan was commissioned by the Children and Young People's Priority action Group (CYPPAG), one of the sub-groups of the Brent Health and Social Care Partnership Board. The Brent Health & Social Care Partnership Board is a theme group of the Local Strategic Partnership which received the plan for consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Executive are requested to agree the Children and Young People's Services Strategic Plan in Appendix 1 subject to changes identified in paragraph 6.7 of this report for onward submission to Full Council for approval and adoption.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The action plans contained within the CYPSSP are funded from current budget provision.

4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct staffing implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Department of Health issued LASSL (2000)3 in April 2000. This local authority social services letter was a consultation document on new guidance for Planning Children's Services. No further guidance has been issued by the Department of Health since the closing date for consultation in June 2000.

- 5.2 The plan (at Appendix 1) is contained in the Policy Framework and is required by statute to be approved and adopted by Full Council. Under Brent's Constitution, the Overview Committee should be consulted on it prior to the adoption of the plan. Overview Members considered the plan at their meeting on the 22nd October 2003 and made suggestions detailed in paragraph 6.7 of this report. These suggested changes will be made prior to submission of the plan to Full Council for adoption and approval.
- 5.3 Members are requested to note that circulars have been issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in July 2003 and October 2003 (written with the NHS Health Development Agency, Local government Association and the NHS Confederation) indicating that they intend to reduce local authorities planning requirements by subsuming various plans into the children and young people's strategy plan. This will be developed in the light of the children's green paper to come into force by the end of 2004-2005 and no consultation on proposed legislation has yet been issued by the government,

6.0 DETAIL

- 6.1. Brent's last Children and Young People's Services Plan was for 1995-1998. When we received the LASSL (2000)3 in April 2000, we awaited the outcome of the consultation in June 2000 before we embarked upon a new Children's Strategic Plan.
- 6.2. Following a re-organisation within the Department of Health in 2000/2001, the Children's Policy Planning function was transferred to the Children and Young People's Unit (CYPU) to co-ordinate planning frameworks across central government. The information received was that further planning guidance would be issued in due course. However, no further planning guidance has been issued from central government.
- 6.3. The Brent Children and Young People's Services Strategic Plan has been developed using existing guidance and examples of good practice from other Local Authorities..
- 6.4. There has been consultation on the content with the Children and Young People's Priority Action Group, the Local Strategic Partnership, the Brent Health and Social Care Partnership and the Corporate Management Team, Brent Council. Comments have been incorporated into the present plan which is at Appendix 1.
- 6.5. The Green Paper – Every Child Matters published on 8 September 2003 sets out the Government's recommendations for the future of Children's Services in England.
- 6.6. The recommendations focus on areas of accountability and integration, supporting parents, early intervention and effective protection and workforce reform.

There are also a number of consultation questions in the Green Paper which will be responded to by 1 December 2003.

- 6.7 The plan went before Overview Committee on 22 October 2003. Members welcomed the report but requested that it should include reference to the role of School Governing Bodies in relation to children in need and the role of education in raising awareness on the prevention of teenage pregnancy. Senior officers from Education, Arts and Libraries will make the necessary changes to the report.

7.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- LASSL (2000)3 April 12, 2000.
- Planning with a Purpose – October 2003, ODPM, LGA, NHS HDA, NHS Confederation
- Reducing Local Authority Requirements – July 2003, ODPM

Anyone wishing to see the above papers should contact:

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