



Executive
13th March 2006

**Report from the Director of
Children and Families**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Brent Children & Young People's Plan (2006/9)

Forward Plan Ref: C&F05/06-029

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Brent Children & Young People's Plan (2006/9) has been produced in response to the Children Act 2004. The single plan covers the work of statutory agencies and voluntary and community groups, whose work impacts on Brent's children and young people. The Plan is attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 1.2 The plan is designed to achieve an integrated approach to strategic planning so that services are consistent, complementary and coordinated. The plan has been developed following an analysis of community needs, existing performance indicators and views expressed by children, young people and their families.
- 1.3 The plan sets out six strategic priorities supported by 32 objectives that have been agreed by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board. The priorities and associated objectives are set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The single Children & Young People's Plan has been available for public and partner consultation since 10th January with the formal consultation period ending on 28th February 2006. The Plan is to take effect from 1st April 2006.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive are asked to approve the Children and Young People's Plan and agree the six strategic priorities listed in paragraph 3.7 prior to its submission for final approval to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board on 17th March. Executive are asked to note Appendix 2 (Performance Indicators and Targets) is still being developed and will be reported to the

Meeting
Date

Version no.
Date

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board and will be further reported to Executive in due course.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Children Act 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. The Children and Young People's Plan replaces requirements for seven statutory and ten non-statutory plans. It is expected that the Council will prepare the Plan with its partners and the Brent Children & Young People's Partnership Board has been driving the preparation of the Plan and will be responsible for monitoring its implementation.

3.2 The Plan provides services provided by the Local Authority and all relevant partners to children and young people aged 0 – 19; those over 19 receiving services, including care leavers; and those over 19 and under 25 with learning difficulties. This is a 3 year plan, 2006/9 and will be reviewed annually as part of our annual performance assessment programme.

3.3 Currently, a wide range of plans exist to deliver services to children and young people. The production of a single plan for all services for children and young people in the borough therefore:

- Brings together a shared vision across all partner agencies for children and young people in Brent;
- Demonstrates that all agencies working with children and young people are committed to delivering services in a joined up way;
- Identifies strengths, weaknesses and priority areas to be addressed;
- Focuses on the whole person/family not on the presenting issue itself;
- Sets out key joint outcomes that comprise a combination of indicators across traditional agency boundaries;
- Provides clear leadership and direction for service improvement.

3.4 The Plan considers the context in which children and young people are growing up in Brent. It specifically looks at ethnicity, religion and other socio-economic indicators that impact on factors such as quality of life, educational attainment, ability to engage in democratic processes and the availability of future economic opportunities.

3.5 The Plan acknowledges our trajectory towards integrated services. The commitment to partnership and participation is at the heart of the new inter-agency arrangements. Other critical 'building blocks' are identified in the forms of key structures, processes and delivery mechanisms designed to support multi-level integration from front line delivery to strategic planning and commissioning of services. The whole systems focus on children and young people will enable us to:

- Provide a needs-led personalised service;
- Deliver integrated services for children with similar needs;

- Coordinate the work of stakeholders to achieve the five national outcomes locally.

3.6 The joint approach to improving outcomes for children and young people is based on a conceptual model, the Brent Levels of Need Framework. The framework has been developed by practitioners across health, education, social care and community agencies to aid a common understanding of risk by determining thresholds for intervention and identifying accurately, the number of children who would benefit from the provision of preventative services.

3.7 The six strategic priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people in Brent are:

- i) Creating the conditions in which children and young people thrive
- ii) Early years development
- iii) Education, achievement and school improvement
- iv) Support for young people and teenagers
- v) Excluded and vulnerable groups
- vi) Safeguarding health and well being

Each of these priority areas is broken down further into actions to achieve the priority together with indicators, current performance and targets for each year that the plan is active (2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09). Some of these targets, especially those involving partner agencies will be developed further, prior to the plan being submitted to the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board 17th March 2006.

