



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 9 December 2010 at 7.00 pm
Committee Rooms 1 and 2, Brent Town Hall, Forty
Lane, Wembley, HA9 9HD

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Gladbaum (Chair)
Matthews (Vice-Chair)
Aden
Green
Harrison
Hector
Oladapo
HM Patel

First alternates

Councillors:

S Choudhary
Clues
Mistry
Sneddon
Hirani
Daly
Long
Baker

Second alternates

Councillors:

A Choudry
Allie
Mitchell Murray
Ashraf
Hossain
Denselow
Mashari
HB Patel

Statutory Co-optees

Mrs S Abassi
Dr Kumar
Vacancy

Non-statutory Co-optees

Dr J Levison

Observers

Mr A Carter
Ms J Cooper
Mrs L Gouldbourne
Ms C Jolinon
Mr B Patel
Brent Youth Parliament
representatives

For further information contact: Joe Kwateng, Democratic Services Officer
020 8937 1354, joe.kwateng@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
1 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests	
Members are invited to declare, at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on the agenda.	
2 Deputations	
3 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2010	1 - 8
The minutes are attached.	
4 Matters Arising	
5 Primary school expansion strategy	9 - 26
Demand for primary school places is forecast to exceed the supply of places. A report was taken to the Council's Executive on 15 th November 2010 detailing the delivery strategy for primary school expansion.	
6 16-19 Agenda	27 - 32
The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act became law in November 2009. The act transferred the Learning and Skills Council's responsibilities for commissioning 16-19 education provision to local authorities from April 2010. In July 2010 the Department for Education announced changes to the 16-19 commissioning process that would come into effect in August and that new guidance would be published on the role of local authorities in the autumn. This report is to provide an update to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress the local authority has made in planning for and delivering its statutory 16-19 responsibilities and sets out the national policy changes that have taken place since July.	
7 Special Educational Needs: One Council project	33 - 52
This report follows on from previous reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which outlined plans to meet the increasing demand for specialist Special Educational Needs placements and to manage related	

budgetary pressures. A project concept paper has been developed as part of the One Council Programme. It sets out a high level plan for the period September 2010 to August 2013 and has the dual aim of improving local arrangements for meeting special educational needs and providing efficiency savings.

8 Safety at the school gates task group follow up

53 - 58

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked for an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Safety at the school gates task group. The task group was carried out in 2009/10 by members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and reported its findings to the Executive in March 2010. The report provides an update on the recommendations that the task group made to the Executive.

9 Verbal update - school places in Brent

Members will receive a verbal update on the latest situation with regard to school places in Brent.

10 Work Programme 2010-11

59 - 64

The Work Programme 2010/11 is attached for Members to consider.

11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for Thursday, 10 October at 7.00 pm.

12 Any other urgent business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.



- Please remember to *SWITCH OFF* your mobile phone during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
 - Toilets are available on the second floor.
 - Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near the Paul Daisley Hall.
 - A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge

This page is intentionally left blank



MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 20 October 2010 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Gladbaum (Chair), Councillor Matthews (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Aden, Harrison, Hunter and Oladapo, Mr Lorenzato (Statutory Co-optee), Dr Levison (Non-statutory Co-optee), Ms J Cooper (Teachers' Panel) and Mrs L Gouldbourne (Teachers' Panel)

Also present: Councillor Arnold (Lead Member, Children and Families), Kishan Parshotam (UK Youth Parliament Member for Brent) and Rizwaan Malik (UK Youth Parliament Member for Brent)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Hector and Kumar, Mrs Tabi (Non-statutory Co-optee) and Ms C Jolinon (Teachers' Panel)

1. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None declared.

2. Terms of reference

The Chair pointed out that the wrong terms of reference had been included with the agenda for this meeting, and she drew members' attention to the correct terms of reference which were circulated.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the last meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2010 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising (if any)

None.

5. Deputations (if any)

None received.

6. Brent Youth Parliament Media Summit report

Councillor Arnold (Lead Member, Children and Families) introduced the report already circulated, entitled "Outcomes of the Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) Media

Summit, 'Break the Stereotype, Fix the Impression". She explained that she had attended the summit which had been held in August 2010 and had been impressed by its outcomes.

Rizwaan Malik (UK Youth Parliament Member for Brent) then explained that BYP had hosted a youth conference which had brought local and national decision makers together with the borough's young people. This had been followed by the "Break the Stereotype, Fix the Impression" survey which had received some 2,242 responses from people of all ages across the country. Over 50 per cent of respondents had stated that they thought that the media did not show young people in a fair light.

Kishan Parshotam explained that, on 12 August 2010, BYP had held its first-ever media summit. He had chaired a panel of specially-invited guests which had included Matt Gardner (Brent Borough Police Commander), Sarah Teather MP (Minister of State for Children and Families) and Andy McCorkell (News Editor, Willesden and Brent Times). Kishan Parshotam explained that he had been surprised at the willingness of the invited guests to make pledges to move the campaign forward: Mr Gardner had committed to inviting BYP members to join the local "stop and search" forum, Ms Teather had agreed to bring this to the attention of the Home Secretary as an initiative which could be rolled out nationally, and Mr McCorkell had agreed to give BYP members a monthly column in the newspaper.

Kishan Parshotam then described further outcomes of the media summit, which included major coverage of the event in the television and print media; liaison with the Willesden and Brent Times which had resulted in a dedicated BYP page on the newspaper's website; and a meeting with the Brent Borough Commander to arrange BYP representatives' participation in the "stop and search" forum.

The Chair asked whether BYP representatives had met again with Sarah Teather MP. Kishan Parshotam replied that she had not yet been in touch but that it was hoped that liaison with her office could be re-established after the new BYP met for the first time in January 2011.

Dr Levinson (Jewish Faith Co-optee) asked whether the funding for BYP would be maintained after the financial cuts announced in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review would be implemented. Kishan Parshotam replied that BYP had one of the lowest budgets of all borough youth committees in London, and yet had managed to achieve some of the most high-profile results. Councillor Arnold added that she anticipated that funding of the BYP would continue.

The Vice-Chair commended the BYP for the hard work which had gone into the media summit, and the Chair then thanked the two BYP representatives and Renata Chavda for their contribution to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the contents of the report, "Outcomes of the Brent Youth parliament Media Summit 'Break the Stereotype, Fix the Impression'" be noted.

7. Youth Service Review

The Committee received the report, "Review of Youth Service provision," which had been previously circulated. Angela Chiswell (Head of Youth and Connexions Service) explained that the report covered not only the Council's dedicated Youth Service but also general services for youth provided by various Council departments.

Angela Chiswell reported that the specific objectives of the review were to make recommendations on future service development, more effective co-ordination of services, development of a future "local youth offer", and a re-focusing of the priorities and objectives for the Youth Service.

Angela Chiswell went on to explain that the recommendations arising from the review had included the establishment of a steering group to take a strategic view of youth service provision; the publication of a comprehensive list of the services offered for young people; the setting of measurable targets for all services provided to youth in the borough; and a joining together of commissioning functions which are currently scattered across various departments.

Councillor Harrison asked whether there was a timescale for the implementation of the review recommendations. Angela Chiswell replied that it was planned that the majority of the recommendations would have been implemented by the end of 2011.

Ms J Cooper (Teachers' Panel) asked whether a new swimming pool in the north of the borough would be included as part of the audit of service provision to youth. Councillor Arnold replied that the Executive would act on the information that had come out of the review, while Councillor Matthews explained that a new swimming pool for the north of the borough remained an aspiration.

Mrs Gouldbourne (Teachers' Panel) asked whether disabled students were making use of the borough's youth services. Angela Chiswell replied that a database of youth services across West London was currently being compiled, which would enable the Council to ascertain more clearly who was accessing them.

Councillor Matthews asked whether there was any scope to involve young people in the steering group. Angela Chiswell replied that it was a key principle of the Youth and Connexions Services to engage young people in its planning. The Chair explained that she and the Committee would welcome this being included in the Services' statement of aims. The Committee also felt it would be appropriate if disabled young people were members of the steering group and this was recommended to officers.

In response to questions, Angela Chiswell explained that the Youth Service was expecting an extra £250,000 cut in its funding. The Chair commented that rationalising of activities would be vital in the current atmosphere of funding reduction, and it was agreed that an update would be provided to the Committee either in February or March 2011.

RESOLVED:

that the contents of the report, "Review of Youth Service provision", be noted.

8. Localities Teams update report

Members received the report, "Update on the work of Early Intervention Teams and Social Care team working in localities. Jo Bridger (Early Intervention Localities Manager) explained that the Early Intervention Team (EIT) was a non-statutory team which, since April 2010, had been co-located with Social Services in five localities around the borough. She explained that the EIT worked in partnership with families, advocating on behalf of children and young people. She added that the main benefit of the close working relationship between the EIT and social workers was that families in need could be referred to social work teams quickly when required.

Sharon Stockman (Head, Social Care Localities Teams) then explained that schools in particular benefited from having a single place where they could refer children whom they suspected of needing social care intervention. She went on to explain that the EIT and locality social work teams met every six weeks with a number of other agencies to help foster closer working relationships with each other.

Councillor Hunter explained that the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently endorsed a letter written to the Primary Care Trust (PCT) by the Chief Executive, expressing concerns about the PCT's plans for Brent Community Services. She asked whether the localities teams had been consulted for their feedback. Sharon Stockman replied that a meeting of the Localities Safeguarding Board had recently discussed the plans and the Chief Executive's response, although neither the social work localities teams nor the EIT had been asked for their feedback. Graham Genoni (Assistant Director, Social Care) added that the Council had been consulted only recently, and that the decision making had now moved on to the strategic health authority and away from the Council. Andrew Davies (Policy Officer, Policy and Regeneration) explained that members would be kept informed of developments through the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this Committee.

Councillor Hunter explained that the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee had asked the PCT to re-visit the matter in the light of the concerns expressed in the Chief Executive's letter. Councillor Arnold (Lead Member, Children and Families) explained that the Executive would make the case for further consideration of the proposals through the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED:

that the contents of the report, "Update on the work of Early Intervention Team and Social Care team working in Localities" be noted.

9. School results - verbal update

In response to a request from members at the last meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Faira Elks (Head of School

Improvement) and Chris Rossiter (Schools Improvement Adviser, Maths and Numeracy) gave a short verbal update on Brent school results based on preliminary data from the academic year 2009-10.

Faira Elks explained that, as a general picture, school results started at a low level but improved across all Key Stages. Preliminary data suggested that, at Early Years Foundation Stage, 43 per cent of Brent schoolchildren achieved the requisite level in all areas of learning, which was lower than the averages for Greater London and England and Wales, although the gap between the highest achieving and lowest achieving children was narrowing. She added that, in order to find out why Brent results in this age group were so low, a Quality and Improvement Team was now in place to monitor these results.

Chris Rossiter explained that, at Key Stage 1, results remained lower than the Greater London and national average, although this gap had narrowed in recent years. She advised that the gap between children who received and who did not receive free school meals was, however, narrower than in other boroughs.

