

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT	
Executive - 20th June 2005	
Report from the Director of Education Arts and Libraries	
For information	Wards affected: All

Report Title: **YOUTH SERVICE OFSTED INSPECTION
ACTION PLAN 2005**

Forward Plan Ref: EAL05/06 006

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report outlines the recommendations from OFSTED during the inspection of Brent Youth Service in December 2004. An action plan is attached, as **Appendix 1**, which details how each recommendation will be addressed. Brent is required to submit this action plan to the Secretary of State for Children by 15th June 2005 via Government Office London.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members note the Action Plan detailed in **Appendix 1**.

3.0 Detail

3.1 During the week 13 – 17 of December 2004, the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) inspected Brent Youth Service. A self-assessment, interviews with key stakeholders and visits to see provision formed the inspection process. The inspectors noted both strengths and weaknesses of the service (as outlined in Appendix 1) and made a number of recommendations.

3.2 Recommendations of Inspection

Inspectors recommended that the Council should:

- Ensure the service receives sufficient core funding and strengthens the central management team.
- Raise levels of achievement and ensure young people are more closely involved in shaping the provision.

- Address inadequacies in the quality of youth work and enable good practice to be shared across the service.
- Implement quality assurance procedures rigorously and include observation of practice.
- Improve the accuracy and use of management information and use performance indicators to evaluate the effectiveness and value for money of the service.
- Improve the standard of accommodation generally and the learning resources available to generic work.

3.3 Timescale for improvement implementation

The Ofsted inspection report was published on 14th March 2005. Brent Council has received a formal letter from the Minister of State for Children outlining the next steps. An Action Plan must be submitted to the Department for Education and Skills by 15th June 2005. Quarterly reports on progress must be made to Government Office London who will, in turn, keep Ofsted informed. Brent has also been offered 14 days free consultancy by the National Youth Agency (Ofsted) to support the drafting of the Action Plan and in meeting the recommendations. The time scale for implementing these recommendations is 12 months from the receipt of the written report. A re-inspection of those areas deemed to be weak will take place within 9-12 months of the date of publication. As Brent will be subject to a Joint Area Review in January-March 2006, Ofsted will review the inspection areas at that time.

3.4 Response to the inspection

Appendix 1 outlines the response to the recommendations of the Ofsted inspection and the Action Plan to ensure the recommendations are met. Senior Officers representing the Youth Service (including the Director of Children & Families) report regularly on progress to the High Level Review Board (composed of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Lead Member, the Chief Executive, the Borough Solicitor and the Director of Finance).

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Revenue growth of £200k was included in the 2005/06 budget and this funding will meet costs associated with the implementation plan, including the creation of key posts such as Quality Assurance Manager and accredited professional training for all youth workers. There is capital funding within the 2005/06 to 2009/10 capital programme for the Granville Centre and renovation of the Roundwood Club. In addition, the Executive agreed on 23rd May 2005 that consideration paid to the Council by Copland School in respect of property transactions will be used for renovation of the Wembley Youth and Community Centre.

4.2 Brent Council also funds a number of voluntary organisations working with young people through the Main Grants programme etc. In addition,

The Sports and Parks Service provide activities for young people, e.g. summer programmes in the parks.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Education Act 1996 requires the LEA to ensure that there are adequate facilities for recreation and social and physical training associated with primary and secondary education, and it may provide such facilities for further education. There is also a power to provide or assist with facilities for the recreation and social and physical training of young people

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Staff and young people have been consulted with and involved in the drafting of the Action Plan and a Service Improvement Team comprised of staff at different levels from within the Youth Service is responsible, along with managers, for implementing the actions. Staff and unions will be consulted during the staff re-structuring to ensure that the changes do not have an adverse impact on a particular ethnic group.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 A full-scale staff restructuring was planned as a result of the Best Value Review 2004 and work was already underway at the time of the inspection to review all posts in the service. The review is being conducted by the Head of Service with support from Management Services and will be implemented in two stages. Stage one, the restructuring of the management tier of the Youth Service, stage two of the review will focus on all staff involved in face-to-face youth work delivery and will be implemented between September 2005 and March 2006.

Background Papers

- 1) OFSTED Inspection Report - Brent Youth Service, March 2005
- 2) Best Value Review report and Action Plan May 2004

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