3.8 The key components of the plan including vision, priorities and actions for improving outcomes have been the subject of extensive consultation in Autumn 2005. An outline of the plan was discussed at conferences held for Brent young people, headteachers and governors in November 2005. The outline plan was also considered by the Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Reference Group, the Children and Young People's Partnership Steering Group and the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee. Building on this formative consultation, a draft plan was prepared which has been the subject of further consultation in January and February 2006.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Work has begun on the identification of all budgets across the partnership that is spent on services for children and young people, as defined by the Children Act 2004. This is a complex task, as many services are not defined in terms of 'adults' and 'children' and where financial accounting requirements do not easily enable such a split. As an initial statement details of resources allocated to schools and available to the Council's Children and Families Department are attached to the Plan as Appendix 5

4.2 Over time the providers of children and young people's services will increasingly work together to plan long term resource strategies and commission services which could be based on pooled budgets. The Children

and Young People's Plan is a developmental tool which will be used to shape and drive partners' business planning through establishing a shared assessment of need, and by reflecting a shared set of priorities that address these needs. Through our Local Area Agreements (LAA) we will further develop our plans to pool and align budgets and funding streams to support the achievement of our priorities.

- 4.3 The financial risks potentially inherent in such arrangements will need to be monitored and managed on an on-going basis across the life of the plan.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 (regulations made pursuant to the Children Act 2004) require that all children's services authorities prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan. The plan must set out the improvements the authority will make for children and young people in its area relating to: physical and mental health and emotional well being; protection from harm and neglect; education, training and recreation; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.

- 5.2 The plan is made in line with the regulations and complies with guidance for the development of the single plan.

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 and considers all six standards 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

- i) Children's Act 2004
- ii) The Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations, 2005
- iii) Every Child Matters; Change for Children, 2004
- iv) Every Child Matters; Next Steps, 2004

Contact Officers

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Our Six Strategic Priorities (and 32 objectives)

1. Creating the conditions in which Children and Young People thrive	2. Early Years development	3. Education Achievement & School Improvement	4. Support for Young People and Teenagers	5. Focus on Excluded and Vulnerable groups	6. Safeguarding, Health & Well Being
<p>1a) Secure decent income through employment.</p> <p>1b) Encourage provision of affordable homes.</p> <p>1c) Support safe and secure neighbourhoods.</p> <p>1d) Encourage cohesive communities.</p> <p>1e) Provide accessible and safe play, sport, culture and leisure.</p> <p>1f) Support effective parenting.</p>	<p>2a) Improve foundation stage provision.</p> <p>2b) Increase available, accessible, affordable childcare.</p> <p>2c) Ensure all childcare is of good quality.</p> <p>2d) Provide readily available and accessible parenting and healthcare support.</p>	<p>3a) To accelerate the rate of improvement of under-achieving groups, narrowing and eliminating gaps.</p> <p>3b) To improve educational outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC) to match or exceed national average.</p> <p>3c) To ensure all schools provide an education which is at least good as defined by Ofsted.</p> <p>3d) To raise standards at Key Stages 1, 2 & 3 to match or exceed national averages.</p> <p>3e) To ensure sufficient secondary school places.</p> <p>3f) To ensure disabled children and young people are able to access the same wide educational and life opportunities as others.</p>	<p>4a) Implement the recommendations from the recent Youth Service inspection.</p> <p>4b) Reduce numbers of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET).</p> <p>4c) Raise 'value added' scores in all subjects by all providers for 16-19 year olds.</p> <p>4d) Work with employers to improve access to work experience and employment opportunities for targeted groups.</p>	<p>5a) To reduce teenage conception rates.</p> <p>5b) To reduce the number of Looked After Children, and for children who become Looked After, to increase the rate of adoption, increase the stability and overall number of placements in Brent.</p> <p>5c) To increase family support for children in need, including those with disabilities.</p> <p>5d) To reduce youth offending and support reintegration.</p> <p>5e) To reduce permanent exclusions from maintained secondary schools.</p> <p>5f) Improve integrated service delivery for disabled children and young people.</p>	<p>6a) Ensure there is strong inter-agency collaboration to improve all aspects of safeguarding for all children and young people.</p> <p>6b) Ensure robust arrangements to safeguard children and young people in need of protection.</p> <p>6c) Reduce bullying in schools.</p> <p>6d) Reduce young people's involvement either as victims or perpetrators of crime.</p> <p>6e) Improve health and fitness: ensuring emotional, physical and mental wellbeing and promoting healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>6f) Reduce acute admissions to hospitals.</p>