Chris Rossiter then explained that, at Key Stage 2, the results were better. Considering the relatively low levels at Key Stage 1, Brent schoolchildren made accelerated progress and the preliminary data suggested that, for the first time, the results for English and mathematics were above the national average.

Faira Elks then explained that, for Key Stage 3, it was difficult to glean an accurate picture from the preliminary data, although the figures suggested that Brent schools were performing below the national average in English and mathematics. The picture was, however, brighter for Key Stage 4 where 61.3 per cent of Brent schoolchildren had achieved at least five A*-C passes at GCSE level.

The Chair asked that the Committee's congratulations be passed on to the Headteachers of Brent's schools to thank them for their hard work and for the improvements in results.

RESOLVED:

that the information contained in the verbal update be noted.

10. **Support for Somali pupils**

Naureen Kausar (Head of Service, Ethnic Minorities and Travellers Achievement Service) introduced the report, "Support for Somali pupils", which had been circulated. She explained that, although the school performance of Brent's Somali pupils had improved in recent years, there was continuing underperformance amongst this group.

Naureen Kausar described in some detail the support offered in schools to Somali students, which included: language development; an effective induction programme; and involvement of students' parents in the educational performance of their children. She added that the Ethnic Minorities and Travellers Achievement Service (EMTAS) had also arranged regular appearances on a Somali-language television channel to explain the British education system to Somali parents.

Members welcomed the efforts made by the EMTAS to improve school performance among Somali pupils and the improvements which had been made.

RESOLVED:

that the contents of the report, "Support for Somali pupils," be noted.

11. Youth Offending Task Group - terms of reference

Members considered the Terms of Reference for the Youth Offending Task Force which had been circulated.

The Chair explained that she would like to act as chair of this Task Group, which proposal was accepted. She then asked for volunteers to become members of the Task Group. Councillor Hector and Councillor Harrison both offered to act in this role.

RESOLVED:

that Councillor Gladbaum be elected to act as the Chair of the Youth Offending Task Group; and

that Councillor Hector and Councillor Harrison be elected to act as members of the Youth Offending Task Group.

12. Verbal update - school places in Brent

Graham Genoni (Assistant Director, Social Care) gave a brief update on the situation regarding school places in Brent. He explained that there was a shortage of about 150 school places at reception class age, although primary schools, Children's Centres and nurseries were working together to provide short-term solutions to address this shortage. Councillor Arnold (Lead Member, Children and Families) added that there was a higher level of shortage of reception class places than had been anticipated, although from January, around 135 extra school places would be available.

Graham Genoni went on to say that, at secondary school level, there was currently a surplus of school places, now that the Ark Academy had been launched.

RESOLVED:

that the information contained in the verbal update on school places be noted.

13. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2010-11

Members considered a table of suggested items for future meetings of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had been circulated.

Andrew Davies (Policy Officer, Policy and Regeneration) explained that the meeting scheduled in February 2011 would consider items on the subject of social care. The Chair asked whether an item on the safety of schoolchildren on the way to and from

school could be brought before the Committee; Andrew Davies replied that this could be heard at the Committee's December meeting.

Mrs Gouldbourne (Teachers' Panel) asked when the Youth Offending Task Force would report back to the Committee. Andrew Davies replied that it would be arranged for feedback to be given to the Committee at its meeting scheduled for March 2011. Mrs Gouldbourne then asked whether a report on children's health could be brought before the Committee. Andrew Davies replied that this was a subject that would normally be considered by the Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but that he would circulate a report on sexual health which had recently been considered by that committee.

Councillor Hector asked how often the One Communities, Many Voices event would be held. Andrew Davies explained that the event held in September 2010 had been the first of its kind, and he agreed to explore whether this could be made into a regular event.

RESOLVED:

that the work programme for future meetings of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

14. Date of next meeting

Members heard that the next meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee was scheduled for 8 December 2010. Mrs Gouldbourne (Teachers' Panel) noted this clashed with the Schools Forum meeting. Andrew Davies undertook to see whether this meeting could be re-scheduled to avoid this clash.

15. Any other urgent business

None.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

H. GLADBAUM
Chair

This page is intentionally left blank



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 9th November 2010

Report from the Director of Children & Families Department

For Action/Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Report Title: Primary School Expansion Strategy

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Demand for primary school places is forecast to exceed the supply of places. A report was taken to the Council's Executive on 15th November 2010 detailing the delivery strategy for primary school expansion.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment on the attached report and recommendations.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The detail is contained in the attached report.

Contact Officers

Richard Barrett
Assistant Director of Property & Assets, Regeneration & Major Projects
Richard.barrett@brent.gov.uk

Rik Boxer
Assistant Director, Achievement & Inclusion
Rik.boxer@brent.gov.uk

Krutika Pau
Director of Children & Families Department
Krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



The Executive
15 November 2010

Report from the Director of Children and Families and the Director of Regeneration and Major Projects

For Decision

Wards Affected: All

Brent Primary Schools Expansion: Delivery Strategy 2010-14

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Demand for primary school places is forecast to exceed the supply of places. 1680 new primary places are required by 2015-16 including a 5% planning margin, according to GLA school roll projections 2010, which equals approximately four new 2FE primary schools (420 places).
- 1.2 The projections of the rising demand for reception school places in the borough are matched by evidence on the ground. As is the case across most London Authorities, Brent Council is overwhelmed by the shortfall of primary school places, with severe shortage in the reception cohort.
- 1.3 A detailed review of the school assets portfolio will be undertaken in the next year to ensure that the limited Council resources are applied to areas of maximum need in order to meet the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, improve the educational outcomes and achieve value for money on delivery of capital schemes.
- 1.4 A report titled "Primary Places – Allocation of the balance of Basic Need Safety Valve funding and Council's Main Capital Programme allocations to primary schools for expansion" was agreed by the Executive on 11 August 2010.
- 1.5 Brent Council was allocated £14.766m from the previous Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) under the Basic Need Safety Valve (BNSV) in November 2009. The Executive report included information on schemes providing 1.5FE (315 primary school places) and further recommended the allocation of the balance of funds under BNSV and the Council's main capital programme to supply an additional 8FE (1680 primary school places) across 6 primary and secondary schools. The net effect would be an increase by 9.5FE (1995 primary places).

- 1.6 The Executive was notified in August 2010 that a further paper will be presented with detailed costing information and making recommendations on which projects will actually be taken forward in order to meet the current pressures.
- 1.7 This report clarifies the strategy and options for delivering sufficient primary school places utilising the School's Capital Programme and the Basic Need Safety Valve Funding.

2.0 **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the reprioritisation of recommended schemes for spending the £14.766m Basic Need Safety Valve funding as set out in the table under paragraph 3.3.8 for providing additional primary school places.
- 2.2 To approve a further allocation of £4.997m, over and above the previously approved £12.013m from the Council's main Capital Programme as set out in the table under paragraph 3.4.3 towards new permanent primary school provision in the borough.
- 2.3 To agree that a further report will be presented to Executive in February 2011 setting out recommendations for prioritising the expenditure of £17.010m from the Council's main Capital Programme on primary expansion schemes, including those set out in Table 6 relating to new and/or expanded schools at Braintcroft, Capital City Academy and Wembley High.
- 2.4 To award three contracts to Mott McDonald for project management and full design team services (including CDM Co-ordination) for the Preston Manor, Newfield and Brentfield schemes, respectively.
- 2.5 To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Major Projects to appoint one or more works contractors using existing construction frameworks, for the Preston Manor, Newfield and Brentfield schemes.
- 2.6 To authorise an exemption from the quotation requirements of Contract Standing Orders to allow the appointment of Watts as Employer's Representative for the construction phases of the Preston Manor, Newfield and Brentfield schemes, for the good operational reasons set out in paragraph 4.4 of this report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Background

3.1.1 Update on Demand for School Places

- 3.1.2 Brent Council has a general statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population in its area.
- 3.1.3 In the last two academic years, the GLA's accuracy rate for the projection of primary school rolls has been falling and has not addressed the real rise in demand for primary school places. This is generally true across London authorities, which are being caught by extremely high number of applications for reception and Year 1 places.
- 3.1.4 Brent Council has already provided 135 additional places for September 2010. At the time of writing this Executive report, 150 reception children did not have a school place in the 2009-10 academic year. The numbers of children without a school place for the 2010-11 academic year in each primary year group as at 26 October 2010 are as follows:

Table 1.

Year Groups	Unplaced Children 2009-10	Unplaced Children 2010-11	Vacancies 2010-11
Reception	72	150	*12
Year 1	25	154	15
Year 2	17	91	42
Year 3	15	73	78
Year 4	4	63	127
Year 5	16	36	179
Year 6	15	67	125
TOTAL	164	634	578

*Additional Reception places are planned to commence in the current academic year.

- 3.1.5 The number of unplaced children and vacancies in the system are constantly fluctuating but overall demand is exceeding supply in the lower year groups (reception to Year 2), which is correlated to the pattern of rising demand in the borough, and indeed across London, over the last three years.
- 3.1.6 On time reception applications are up on last year, 3,817 applications for 2010-11 compared to 3,583 on time applications for 2009-10. Since the closing date, a further 429 applications have been received, making a total of 4,246 applications. More applications will inevitably come in throughout the academic year.
- 3.1.7 According to GLA's current projection of school rolls (based on the January 2010 pupil census data), the number of four year olds on roll is expected to rise by over 300 pupils between 2010 and 2013, after which the demand is projected to decrease slightly. Whilst this translates into a shortfall in the capacity by 270 reception places (9 classes) by September 2012 it does not fully take into account GLA's analysis presented in September 2010 that the birth rate across London is increasing more than previously expected. The impact of rising birth rate may further impact on the demand for reception places.

3.1.8 The GLA school roll projection analysis estimates that Council will need to provide an additional 1680 (Reception to Year 6) primary places by 2015-16 (including a 5% planning margin), which approximately equates to four new 2FE primary schools.

3.1.9 Ongoing Permanent Expansion of Capacity:

3.1.10 In May 2009, the LA consulted with primary schools in the borough to explore the possibility of increasing the number of school places. Subsequently, the local authority reviewed opportunities to increase capacity at all primary schools and attempted to match these to areas where there was the highest demand for school places. Discussions took place with schools which were suitable and willing for expansion. This was followed by an initial feasibility assessment for a long list of schools. A priority list for expansion of school has been drawn from this work based on the following criteria:

- shortage of school places in a local area;
- physical expansion of a school deemed to be feasible;
- availability of funding to expand the school in accordance with the initial feasibility study;
- risk associated with the expansion of the specific schools, likelihood of planning consent;
- expression of interest and/or agreement by the school to expand its capacity on a permanent basis.

3.1.11 Expansion proposals will promote good quality and design, and ensure that value for money, sustainability and above all improved learning outcomes are realised.

3.1.12 The schools will be built using a mixture of traditional and innovative off-site solutions, which may include modular/off-site steel frame structures or engineered timber frame solutions which are both designed for at least a 60 year life and are BBA certified. The designs are however still being developed to ensure that the schools are being built in the most efficient way, and meeting sustainable standards such as BREEAM Very Good (as a minimum on all 3 schools), 20% renewables, and with natural ventilation where possible. Suppliers will generally have ISO 9001 for Quality Assurance and ISO 14001 Environmental Assurance accreditation.

