

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Meeting of the Executive
15 November 2004

Report from Director of Social Services

For action/information

Wards affected:
All

Report Title: Brent's Children & Young People Local Preventative Strategy

Forward Plan ref: SS-04/05-21

1.0 Summary

1.1 The government has asked Local Authorities to take the lead in ensuring that all those responsible for planning, commissioning and delivering services to children and young people agree a Local Preventative Strategy (LPS). Local Authorities do not have to produce a LPS but to do so is regarded as good practice. Brent's LPS has now been completed and this report describes the principles underpinning the strategy and the process by which it has been developed. The full strategy is attached to the report as Annexe A.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That members agree the strategy.

3.0 Detail

3.1 In September 2002 Local Authorities were asked by central Government to take the lead in engaging all those responsible for providing services to children and young people age 0-19 years, with a view to developing a local framework to encourage greater emphasis on early intervention which could provide the most appropriate level of support at the most appropriate point in time. The background to the need to develop Local Preventative Strategies was that in general:

- ◇ Services did not put sufficient emphasis on promoting the well being of vulnerable children and young people and thus did not prevent adverse outcomes for this group, such as low educational attainment, offending or using drugs; and
 - ◇ Local services were inward looking, focusing on their own activity to a great extent and were not sufficiently integrated in their approach.
- 3.2 “Every Child Matters” and the Children Bill have shifted the emphasis and established an expectation that improved services will be delivered to all children, that there will be an increase in preventative services and that service improvement will be achieved through co-location and integration of multi-agency services. The LPS is a key part of the Borough’s implementation of the Children Bill.
- 3.3 The aim of the Local Preventative Strategy is to improve outcomes through early intervention and additional multi-agency support. This requires preventative thinking and partnership working to be at the centre of everyday decision-making.
- 3.4 This final version of the Brent LPS is published to link to the emerging planning for the implementation of the Children Bill in Brent and to key multi agency strategies such as the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children.
- 3.5 It is envisaged that the proposed Children’s Partnership Board will take the lead in the further development and implementation of the Preventative Strategy.
- 3.6 The changes needed to alter the balance of services in the borough and increase the level of preventative services will become part of the wider Children Bill project plan and will be steered by the Children’s Partnership Board.
- 3.7 The strategy was developed following a series of meetings, workshops and discussions with children and young people, multi-agency front-line practitioners and managers at all levels.
- 3.8 Built into the strategy is an annual monitoring and review process to ensure that the collective development of early intervention services progresses appropriately and meets the required standards.
- 3.9 Three key messages are embedded in the strategy:
- ◇ **Prevention is everyone’s concern;** we need to develop our service delivery to ensure that our every day decision-making

reflects preventative thinking and promotes better outcomes for the children and young people of Brent.

- ◇ **Early intervention is everyone's goal;** we need to develop closer synergy between the preventative strategy and other key strategies and multi-agency targets, linked to fully integrated, multi-agency financial profiling.
- ◇ **Success is everyone's business;** each action (positive and negative) reflects beyond our own service area. We need to develop a 'non-blame' environment to encourage collective ownership of issues, to develop better integrated multi-agency outcomes.

5.9 The strategy provides a framework within which local authorities and others can establish shared objectives and it provides the basis for incremental working together with our local communities and partners so that we gradually change the way we plan and deliver our services. It will be reviewed on an annual basis as local implementation plans become firmer and partnerships develop in practice on the ground.

4.0 *Financial Implications*

4.1 There are no financial implications from the production of the Local Preventative Strategy. Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Children Bill will be reported to the Executive Committee.

5.0 *Legal Implications*

There are no specific legal implications arising out of the implementation of the Local Preventative Strategy, although there will be implications arising out of the implementation of the Children Bill.

6.0 *Diversity Implications*

6.1 Any policies arising from implementation of the Local Preventative Strategy will be the subject of a Diversity Impact Assessment.

6.2 The strategy has been developed with the intention of improving services for all Brent's communities. Refocusing of services will be based on an assessment of local need, with particular reference to those groups who find existing preventative services difficult to access or inappropriate to their needs.

7.0 *Staffing implications*

There are no staffing implications arising from the Local Preventative Strategy.

Background Papers

- Local Preventative Strategy Guidance: 2002.
- Every Child Matters: 2003.
- Children Bill: 2004.
- Children's National Service Framework: 2004.
- Common Assessment Framework Guidance 2004.
- Director of Social Services Report Every Child Matters 14th September 04

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