

Briefing notes on Issues included in the Forward Plan Issue 2005/06

SERVICE AREA: Children & Families Department

Report ref	Report title
	Children and Young People's Participation Strategy
<p>Summary:</p> <p>This report asks Members to consider a Children and Young People's Participation Strategy which is to be adopted by the Brent Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board. The active engagement of children and young people in shaping where they live and the services they use is at the heart of the Every Child Matters change agenda and our progress in this area will be scrutinised in the Joint Area Review scheduled for Spring 2006.</p> <p>The strategy describes a vision and the key principles underpinning the Council and its partners intentions for engaging children and young people in decision making about the development of services in Brent.</p> <p>The strategy refers to a range of guidance from national government, the National Youth Agency, the Local Govt Association, and the Carnegie Young People's Initiative amongst others – which advocates a more participatory model for the involvement of children and young people in service planning and delivery.</p> <p>The main recommendation in the strategy is that the Council and its partner organisations adopt the 'Hear by Right' standards for the active involvement of children and young people. These standards have been produced by the National Youth Agency (May 2005) in partnership with the Local Government Association and acknowledge the following shared values for the active and effective involvement of children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and young people's involvement is a visible commitment that is properly resourced• Children and young people's involvement is valued• Children and young people have equal opportunity to get involved• Policies and standards for the participation of children and young people are in place, evaluated and improved. <p>The 'Hear by Right' standards are a model for organisational change, the adoption of which will embed the participation of children and young people in the design, delivery and evaluation of services that affect them.</p> <p>It's intended to produce a child / young person version of the strategy once the substantive version is agreed.</p> <p>A report to the Executive is scheduled for September 2005.</p>	

Nature of Decision to be taken/Intended Outcome

Members will be asked to approve the Children & Young People's Participation Strategy

Timescale for decision:

September 2005

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