3.2 Strategy and options for delivering additional primary school places

3.2.1 Bulge Classes for September 2010:

3.2.2 As stated in the August 2010 Executive report, the Council has delivered 120 additional temporary Reception places and 15 permanent Reception places by September 2010 to alleviate the significant shortfall in the Reception classes.

3.2.3 The schools which have taken in 'bulge' reception classes in September 2010 are listed in the table below:

Table 2.

Sr. No.	School Name	'Bulge' Classes	Funding £ '000	Comments
1.	Park Lane Primary	1FE (30 places)	45	The temporary 1FE provision will convert to permanent places from Jan 2011, subject to planning approval by Dec 2010. The permanent expansion will cost £2.2m, funded from BNSV and School's Capital Programme.
2.	Braintcroft Primary	1FE (30 places)	157	1 in-fill permanent classroom including extension/refurbishment to a kitchen and a conversion for a classroom. From Sep 2011, the school will offer permanent 1FE provision, subject to new buildings, currently planned to be completed by Sep-Nov 2011. The school has agreed to run a 'bulge' Year 1 class consisting of 30 places from January 2011, subject to redevelopment and permanent expansion of the school. Includes FF&E.
3.	Wykham Primary	1FE (30 places)	25	Budget to be confirmed by the school since it had commissioned the adaptation work.
4.	Islamia Primary	1FE (30 places)	28	School will offer permanent 1FE provision, subject to new buildings, currently planned to be completed by September 2012.
5.	Brentfield Primary	1FE (30 places)	129	1 temporary classroom including services connection. From Sep 2011, the school will offer permanent 1FE provision, subject to new buildings, currently planned to be completed by Sep-Nov 2011. Includes FF&E.
6.	Ashley Gardens Early Learning Centre, sited at Preston Manor High School	2FE (60 places)	526	The temporary accommodation will provide for Reception/Year 1 Project from January 2011. This provision will be replaced by permanent 2FE provision, subject to new buildings, currently planned to be completed by Oct 2011. Includes FF&E.
7.	Contingency	-	57	Budget for meeting unforeseen expenditure on the above temporary provision schemes.
	Total	7FE	£967	This amount is being paid from the main Capital Programme, which is separate from the capital amounts for which Executive agreement is being sought.

3.2.4 Total funding of £967k has been allocated to meet the cost of these temporary expansions from the Council's School Capital Programme. This money is separate from the capital amounts for which Executive agreement is being sought within this report.

3.2.5 In addition, the Council has provided 'temporary' reception places at Granville Nursery school (12), Curzon Crescent Nursery School (governors have to provide 30 places from 22 November 2010) and College Green Nursery School (8 places). Pupils in these places will need to be relocated to permanent Year 1 provision next year.

3.3 Basic Need Safety Valve Funding (BNSV)

3.3.1 In August 2010, the Executive was informed that Brent Council was allocated £14.766m in November 2009 from the previous DCSF under the additional round of Basic Need Safety Valve (BNSV). The funding is an emergency allocation to provide sufficient reception places by September 2011.

3.3.2 The previous DCSF's criteria for allocation of BNSV funding to Local Authorities (LA) is given in the Executive report dated 11 August 2010. The department reserved the right to claw back surplus funding where the 2012 census shows that forecast growth has not occurred.

- 3.3.3 Most of the local authority including Brent's bids did not meet the initial BNSV criteria, which required that predicted growth in the number of reception age pupils from September 2008 to September 2011 must be higher than 15%. Subsequently, DCSF agreed to revise the BNSV criteria and this resulted in Brent being allocated £14.766m.
- 3.3.4 Baseline and forecast pupil Number on Roll (NoR), excluding Academies, in Brent's bid were as follows:

Table 3.

	Reception	Total Primary (Growth Areas)
September 2008	3235	3350
September 2011	3642	5190
Difference (Forecast – Actual)	407	1840

- 3.3.5 There are currently 150 reception aged children without a school place. At the time of writing this report, a total of 634 primary (reception to year 6) aged children remained without a school place. If all these children were to be placed in primary schools in the current academic year, the increase in the primary numbers on roll (reception to year 6) over the bid baseline (September 2008) would equate to approximately 1522 pupils. This is being used as a basis for calculation of the claw back risk value of £2.551m from the BNSV funding if the growth in pupil numbers were to not rise beyond 1522 primary pupils. However, further applications for primary school places are expected throughout the 2011-12 academic year and the demand for primary places is expected to significantly grow in the next academic year.
- 3.3.6 The Executive approved the previous report in August 2010 to allocate the £14.766m of BNSV funds on primary expansion schemes. It was stated in the report that these schemes would be reviewed to ensure they are affordable, contribute towards meeting the forecast demand for primary school places, whilst still meeting the funding criteria.
- 3.3.7 The Council has reviewed and reprioritised the expansion schemes which best fit the criteria under this funding allocation. The reprioritisation and the funding allocation for the recommended schemes is listed in paragraph 3.3.8.

3.3.8 Basic Need Safety Valve Scheme: The following schemes are underway for permanent expansion, which comply with the criteria for BNSV funding:

Table 4.

Basic Need Safety Valve Allocation (£14.76m):			
School Name	Form of Entry (FE)	Funding Requirement (£ million)	Proposal Summary
a) BNSV funded Schemes currently in progress:			
St. Robert Southwell Primary School	0.5	0.02	Internal adaptation, leading to permanent expansion.
Park Lane Primary School	1	1.6	Statutory Proposal has been approved, subject to planning approval by December 2010. Expansion of school is essential for allowing previous 'bulge' classes to progress.
Total 1.	1.5FE	1.62	This 1.5FE permanent expansion is already accounted by the increase in the NoR by September 2008, 2009 & 2010.
*b) Reprioritised schemes since the 11 August 2010 Executive report for spending BNSV funding:			
Preston Manor Secondary School	2	7	Permanent high quality building utilising innovative off site construction with flexibility to expand. Classrooms for new reception intake and previous 'bulge' year groups to be delivered in time for Sep 2011. May require provision of MUGA for additional £300k to compensate for loss of secondary school playing field.
Brentfield Primary School	1	3	Permanent high quality building with flexibility to expand. Classrooms for new reception intake and previous 'bulge' year groups to be delivered in time for Sep 2011.
Newfield Primary School	1	3.1	Permanent high quality building with flexibility to expand. Require additional area to that currently occupied by the school. Key risk is the delay in obtaining possession of the Mission Dine Community Centre. The estimated delivery time would be dependent on how soon the use of the community centre could be developed for educational works. Classrooms for new reception intake and previous 'bulge' year groups to be delivered in time for Sep 2011.
Total 2.	4FE	13.1	This 4FE permanent expansion will be required for the increase in NoR from September 2011.
BNSV TOTAL 1. + 2.	5.5FE	£14.72m	

*The cost estimates are subject to further work on design and evaluation of the schemes. We will provide an update to the Executive if the estimated costs of these schemes increase more than the total BNSV funding of £14.766m and make recommendations for how a balanced portfolio of work can be progressed. The schemes are subject to statutory consultation and planning approval.

3.4 Update on the allocation under the Council's Main Capital Programme

- 3.4.1 The Executive report in August 2010 also identified a budget of £12.013m under the School's Capital Programme between 2010/11 and 2012/13, which could be used for primary school expansion projects. These monies consisted of unallocated budget for hut replacement (£4.243m) and expansion of schools (£7.770m).
- 3.4.2 At the time of writing this report, the Council has identified additional unallocated monies totalling £4.997m, within the School's Capital Programme. This consists of a further £325k from the 2010/11 hut replacement allocation (carried forward from the 2009/10 budget), £332k from the 2010/11 allocation for school expansion (accrued from 'strategy for development of school places' allocation), £2m from the 2013/14 hut replacement allocation and £2.590m from the 2013/14 allocation for school expansion, less £250k in 2011/12 under provision for school expansion.
- 3.4.3 The sum total of all the funding available in the Capital Programme totals £17.010m. The table below details the profile of these allocations across the financial years.

Table 5.

Children & Families Capital Programme Allocation	2010/11 Budget £'000	2011/12 Budget £'000	2012/13 Budget £'000	2013/14 Budget £'000	Total £'000
Provision for School Expansion	2,922	2,340	2,590	2,590	10,442
Hut Replacement Programme	568	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,568
Total Available Allocation	3,490	4,340	4,590	4,590	17,010

- 3.4.4 As stated in the previous report in August 2010, in order to meet the recommendation of spending the school's Capital Programme it will be necessary to re-profile the budget allocations to the scheme timelines which will require bringing funding forward to meet expenditure. It is probable that in order to do this it will be necessary to incur increased levels of unsupported borrowing in the earlier years of the Council's overall capital programme and reduced amounts in later years with a likelihood of a nil net impact overall. This would mean that there would be increased debt charges falling upon the general fund revenue account in earlier years. The requirement for additional unsupported borrowing in the short term could be nullified if there is sufficient levels of re-phasing to schemes elsewhere in the Council's capital programme but it will not be possible to quantify this until later in the financial year. The current funding identified within the Capital Programme is based on pre-Spending Review allocations and forecast which could vary subject to the announcement on 20 October 2010, once the government departments have notified Brent of local level impact. In general terms the Comprehensive Spending Review announced a 60% reduction in real terms in schools capital spending, with an expectation that demographic pressures and maintenance needs will be met.
- 3.4.5 The suggested reprioritisation of the schemes and the funding allocation for the recommended schemes under the Council's School Capital Programme is listed in paragraph 3.4.7. Detailed business plans will be developed to guide the final selection of primary expansion schemes funded from the School's capital Programme and a report will be presented to the Executive in February 2011.

3.4.6 Ongoing Permanent Expansion of Capacity (to 2014):

3.4.7 The schemes listed in Table 6 below are being considered for permanent expansion, subject to availability of funding from the Council's main Capital Programme. These schemes were included in the August 2010 Executive report but require further evaluation and will need to be reprioritised to ensure compliance with the criteria listed in paragraph 3.1.10.

Table 6.

Council's Main Capital Programme (£17.010m):			
School Name	Form of Entry (FE)	Funding Requirement (£ million)	Proposal Summary
**Schemes pending Executive approval to spend Capital funding:			
Braintcroft Primary School	1	10.8	Proposed rebuild of the entire school and expansion by 1FE (3FE to 4FE) with a new asset life of 60 years. The rebuild could be in phases subject to availability of funding. Alternatively, the existing buildings urgently require an investment of at least £2.5m to undertake essential repair works which will extend asset life by 2 to 5 years or at least £6.7m for full scale refurbishment extending the asset life by 10-15 years.
Wembley High Primary School	1	1m	Remodelling / extension project. Costs to be confirmed.
Capital City Academy	2	6.01	Key risk is grant of planning permission.
Total	4FE	17.81m	No request for new capital is being made at present time.

**The cost estimates are subject to further work on design and evaluation of the schemes.

3.4.8 The schemes in Table 6 above could provide additional 4FE provision. However, the cost will be reviewed to ensure that all the schemes could be delivered within the available Capital Programme funding of £17.010m listed under paragraph 3.4.3.

3.4.9 If these schemes are to be delivered within the timescales required, it is important that the Council moves quickly to the design, planning and procurement stages. In order to ensure effect progress, full project governance and management arrangements have been implemented. Inevitably as the schemes are developed and timelines and delivery dates become more certain, it may be necessary to alter whether schemes are funded from the Basic Need Safety Valve or from the Council's main Capital Programme. This assessment will be undertaken by the Director of Regeneration and Major Projects, in conjunction with the Director of Children and Families, and would be subject to the overall scheme costs remaining below the identified total funding allowance of £31.776m (£14.766m BNSV and £17.010m Capital Programme).

3.5 Summary Risk Assessment:

3.5.1 The key risks for developing these schemes are as follows:

Table 7.

Item No.	Risk	Mitigating action
1.	Disconnect between Council and Schools vision.	Continuous communication between the Council and the School. This will require a single person responsibility from the Council.
2.	Planning Risk for the recommended schemes.	Planners to be informed of progress on a monthly basis.
3.	BNSV funding may be withdrawn by the DfE.	Continual dialogue with DfE to understand and mitigate risk.
4.	Rushing Schemes in order to maximise BNSV funding affects quality.	Procurement and Strategic Risk workshop to be set up following Feasibility report. Programme Manger to report risks and cash flow on monthly basis.
5.	Delay means that some of the BNSV money is withdrawn – it is a grant condition that it must be spent by August 2011	According to the previous DCSF criteria, permanent primary places (not just additional reception classes) to be funded can be delivered in time for September 2011.
6.	The previous DCSF reserved the right to claw back surplus funding where the 2012 Pupil census shows that forecast growth has not occurred.	There are currently 150 reception aged children without a school place. At the time of writing this report, a total of 634 primary (reception to year 6) aged children remain without a school place. If all these children were to be placed in primary schools in the current academic year, the increase in the primary numbers on roll (reception to year 6) over the bid baseline (September 2008) would equate to approximately 1522 pupils. The financial risk has been calculated and is mentioned in paragraph 3.3.5.
7.	Council departments not aware of developments.	Project Board has been set up. Project managers also to ensure that there is clear communication with the various Council Departments regarding developments all the way through the process.
8.	Schools deciding that expansion is not good for them and/or major concerns from any of the stakeholders.	Clear consultation and gaining approval along the way. Intensive renegotiation and consultation required, or others schools brought into the mix if necessary Strategic Gateways to be set up (i.e. formal approval /feedback of Feasibility reports from schools before further consultant or design is approved). Alternative options to be prepared.
9.	Schools do not agree with findings of feasibility report.	Open and transparent discussions about the reasoning behind the study, the issues surrounding funding, and the possible options.
10.	Unclear communication	Brent to nominate internal Project Manager

	within Brent amidst restructuring.	and provide a structure chart. External consultants to communicate with all contacts with Brent as much as possible to ensure that there are effective communication channels.
11.	Delays to one of the school programme may affect funding for other schools.	Monthly reporting against delivery with clear guidance on cash flow and funding arrangements from Programme Manager. Contingency plans to be discussed, including the understanding of Executive Approval for more funds.
12.	Funding from other sources could be withdrawn by DFE or other ongoing major school expansion projects may be overspent on delivery, which could impact on funds identified within this report.	BNSV funding needs to be ring fenced for delivery of the projects identified within this report. School's Capital Programme Funding will be reviewed and adjustments in relation to other funding schemes, such as, Primary Capital Programme (PCP) and Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) including overspent projects, will be made prior to a report being submitted to the Executive in February 2011.

4.0 Appointment of Consultants and Works Contractors

- 4.1 Although the BNSV funding was granted to the Council in November 2009, there has been slow progress in implementing the proposed schemes, with the first Executive report being in August 2010.
- 4.2 In early September 2010 Council had appointed Watts as primary consultants to assist in preliminary design and planning activities, in parallel to the statutory proposal process so that the Council is given a realistic chance of complying with the funding terms of the Basic Need Safety Valve (BNSV). The Council is currently going through a further appointment process for project management and design services to continue the work completed so far by Watts.
- 4.3 A framework has been identified, the OGC framework for Project Management and Full Design Team Services, these being the services which the Council requires for these schemes. Due to the need to spend the BNSV funding by August 2011, it is urgent to get a consultant in place to work with the Council until the schemes are completed. Although there are 12 consultants on this OGC framework, under the rules of the framework it is possible to appoint a consultant direct without going through a mini-competition, provided it is possible to identify which consultant provides best value for money from the information within the OGC on-line documentation. Here the lowest priced consultant did not have a satisfactory supply chain (i.e. sub-consultants) to deliver on the Council's projects, and instead the second-lowest priced consultant is proposed to be used. This is Mott McDonald with a fee for each of the three projects (Preston Manor, Newfield and Brentfield) of between 6.61% and 7.61% of the total construction cost (fees vary according to whether the project is a new build or a refurbishment), with a total estimated contract value of £..... The appointment will be for RIBA stages C – L. There is likely to be some ongoing involvement of Watts in the project as sub-consultants to Mott McDonald.

- 4.4 Again due to the urgent need to secure delivery on this project, the Council will need to appoint an Employer's Agent to for the construction phase – where the building contract awarded is to be for design and build, the client needs an Employer's Agent to monitor ongoing compliance with the initial Council design, and for related contractual supervision. The contract estimate for this appointment is below the threshold for tendering under the EU rules and under the Council's own contract standing orders three quotations are required. However in order to ensure ongoing continuity in the face of a very tight timescale, the Executive are recommended to approve an exemption from the quotation requirements of Contract Standing orders for this appointment.
- 4.5 Again due to the urgent need to deliver on these schemes by August 2011 or risk losing funding, it is also proposed that there be delegation to the Director of Regeneration and Major Projects to award one or more works contracts to deliver on these schemes. Normally all works contracts exceeding £1m in value have to be awarded by the Executive. The Council will require the appointment of one or more design and build contractors to build the schemes that Mott McDonald will design. It is proposed to use a framework run by the organisation called Improvement and Efficiency South East. This framework has previously been used to appoint contractors for projects such as Harlesden Library and Roundwood Youth Centre.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 It is proposed that expenditure (both for design fees and building costs) will be met from a combination of Basic Needs Safety Valve (BNSV) funding totalling £14.766m and council capital programme funding of £17.010m. The BNSV funding allocation is dependent on pupil numbers in the January 2012 census meeting those forecast for September 2011 and the Department for Education have reserved the right to claw back funding where these targets have not been met. As such the allocation must be expended in full by August 2011 in order to achieve these targets. If the targets are not met the liability to meet committed costs will fall to the Council for which there is no budgetary provision.
- 5.2 Utilisation of the council capital programme funding will require re-profiling of the budget allocations to meet the scheme timelines. This will require bringing funding forward to meet expenditure and as such will be necessary to incur increased levels of unsupported borrowing in the earlier years of the Councils overall capital programme and reduced amounts in later years with a nil net impact overall. This would mean that there would be increased debt charges falling upon the general fund revenue account in earlier years. The requirement for additional unsupported borrowing in the short term could be nullified if there is sufficient level of re-phasing to schemes elsewhere in the Council's capital programme. This will need to be monitored and the Executive will be notified of the position via the quarterly PFR monitoring reports.
- 5.3 The current funding identified within the Capital Programme is based on pre-Spending Review allocations and forecasts which could vary subject to the announcement on the 20 October 2010, once the government departments have notified Brent of local level impact. In general terms the Comprehensive Spending Review announced a 60% reduction in real terms in schools capital spending, with an expectation that demographic pressures and maintenance needs will be met.
- 5.4 The cost estimates included within the report are subject to further work on design and evaluation of the schemes.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996, as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, a local education authority has a general statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population in its area. Local Authority must promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice. To discharge this duty the Local Authority has to undertake a planning function to ensure that the supply of school places balances the demand for them.
- 6.2 Under section 19 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006, (and in accordance with the School Organisation Regulations), a Local Authority can publish proposals to expand any category (community, voluntary, foundation, community special and foundation special) of maintained school. The governing body of a maintained school may also publish proposals to expand their school. Where the Local Education Authority propose to make a prescribed alteration to a maintained school, the Authority must publish their proposals.
- 6.3 Contract Procurement: The Council will need to appoint consultants and building contractors, in order to implement these schemes. As indicated above, one option for appointing these consultants or building contractors is to use a framework. Where this is a Framework set up by a third party, such as is proposed for use here, the Council's procedure for this under Contract Standing Order 86(d) is that the Chief Officer has to recommend this, and then the Borough Solicitor has to confirm that use is legally permissible. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services also has to approve. If such a framework is not used then a formal tender process is required for all contracts worth over £156,000 in value (or £3.9m for works). This consent procedure has already been followed in relation to the recommended Mott McDonald appointment, and will be followed for any works contracts where it is proposed to use a framework. Any appointment of one or more building contractors under the IESE framework (see paragraph 4.5 above) will also have to follow this procedure.
- 6.4 Any contracts that exceed £500,000 in value (or £1m in the case of works contracts) require Executive approval for award. As a result the proposed appointment of Mott McDonald is being recommended for award to the Executive. In addition it is proposed that the Executive delegate the decision to award contracts to building contractors to the Director of Regeneration and Major Projects in order to minimise further delay in the delivery of this project. It is not usual for award decisions to be delegated however it is considered justified in these circumstances.
- 6.5 It is also recommended that the Executive grant an exemption to the usual quotation requirements of Contract Standing Orders to allow direct award of a contract for Employer's Agent services. A process of obtaining three written quotes is normally required for all contracts below £156,442 in value, however the Executive can grant an exemption from this where there are good operational and financial reasons. Here the reasons are set out in paragraph 4.4 above.

7.0 Diversity Implications

- 7.1 In 2008, the Council consulted widely on schools strategy in Brent, receiving over 800 responses. Brent residents were in favour of the Council's strategy for school places and believed that the LA should play a major role in managing and running schools (89% agree). Parent groups were the next most frequently identified (73% agree). Only around four in ten participants felt that charities (38%), faith groups (37%) or private sponsors (36%) should have such involvement in Brent schools.
- 7.2 Ensuring equal access to school places in Brent - over two thirds of participants did not feel they were disadvantaged in obtaining a school place for their children due to any of the main diversity strands. Over, 90% did not feel they were disadvantaged due to their gender. This was also true for 85% of participants in relation to disability; 77% in relation to ethnicity; and 66% in relation to their faith.
- 7.3 The schools proposed for expansion have a diverse ethnic representation of children. Expanding the schools listed in this report would enable the Council to provide additional new places required for Brent's growing pupil population.
- 7.4 Overall the expansion strategy will improve choice and diversity. The impact on Equalities will be kept under review and reported to the member level Strategy Board on a regular basis together with proposals for the implementation of specific proposals within the Strategy.

8.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 8.1 There are no implications for the immediate purpose of this report.

Background Papers

- 11 August 2010 Executive Report
- Primary Capital Program Updates & Office Files
- Scrutiny Committee 25 March 2010 - School Organisation Report
- Confirmation from DCSF on allocation of the BNSV funding (Brent Council allocated £14,766,000) is available at the following link: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=14690>
- Research Study - A Good School Places for Every Child in Brent, 2008
<http://intranet.brent.gov.uk/consultation.nsf/0/38c39cab7915e95c802573b8003feb74?OpenDocument>

Contact Officers

Richard Barrett
Assistant Director of Property & Assets
Regeneration & Major Projects
Richard.barrett@brent.gov.uk

Rajesh Sinha
Interim Principal School Organisation Officer
Regeneration & Major Projects
Rajesh.Sinha@brent.gov.uk
#020 8937 3224

Director of Regeneration & Major Projects
Andy Donald
andrew.donald@brent.gov.uk

Director of Children & Families
Krutika Pau
Krutika.Pau@brent.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

	<p>Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday 9th December 2010</p> <p>Report from the Director of Children and Families</p>
<p>For Action/Information Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>16-19 Agenda</p>	

1 Summary

- 1.1 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act became law in November 2009. The act transferred the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) responsibilities for commissioning 16-19 education provision to local authorities from April 2010.
- 1.2 In July 2010 the Department for Education announced changes to the 16-19 commissioning process that would come into effect in August and that new guidance would be published on the role of local authorities in the autumn.
- 1.3 This report is to provide an update to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress the local authority (LA) has made in planning for and delivering its statutory 16-19 responsibilities and sets out the national policy changes that have taken place since July.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:
 - Notes the information provided in this report
 - Considers the implications for the LA and Brent's young people.

Detail

3 The April transfer

- 3.1 On 1st April 2010 Brent Council became responsible for funding and monitoring the success of all of Brent's 16-19 education provision commissioned by the LSC. The responsibility for funding and monitoring academies transferred from the government's Academies Unit to the **Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)**.
- 3.2 Brent Council became the lead commissioner and the funder for local education provision for 16-19 year olds and for 16-25 year olds with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) at school sixth forms, the College of North West London and training providers based in the borough. The Council also became responsible for the placement of young people aged 19-25 with LDD at residential independent specialist providers when no suitable local provision is available.
- 3.3 Brent Council's Children and Families Department **16-19 Funding and Commissioning Steering Group** established in March 2009 oversaw the planning and delivery of the new responsibilities and the implementation of the **National Commissioning Framework**. The then Assistant Director for Strategy and Partnerships led the planning and chaired the group. It included the Assistant Director for Achievement and Inclusion and senior representation from: Partnership Commissioning; Youth and Connexions; Integrated Services for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; Planning, Information and Performance; Corporate Finance; Human Resources; Regeneration; 14-19. The functions were led by the Partnership Commissioning team and managed by the 14-19 Strategic Lead. The **14-19 Partnership Strategic Steering Group** which includes representation from all providers including four headteachers was consulted throughout the transfer period. Both groups agreed a draft commissioning plan and the recruitment process began for four staff to ensure its delivery.
- 3.4 The transfer of the immediate responsibilities was smooth. The local authority made the monthly payments totalling £2,606,781 on time to all 16-19 education providers which helped the providers to develop high levels of confidence in the new system.
- 3.5 Brent Council had begun closely monitoring 16-19 provision in 2009 in readiness for the transfer. The 14-19 Strategic Lead used 16-19 outcomes data to evaluate local provision and implemented a programme of support and challenge for provision identified as weak. For secondary schools this work has been supported by the School Improvement Partners. Secondary headteachers responded positively to the challenge and support, and Brent's process was identified as a model of best practice by the Department for Education. The Funding and Commissioning Steering Group planned to make the monitoring more robust by using the national Framework for Excellence to assess the quality of Brent's provision and the provision that Brent residents attend. This framework includes the following criteria:

- The success rates of all course programmes. This is the proportion of young people starting courses that achieve the qualifications
- Value-added measures of progress
- Learner destinations
- Ofsted grades
- Learner views
- Resource efficiency
- Financial health.

3.6 The **London Regional Planning Group (RPG)** was established in 2009 to lead and support LA-led 16-19 commissioning across London. In January it supported the London LAs to allocate the growth in 16-19 places for September 2010. Brent also worked directly with neighbouring boroughs to establish two inter-borough commissioning groups based upon the travel-to-learn patterns. They are with:

- Barnet, Harrow and Hillingdon
- Hammersmith and Fulham, Camden, Kensington and Chelsea, Ealing and Westminster.

The LAs plan to use these groups to monitor the quality of outcomes for their residents studying at out of borough provision and to challenge each other where outcomes are unsatisfactory. They are working together to ensure provision meets the needs of local young people and to avoid duplication. This may involve joint commissioning.

3.7 The Children and Families department set up a panel to consider Brent Connexions' referrals of young people aged over the age of 19 with LDD for specialist residential education provision and specialist further education provision. The panel included the 14-19 Strategic Lead, the Transitions Manager and the Senior Practitioner (Adult Social Care). For the academic year 2010/11, the panel agreed the continuation of nine places and four new placements in 38 week provision. The total cost for the 13 learners' placements is £1,042,991. The YPLA is paying £1,146,273 and Brent adult social care is contributing £117,929. The YPLA is expected to transfer its LDD budget to LAs in 2012.

4 The July announcement

4.1 On 19th July, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the new government would be making a number of changes to simplify and streamline the structures and processes relating to 16-19 funding. He stated that the system was too complex and burdensome. The changes made were:

- The withdrawal of the National Commissioning Framework
- The removal of the planned in-year adjustments for providers that over-recruit or under-recruit in the academic year 2010-11.
- The transfer of the direct funding of colleges and training providers from LAs to the YPLA from 1st August.
- The introduction of a 16-19 allocations process based upon lagged learner numbers. For the 2011/12 academic year the YPLA will

allocate funding based upon the providers' autumn 2010 data returns.

- The removal of the requirement to have Regional Planning Groups and sub-regional groupings of LAs.
- 4.2 The secretary of state reaffirmed LAs' statutory 16-19 commissioning responsibilities that transferred on 1st April. LAs would continue to be responsible maintaining the strategic overview of provision and needs in their areas. This would include identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market, working closely with the YPLA to manage the 16-19 budget and securing provision for young people with LDD. He stated that many LAs had highly effective 14-19 Partnerships that may be the most appropriate mechanism for delivering these responsibilities. The minister said the YPLA would continue to develop the data on supply and demand that LAs will require to inform their commissioning decisions.
- 4.3 The minister stated his commitment to participation post-16 and the government in its October Comprehensive Spending Review reaffirmed LAs' statutory responsibility to plan for the raising of the participation age to 17 in 2013 and to 18 in 2015. However, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that this would have to be delivered within the existing 16-19 budget.
- 4.4 The secretary of state also announced that he would be setting up a **Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG)** to advise on the new 16-19 Commissioning Guidance that will replace the National Commissioning Framework and will define the roles and responsibilities of LAs, the YPLA and other agencies. The remit of the MAG was extended in August to advise the Department of Education on the contents of the Schools White Paper. Both the white paper and guidance are expected to be published by December. The MAG includes representation from the Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Children's Services, YPLA and education providers.

5 The interim period

- 5.1 During the interim period between the withdrawal of the National Commissioning Framework and the publication of the new Commissioning Guidance, Brent Children and Families department has suspended the 16-19 Funding and Commissioning Steering Group. The planning for the delivery of local 14-19 priorities has continued through Brent 14-19 Partnership Strategic Steering Group and its Implementation Group. The recruitment of three of the additional staff has been halted.
- 5.2 Brent's 14-19 priorities are:
- Increasing the participation, progression and outcomes of:
 - Young people entitled to Free School Meals

- Black Caribbean and Somali young people
- Looked after children
- Youth offenders
- New arrivals and young people with EAL
- Young people with LDD
- Developing curriculum breadth and choice to meet the needs of all young people
- Increasing the availability of apprenticeship programmes
- Improving success rates and progression at age 17
- Ensuring access to high quality impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG)

The partnership held a planning session in November. It will not be able to develop the details of the plan until the publication of the white paper and Commissioning Guidance. However, providers stated that they still want a 14-19 Partnership led by the LA and that they would like to develop a Brent offer with clearer pathways between providers and more collaboration to improve the outcomes for young people.

- 5.3 Following the ministerial announcement, the council has developed its direct relationship with the **Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)**. A YPLA representative has joined the 14-19 Partnership Strategic Steering Group and Brent Children's Partnership Board. The YPLA has consulted Brent's 14-19 Strategic Lead on its development of the data the LA requires for commissioning and on the placement process for young people with LDD. In July and November the YPLA supported LA-led training sessions to help secondary schools and academies to improve the accuracy of their sixth form data returns to the Department of Education.
- 5.4 The neighbouring LAs have shared their 14-19 priorities at the inter-borough groups and identified areas for collaboration. These include developing local provision that will meet the needs of the young people with LDD who are currently placed in independent specialist residential provision. London Councils has consulted LAs and other stakeholders of the future of the London Regional Planning Group (RPG). The decision on its future and remit is expected in December.
- 5.5 In October the YPLA published the 2009 sixth form success rates for all schools and academies following a freedom of information request. These rates will be used for the first time within the 2011 funding formula for sixth forms creating greater parity with the funding for colleges and other providers. Ministers are considering the inclusion of success rates in the school performance tables. The School Improvement Services have included the evaluation of success rates in its Reviews of Standards with headteachers over the last three years and the 14-19 Strategic Lead has supported school senior staff to use success rate information to improve the outcomes of Brent young people.

6 Challenges

- 6.1 The council has continued to plan for and implement its statutory 16-19 functions whilst awaiting the detail that underpins the Secretary of State's announcements. When the Schools White Paper and the new Commissioning Guidance are published the council will need make decisions on the resources required to meet its 16-19 statutory duties and whether Brent 14-19 Partnership is the best mechanism for their delivery.

Background Papers

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009

Letter from Michael Gove MP to Baroness Shireen Ritchie 19 July 2010

Contact Officers

John Galligan,
14-19 Strategic Lead
john.galligan@brent.gov.uk

Krutika Pau,
Director, Children and Families
krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 9th December 2010

Report from the Director of Children & Families

For Action/Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Special Educational Needs: One Council project

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report follows on from previous reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which outlined plans to meet the increasing demand for specialist SEN placements and to manage related budgetary pressures.
- 1.2 A project concept paper has been developed as part of the One Council Programme. It sets out a high level plan for the period September 2010 to August 2013 and has the dual aim of improving local arrangements for meeting special educational needs and providing efficiency savings.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes and comments upon the plans which have been developed.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The detail is set out in the attached project concept paper.
- 3.2 The paper was considered and endorsed at the Council Programme Board on 15th September 2010.
- 3.3 The Programme Management Board agreed that a business case should now be developed based on the concept paper setting out the costs and benefits of the project in more detail.

- 3.4 The paper focuses on the following two strands
- a) strategic planning and expansion of local specialist provision for children requiring placement in additionally resourced mainstream provision or special school provision.
 - b) better commissioning arrangements for out-Borough SEN placements, where these continue to be required.
- 3.5 The Programme Management Board recommended that the scope of the project be extended. A third strand to the project has been agreed, to detail the further steps required to increase the capacity of mainstream schools to meet a wider range of special educational needs preventing the need for specialist placements.
- 3.6 The business case is under development and will be presented to the Programme Management Board on 22nd December 2010.

Background Papers

Scrutiny Report – Special Educational Needs: place planning and financial overview, 23rd February 2010.

Contact Officers

Rik Boxer, Assistant Director Achievement & Inclusion.
Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7RW.
Tel: 020 8 937 3201. Rik.boxer@brent.gov.uk

Krutika Pau
Director of Children & Families

BRENT ONE COUNCIL

PROJECT CONCEPT PAPER

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

SEPTEMBER 2010

Version: 4

Concept Name:	Special Educational Needs
Concept Sponsor:	Tbc
Concept Manager:	Tbc
Concept Start Date:	September 2010
Concept Completion Date:	August 2013

Please note: This document has been developed for potential projects that may form part of the One Council Programme. For further guidance, please contact the One Council PMO.

Contents

1	Executive Summary	4
2	Concept Outline	5
2.1	Background.....	5
2.2	Objectives.....	8
2.3	Impact of change.....	9
2.4	Outcome.....	9
2.5	Scope.....	10
2.6	Proposed approach.....	11
2.7	Benefits.....	11
2.8	Financial Costs.....	13
3	High-Level Plan	13
4	Resources	15
5	IT/Technical	16
6	Stakeholders and Communications	16
7	Summary of key risks and issues	16
8	Assumptions	17
9	Appendix	18

Document Control

Revision History

Version	Date	Description of change to the document	Author(s)
03 draft	17/08/2010	Initial draft	Rik Boxer Marion Rodin
		[Add additional rows here]	

Reviewers

Name	Job Title	Project Role	Date
Emily Dickinson	PMO	Project Assurance	
Irene Bremang	PMO Support Officer	PMO Planning Lead	18 th August 2010
Rehana Mohamed	PMO Support Officer	PMO Support	18 th August 2010
Peter Stachniewski	PMO Manager	Benefits lead	7 th September 2010

Approvals

Board	Date
DMT	15/9/10

Distribution

Name	Job Title	Purpose of distribution	Date of Issue
Peter Stachniewski	PMO Manager	Comments on initial draft	18/8/2010
Emily Dickinson	PMO Assurance	Comments on initial draft	July 2010

1 Executive Summary

This project concept paper has arisen from the service review of SEN & Disability undertaken in 2009. It is focussed on the strategic planning for meeting increasing demand for specialist educational placements for children and young people with high level special educational needs. It outlines an expansion strategy for local SEN provision and its associated financial and non-financial benefits. It sets out a high level plan for the period September 2010 to August 2013. There will continue to be a need for some out-Borough specialist placements and the paper also describes the measures to be put into place to improve the commissioning and contract management of high cost, residential SEN placements.

2 Concept Outline

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Service Context

Brent maintains nearly 1500 statements of special educational needs (SEN). This represents just over 2% of all children and young people aged 0-19. A statement of SEN sets out the additional help a young person requires, over and above what is normally available in school. For many children and young people, the statement will set out the additional support they require in their local mainstream school. For others, a placement at a special school may be recommended. Brent currently maintains 4 special schools providing 490 places for children and young people with the most high level needs. Brent also maintains 91 places in additionally resourced specialist provision in 6 mainstream schools.

The numbers of statutory assessments leading to statements has increased by nearly 35% since 2006 although this does now appear to be levelling off. Demand for specialist provision, in special schools and additionally resourced mainstream provision, is rising and projected to rise further. There are three main factors underlying this rise in demand.

- Brent's population of children of school age is projected to rise. By 2020, there is projected to be a population increase of 12.9% which will significantly affect demand for SEN provision in mainstream and special schools.
- The incidence of children and young people with autism has risen very sharply. In 2006, there were 149 children with statements who were identified as being on the autistic spectrum. By 2010, this had risen to 273 children, accounting for over 20% of the total numbers of children with statements.
- More young children with multiple and complex special educational needs are being identified. This is linked to medical advances. The number of statutory assessments started for children under 5 following notification from the health authority have risen from 45 for children requiring school placement in September 2009 to 63 for children requiring school placement in September 2010.

The implication of this rise in demand is that there is insufficient numbers of specialist places in Brent schools. Just over 250 children are placed in out-Borough special schools. Current planning assumptions are that we will need to increase our capacity for specialist placements in Brent, either in special schools or additionally resourced mainstream schools, by at least 30% over the next 10 year in order to meet increasing demands and reduce out-Borough non-maintained placements and associated costs over this period.

The total expenditure on SEN within the Dedicated School Grant is approximately £28 million. The SEN element of the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2008/09 was overspent by approximately £850,000. In addition; expenditure of approximately £5.5 million on SEN is contained in central local authority budgets. The majority of this is for SEN transport, which accounts for nearly £4 million.

Much work has already been done over the past 5 years to expand and improve in-Borough SEN provision and places in special schools and Pupil Referral Units have increased by approximately 100 over this period. There is also commitment to provide an additional 25 places through the creation of The Village School (formerly Hay Lane and Grove Park Schools) and the agreement from the Council's Executive for a rebuild leading to much improved facilities.

However, work to expand local provision needs to be accelerated. Plans for increasing SEN provision and inclusion into mainstream schools were incorporated into the Building Schools for the Future proposals. The recent announcement of the cessation of BSF funding means that there is uncertainty about the availability of the future capital funding that will be required. However, it is vital to take plans forward and there is currently limited capacity within Children and Families to undertake the necessary strategic planning and project management required to support the rapid implementation of an expansion programme. The interim findings of the Service Review for SEN and Children with Disabilities support this view.

There will be a continuing need to place some children in out-Borough day or residential schools. Residential school placements are often high cost. A decision to place a child in a residential school will arise from either a child's educational needs or more often where social care have safeguarding concerns about a child remaining at home. Residential placements can be commissioned either through the education route as laid out in the SEN Code of practice or through social care commissioning. The current practice in Brent is that the education route is followed for children requiring a 38 week provision and where there needs to be a 52 week provision, social care commissioning will undertake the search and contracting. The Local authority uses the agreed NASS contract for residential schools placements. There have been discussions between Social Care and Education and there has been an agreement in principle for the commissioning of residential school placements to be transferred to Social Care commissioning.

Historically residential schools have been able to charge premium prices due to the fact that they offer highly specialist placements and many education departments within Children Services have not embraced commissioning to the same level as other services. This is also compounded by the SEN Code of Practice whose guidance does not easily lend itself to competitive commissioning. In London this is being addressed by the London Councils and the West London Alliance who are providing commissioning information to local authorities and working towards regional planning and commissioning of residential school placements.

2.1.2 Strategic context

Brent strategy for SEN and Inclusion is contained within the Building Schools for the Future Strategy for change (June 2010) and has been the subject of consultation. The overarching aims are as follows

- to raise the achievement of all students with special educational needs and promote a strong culture of inclusion in every school
- to ensure an excellent range of local SEN provision

- to maintain special schools for children with the most complex needs but break down the barriers between special schools and mainstream schools, co-locating where possible, and ensuring mutually beneficial curriculum and social links
- to increase the capacity of Brent mainstream schools to meet a wide range of special educational needs through a planned process of expansion, specialist support and professional development

2.1.3 Legislative context

There is a strong national legislative context which underpins the work of local authorities in assessing special educational needs and determining the placement and support required to meet those needs. The local authority has to take account of a SEN 'Code of Practice'. There are very limited grounds for the authority overturning parental preference for a school and if parents are unhappy with proposals made by the local authority, they have recourse to a tribunal appeal. There is a national review of the SEN statutory framework which has been announced by the current government, but it is too early to speculate what changes may be anticipated arising from the review.

2.1.4 Operational Context

Demands on local authority services, particularly the SEN Assessment Service and Educational Psychology Service, are increasing as the number of children with high level SEN increases. An increasing proportion of time is required to ensure statutory assessment and statementing procedures are carried out thoroughly and within statutory timescales. This restricts the capacity for more strategic aspects of work, direct support for schools in planning and implementing interventions and the contract management and monitoring of out-Borough placements.

In addition, proposals for improving service efficiency are being implemented. There is a planned reduction in posts in the SEN Assessment Service and Educational Psychology Service arising from the Staffing & Structure project Wave 1 savings exercise. The future structure of local authority services for SEN will be considered under the Staffing & Structure project Wave 2. A major initiative is also to be introduced from 1.9.2010 to reduce statutory bureaucratic demands linked with SEN assessment and statementing procedures.

2.1.5 Action already taken

A service review was undertaken in 2009 and an interim report was completed in November 2009.

	Main recommendations	Key actions taken
1.	Strengthening strategic management	Mapping of demand and supply of SEN placements has been carried out. Trend analysis has been carried out and projections made of future needs

		Place planning projections have been validated by the regional SEN adviser.
2.	Lack of in-Borough SEN provision.	Expansion proposals developed and consulted upon as part of the Building Schools for the Future proposals Hay Lane/Grove Park redevelopment proposals approved by Executive and implementation on track. New autistic provision at Preston Manor High School to open from September 2010.
3	Provision for children with disabilities	Increased short break provision arising from use of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Grant. Audit of waiting lists of Children with Disabilities Team undertaken and remedial action taken. Historical underfunding of Children with Disabilities Service has been addressed.
4	Commissioning of out-Borough placements	Brent has contributed to work of the West London Alliance Project, aimed at reducing costs through greater cross Borough collaboration. Agreement in principle to transfer functions for contract management and monitoring of residential out-Borough placements to Social Care.
5	Relationship with Brent schools	Detailed case discussions with individual schools as required. All guidance and procedures in line with SEN Code of Practice.
6	Performance against national indicators	Close monitoring and reporting to partner agencies on performance against statutory SEN timescales. Action plan agreed and implemented.
7.	Integrated service model	To be taken forward through the Structure and Staffing Review and the Transitions Project.

2.2 Objectives

The proposed project will

- Increase in-Borough SEN provision for children with high level needs by approximately 50 places within the project period. The long-term objective is to establish approximately 200 additional places by 2020.
- Reduce expenditure on out-Borough placements and associated transport costs
- Ensure high quality, cost effective local provision and improve on the good outcomes already achieved by children with SEN in Brent.
- Increase inclusion of children with high level SEN into mainstream schools through expansion of specialist mainstream provision and co-location, where possible, of special schools and mainstream schools

- Improve the commissioning of all out of Borough school placements.

2.3 Impact of change

- Children and young people
Better local facilities, less travelling time and greater opportunities for mainstream school experiences
- Families
Greater range of good local educational options
- Social care, Children and Families department
Joined up service between social care and education for the commissioning, contract management and monitoring of residential placements
- Adult Social Care
Improved transition arrangements with more children and young people in local SEN provision (link to Transitions to Adult life project)
- Schools
Improved professional support and expertise available through enhanced professional development and greater collaboration between schools
- Health Services
Impact on service delivery of health professionals as more children with high level needs are educated in mainstream school setting
- Budgets
Reduced spend on out-Borough placement budgets and transport budgets following capital investment and modest revenue expenditure using Invest to Save methodology

2.4 Outcome

- All special schools and mainstream schools with additionally resourced SEN provision are judged to be at least good by Ofsted
- Expansion of local provision and reduction of number of children with statements of special educational needs attending out-Borough provision
- Current low levels of tribunals (where parents are unhappy with local authority decisions) are maintained
- Travelling time and transport costs are reduced
- Children's needs are assessed quickly and additional support, if required, is provided earlier

It aligns with:

Service transformation

Creation of high quality local SEN provision, expanding specialist provision, new models of professional support.

Better staffing and structures

Clarity of roles and responsibilities, improved capacity for strategic planning, joint arrangements with Social Care for commissioning of residential placements.

Delivering One Council Proposals

Success dependent on strong partnership arrangements with schools, parents, health services, Council Services and other partners.

2.5 Scope

- The project focuses on
 - Strategic planning and expansion of school places for specialist SEN
 - Better commissioning arrangements for SEN out-Borough residential placements where these are required.
- The following teams will primarily be affected
 - SEN Assessment Service
 - Educational Psychology Service
 - School Improvement Service (SEN and behaviour/attendance teams)
- The following will be key partners
 - Schools
 - Asset management/Core property team within the Council
 - Finance team within the Council
 - Health Services
 - Social Care commissioning team within Children and Families
- The following is not in scope
 - Children with Disabilities team (Educational provision for children with disabilities who also have SEN will be in scope. The work of the integrated children with disabilities teams will be subject to consideration under Wave 2 of the structure and staffing project and the transitions project).

- Staffing structure for local authority SEN services (this will be subject to consideration under Wave 2 of the staffing and structure project).
- Hay Lane/Grove Park special school re-development (project already well advanced)

2.6 Proposed approach

A three phased approach is proposed for Strategic planning and expansion of school places for specialist SEN. A more detailed high level project plan is documented in Section 3. It sets out the tasks to be undertaken and the key milestone. The speed of implementation will be dependent on resource availability to enable a small specialist project team to be established (see 2.8).

2.7 Benefits

The project will aim to reduce expenditure on SEN Placements budget (within the Dedicated School Grant) and transport costs (within the General Fund) by August 2013 despite increasing projected demand over that period. It will achieve this by establishing local specialist provision, reducing expensive out-Borough placement and strengthening commissioning and contract management arrangements for out-Borough placements, where these continue to be required.

No.	Benefit description	Quantified	One off/recurring	Realisation Timing	Impact
B001	Provision for secondary aged autistic students fully up and running at Preston Manor High School	12 places	Recurring	Open September 2010. Fully operational Sept 2013.	Reduction in SEN placement expenditure and transport costs.
B002	Provision for primary aged autistic students will have opened at a primary school (to be identified)	15 places	Recurring	Sept 2011 (open)-Sept 2013 (fully operational).	As Above
B003	Provision for nursery aged autistic students will have opened at an early years setting (to be identified)	10 places	Recurring	Sept 2011 (open)- Sept 2012 (fully operational).	As Above
B004	Provision for students with complex physical medical needs will have been established as a primary school (to be identified).	10 places	Recurring	Sept 2012 (open)- Sept 2014 (fully operational).	Release places at The Village School and reduce SEN placement expenditure and transport costs.
B005	Secondary provision for students with complex physical/medical needs will have been established at a secondary school (to be identified)	10 places	Recurring	Sept 2012 (open)-Sept 2014 (fully operational).	As Above

By September 2013, it is also anticipated that the following will have been achieved,

- Plans will be in place for the co-location of Manor School (primary special school for children with severe learning difficulties and autism) with an identified mainstream school, with the establishment of 30 additional places at Manor School. There will be no financial benefit within the timescale of this project but implementation will lead to financial benefits at a later date.
- Plans will be in place for the establishment of 80 places for students with moderate learning difficulties and additional needs and 40 students with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties in Brent secondary schools (to be identified). There will be no financial benefit within the timescale of this project but implementation will lead to financial benefits at a later date

It is not possible to quantify the financial benefits at this stage but this will be subject to more detailed work during the business case stage. It is anticipated that the £200,000 savings target in the Improvement and Efficiency Plan will be met by savings in the transport budget in the project period. There will also be savings to the Dedicated Schools grant on SEN placements.

In addition, to the financial benefits, there will be a number of non-cashable benefits which have been outlined in other sections of this project concept paper, including

- Improvement to the quality of SEN provision and the educational outcomes for children with SEN
- Greater inclusion of children and young people with high level special needs in mainstream schools, bringing social and educational benefits and promoting community cohesion.

2.8 Financial Costs

There will be capital and revenue costs associated with this project. Capital costs will be met through available funding streams, currently the Schools Access Initiative and Primary Capital Programme. Capital funding streams from April 2011 onwards will probably not be clear until at least the end of October 2010, at which time the results of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review will be known. It is expected that there will be a successor scheme to the Building Schools for the Future programme, but no details have yet been announced.

There will be revenue costs over the project period to provide the necessary strategic planning and project management capacity which will be required. There will also be revenue costs associated with improved contract management and placement monitoring arrangements.

Anticipated revenue costs are as follows:-

COST ITEM	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Project team of 1.5 fte (from January 2011. 1 specialist project manager. 0.5 data analyst/project support officer. 10 days specialist consultancy to support development of business case (Oct/Nov 2010).	£30,000	£100,000	£100,000
0.5 contracts officer post (from January 2011.	£5,000	£20,000	£20,000
TOTAL	£35,000	£120,000	£120,000

3 High-Level Plan

Level	Milestones	Planned date
Stage 1: Concept		
L1	Project Concept paper completed	10/09/2010
L1	Predictive Equality Impact Assessment completed	-
L0	Project concept paper approved & endorsed	15/09/2010
Stage 2: Start Up		
L1	Business Case completed	

L0	Business Case approved & endorsed	24/11/2010
Stage 3: Initiate		
L1	Risk and Issue logs completed	-
L1	Draft PID completed	-
L1	Detailed project plan completed (appendix to PID)	-
L1	Dependency Log produced (appendix to PID)	-
L1	Quality Log completed (appendix to PID)	-
L1	Benefits Model completed (appendix to PID)	-
L1	Business Case updated	-
L1	Benefits Profiles completed	-
L1	Benefits Realisation Plan completed	-
L0	Initiate stage project plan approved & endorsed	-
L0	PID approved & endorsed	-
Stage 4: Delivery		
L1	Detailed stage project plan produced (Delivery)	-
L1	Business Case updated	-
L1	Implementation completed	-
L1	Service Area handover completed	-
L1	Delivery End Stage Report Completed	-
L0	Delivery Stage End Stage Report approved & endorsed	-
Stage 5: Evaluate		
L1	Project Closure report completed	-
L1	Benefits Review Report completed	-
L1	Retrospective Equality Impact Assessment completed	-
L0	Project Closure report approved & endorsed	-
Level 2 Milestones		
PHASE 1: September 2010 – March 2011		
L2	Appoint Project Team	-
L2	Amend expansion proposals, post BSF, in consultation with schools	-
L2	Project numbers of special school places required for each category of need for September 2011 and September 2012, identify shortfalls and establish plans	-
L2	Undertake feasibility study and estimated costing for primary ASC provision at identified mainstream school	-
L2	Undertake feasibility of co-location of primary special school with identified mainstream school	-
L2	Develop firm plans for expansion of provision for children Under 5 with autism	-
L2	Undertake more detailed analysis of trends and costs of out-Borough placements	-
L2	Develop model of mainstream provision for complex physical/medical needs and seek initial expressions of interest from primary and secondary schools	-
L2	Review current contractual arrangements with residential providers and strengthen where required	-
L2	Commence programme of annual visits to all children and young people in residential establishments (whether looked after or not)	-
L2	Implement protocol on restriction of fee increases in partnership with London Alliance	-
PHASE 2: April 2011 – March 2012		
L2	Commence rolling programme of review of all high cost out-Borough placements to assess feasibility and cost of in-Borough placement and support	-

L2	Specify any short-term contingency work required for September 2011 special school intake, assess financial implications and progress implementation
L2	Progress primary and under 5's developments in mainstream provision for children with autism under robust project methodology
L2	Develop firm plans for additionally resourced mainstream provision for behaviour, emotional and social needs
L2	Develop firm plans for additionally resourced mainstream provision for moderate learning difficulties with additional needs
L2	Develop firm plans for additionally resourced mainstream provision for complex physical/medical needs
PHASE 3: April 2012 to August 2013	
L2	Update of strategic plans and trend analysis
L2	Project manage Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects to implementation
L2	Full implementation of strengthened contract management arrangements for residential placements
L2	Consider feasibility of establishing a joint WLA Commissioning team with West London Alliance

4 Resources

- 1 x project manager
Responsible for co-ordinating delivery of all aspects of the project and delivering on time and to budget
- 0.5 x Data analyst/project support officer
Responsible for analysing service information, identifying trends, designing improvements and supporting implementation
- 0.5 Contracts officer post
Responsible for agreeing contracts with out-Borough providers, implementing the regional protocol on minimising fee increases and monitor contract arrangements
- 10 days specialist consultancy consultancy support to develop the detailed business case
- Advice and input from Council's finance team in carrying out financial analysis and supporting implementation
- Advice and input from Communication in supporting the Communications Strategy
- Advice and input from SEN specialists in Children and Families department to design the proposals and support implementation

5 IT/Technical

There are no major IT implications for this project although there may be additional requirements for financial monitoring and monitoring of service performance against agreed objectives.

6 Stakeholders and Communications

STAKEHOLDERS	CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT ALREADY CARRIED OUT	WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED
Schools	Expansion proposals developed through sub-group of Building Schools for the future	Continued work through the BSF group, with primary headteacher representatives joining the group.
Parents	Through BSF communication strategy	Communication programme about new SEN provision, planned and completed, to build parental awareness and confidence.
Children and young people	Through pupil input to BSF schemes	Involvement in design and planning of new provision.
Health	Consultation on broad strategic plan	Involvement in design and planning of new provision and implications for service delivery from relevant health professionals.
Regional SEN Adviser	Endorsement given to expansion proposals, from regional perspective	Future of regional SEN adviser post currently unclear.
Other local authorities	Not directly, through SEN regional adviser	Collation of development plans in other authorities and consultation on Brent expansion plans.
Elected members	Through Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny	Through Overview and Scrutiny and Executive as required.

7 Summary of key risks and issues

No.	Risk / Issue	Risk/Issue description	Planned mitigation or resolution	Owner
1	R	Risk that demand for specialist places falls short or exceeds expectations	Regular updating of projections. Phased expansion programme which can be tailored to respond to changes in projected demands.	
2	R	Parents request out-Borough provision in preference to Brent provision	Low risk. Majority of parents happy with Brent provision and local placement. Ensure good communication with parents, schools and other professionals about high quality of local provision.	
3	R	Lack of capital funding streams to support expansion proposals.	Co-ordinated lobbying campaign regarding capital grant scheme to succeed BSF.	
4	R	Mainstream schools not willing to host additionally resourced SEN provision.	Build in engagement with schools to SEN expansion programme from the outset. Good level of commitment already secured.	

5	I	Lack of capacity at local authority level to implement programme within required timescale.	Need for dedicated project manager to drive the project forward.	
6	I	Project sponsor and project manager yet to be identified	For resolution following endorsement of project concept paper.	

8 Assumptions

No.	Assumption description
1	There will be continued growth in demand for specialist placements for students with high level SEN.
2	Sufficient capital funding will be available to enable the expansion programme to progress at required rate.

9 Appendix

SEN Place planning – Building School for the Future.

(Provides further detail on the basis for pupil place projections).



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9th December 2010

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

Safety at the school gates task group follow up

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked for an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Safety at the school gates task group. The task group was carried out in 2009/10 by members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and reported its findings to the Executive in March 2010.
- 1.2 The task group was set up because young people had concerns about personal safety as they travel on public transport to and from school. There is a wealth of data from surveys and crime statistics showing that robberies, bullying and anti-social behaviour are prevalent at the end of the school day in areas where young people congregate. School pupils are often the victims of crime, not just the perpetrators.
- 1.3 The aims of the task group were to:
- Review the partnerships in place to tackle safety on the journey to and from school
 - Look at ways to support and encourage schools to implement initiatives to improve safety on the journey to and from schools
 - Look at good practice from other local authorities on ways to improve safety on the journey to and from school.
- 1.4 Among its main findings were:
- The council has been proactive in tackling pupil safety on the journey to and from school. For example, in 2006, the council ran a project with a secondary school in Dollis Hill where dedicated youth workers were employed to travel with pupils on school buses which significantly reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Brent Children's Partnership has set up a 'Safety and Security in and around Schools working group'. The working group provides a multi-agency response to this issue and includes representation from the Police, Brent Head

Teachers Association, Transport for London, the youth service and community safety teams at the council.

- There are eight Safer Schools Officers in Brent. The officers run a number of projects to promote safer school journeys including providing property marking and running a 'keep your stuff safe' lesson during personal, health and social education (PHSE) at the school.
- Transport for London has developed a number of initiatives to promote good behaviour on buses amongst pupils such as a safety and citizenship programme for year six pupils to prepare them for independent travel before they move to secondary school.

1.5 Although these positive initiatives are taking place in Brent, the task group also found that there are specific areas of concern. Overcrowding on the 245 bus has led to anti-social behaviour and disruption to other passengers. There is a negative perception of young people, especially groups of young people travelling together on buses. Schools are also facing significant pressures which limit their ability to address this problem.

1.6 The task group has made 10 recommendations, which are set out in appendix 1 to this report. The initial responses to the recommendations from the service areas affected are also included, plus an update provided in November 2010 on their implementation.

1.7 As members will see, some of the recommendations have been implemented (for example, 1, 4 and 5), others are being implemented (2, 9 and 10) and others are still to be fully actioned. Members should use the committee time to comment on the progress to date and ask any questions that they have on this task group report.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the update on the Safety at the schools gates task group and questions officers on the progress made to date.

Background Papers:

Safety at the school gates task group report – this is available on request.

Contact Officers:

Andrew Davies
Policy and Performance Officer
Tel – 020 8937 1609
Email – Andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk

Phil Newby
Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement
Tel – 020 8937 1032
Email – phil.newby@brent.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Pupil safety on the journey to and from school – recommendation follow up

Recommendation	Original Service Area Response (March 2010)	Action Taken (November 2010)	Officer Responsible
1. That the membership of the Safety and Security in and around Schools working group is reviewed to ensure that all relevant partners are represented.	The membership of this group will be reviewed.	This has been completed and membership includes local representatives from schools – student and school staff - Brent Council, Brent Police (Safer Transport Team, Youth Engagement Team and Safer Schools officers) and larger organisations who impact on these issues such as TfL and bus operators.	Nicole Rush and Inspector Mark Hambleton of Brent Police.
2. That the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee review current activity to engage persistent young offenders in the borough.	A task group on youth offending has been established and will include services for persistent young offenders in the review	A task group was set up by the previous Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was disbanded following the elections in May 2010. However, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has decided to look at the issue of youth crime in Brent and has set up another task group. This started work in November 2010. Its members are Cllrs Helga Gladbaum, Pat Harrison and Ann Hunter.	Mark Cairns
3. That the council develop intergenerational projects to build a greater understanding and mutual respect between young and older	The council are currently planning a Phase 3 intergenerational children's centre in Kingsbury. The centre will provide the full core offer including	All children's centre provision will be reviewed in the near future.	Krutika Pau

people.	sign posting to early education and childcare, family support and outreach to parents and child and family health services. The children's centre will be co-located alongside an existing day centre for the elderly and joint planning is currently underway between children's and adult services to ensure intergenerational services are planned and delivered particularly maximising on the skills and knowledge of the recently retired group of older people. The learning from the Kingsbury model will be used to develop intergenerational forums in each of the 5 Brent localities.		
4. That a web resource is developed by the Children and Families Department for schools which provides information on resources available to tackle bullying in the community, which should also include Brent's anti-bullying guidance on the home to school journey and the work of the Safer Schools Partnerships.	Information on resources to tackle bullying in the community and anti-bullying guidance to be put on Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) website Work with E-Safety Officer to ensure that there is information for parents, practitioners and the community on the website	The School Improvement Services is developing a Managed Learning Environment (MLW) site for all schools. This will become 'live' in January 2011. Available information to tackle bullying in the community will include: Brent's anti-bullying guidance (currently on the extranet), the DCSF/DfE's guidance on tackling bullying on the journey to and from school and the work of the Safer Schools Partnership. Brent's anti-bullying guidance will also be available to the community on the LSCB website.	Anthony Felsenstein
5. That primary schools are encouraged to participate in	LA to register with Transport for London Citizenship programme,	Most primary schools have registered with Transport for London for their	Anthony Felsenstein

<p>Transport for London citizenship programmes.</p>	<p>highlight its strengths and then encourage primary schools to participate.</p>	<p>Citizenship programme during the last academic year. 30 have signed up for 2010-11 to date. This entitles schools to an hour's assembly and the benefits of the scheme. It is coordinated by a local Transport for London officer and Brent's Travel Plan officers.</p> <p>Copland School has worked with Transport for London in the 2010 autumn term and Ark Academy will be working with TfL later in the term.</p>	
<p>6. That Safer Schools Officers help schools to develop a travel plan incorporating crime and safety issues.</p>	<p>Agreed in principle. Safer School Officers should liaise with Deborah Bonner, senior travel plan officer in Environment & Culture</p>	<p>Deborah Bonner informed and will liaise as necessary.</p>	<p>Rik Boxer</p>
<p>7. That recognising achievement should be part of all school escort projects, as a way of encouraging school pupils to act responsibly.</p>	<p>Agreed that this should be incorporated into all projects.</p>	<p>Relevant officers in Children and Families informed.</p>	<p>Rik Boxer</p>
<p>8. That Transport for London increase the 245 bus service at peak times.</p>	<p>Transport for London has stated the following; "In relation to the action on increasing the capacity of Route 245, at the beginning of this term we introduced an additional journey to route 245 in the morning peak towards Golders Green. Data suggests that this has resolved the capacity issue and TfL has not received complaints about the route this academic year". These findings will also be reviewed by the Public Transport Liaison Committee.</p>	<p>The overcrowding issue has been followed up recently following a complaint from a member of the public. However, TfL have followed this up with the Bus Garage, which reported that they'd not had any comments from drivers about overcrowding.</p> <p>At present there doesn't appear to be a problem with the 245 route and capacity on the route is adequate. The extra morning journey on the 245 route was</p>	<p>Jim Lawman</p>

		introduced in September 2009.	
9. That the Children and Families Department spread good practice on the provisions within the Education Act to promote safety outside of schools.	The key provisions of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 in relation to promoting safety outside of schools to be highlighted to schools through letter to headteachers and reminder on the schools extranet	Headteachers are aware and deal with incidents of poor behaviour on the journey to and from school. Secondary senior leaders reminded at Secondary Inclusion Managers' meeting. Good practice already exists, e.g. St Gregory's has an escort system on a key bus route from school. Secondary schools have staff at the bus stops after school to support good behaviour.	Anthony Felsenstein
10. That the Children and Families Department encourage schools to include the journey to and from school in their home-school agreements.	Schools to be encouraged through letter to headteachers, information to be put on the schools extranet and network meetings of senior and middle school leaders	To be actioned. However, issue highlighted to primary schools in March 2010 in questionnaire on bullying, which included a question on the issue. Behaviour to and from schools is seen by headteachers as falling within the schools' remit and appropriate action is taken if there are behaviour issues. Issue will be highlighted to secondary headteachers at their EIP meeting in Dec 2010.	Anthony Felsenstein

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2010/11

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
13 th July 2010	Children and young people's plan 2009-11 – progress report.	The Children's Plan sets out the vision and objectives for Brent council and its partners in delivering children's services in Brent. This report will provide the committee with a good overview of the current work and priorities for children and young people in Brent.	Report noted.
	Brent Youth Parliament Overview	Overview of the work of the parliament including progress with 'Break the Stereotype fix the Impression' campaign (a campaign by BYP to improve adult's perception of young people).	Agreed to set up quarterly meetings between the chair of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and BYP representatives.
	Annual Education Standards Report	This will report validated attainment data for assessments undertaken in summer 2009, which will be useful background information for the committee at its first meeting.	
	Verbal updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Places • In – flow and out – flow of secondary aged pupils. 	Reports noted.

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
20 th October 2010	Support for Somali pupils	Update on the work within schools to provide additional support for Somali pupils through the extended schools programme.	Report noted.
	Localities Services	The committee has asked for a report on the council's locality based social care teams and the work they do with vulnerable young people and families.	Report noted. Andrew Davies agreed to send the members of the committee information in the Brent Integrated Care Organisation.
	Youth Service Review	The results of the Youth Services Review will be presented to the committee to give members an overview of the service in Brent.	The committee considered the report and recommended that children with disabilities are included in the Strategic Forum that is being formed to develop Youth Services in the borough. The committee will consider an update on the review in February or March 2011.
	Youth Offending Task Group terms of reference	The committee has agreed to continue with a task group looking at youth offending in Brent, but to start this work again with revised terms of reference. These will be presented to the committee for approval at the October meeting.	Terms of reference for the task group were agreed and the committee nominated three members to carry out this work – Cllrs Helga Gladbaum, Ann Hunter and Pat Harrison.
	Brent Youth Parliament Media Summit Report	The chair of the committee has asked for a report on the outcome of the Brent Youth Parliament Media Summit held in August 2010. The focus of the summit was the BYP campaign, "Break the stereotype, fix the impression" aimed at improving the	Report noted. The committee offered to assist the Brent Youth Parliament if it is unable to take forward the offers made to it at the Media Summit. At present the parliament members are confident this won't be necessary.

		impression of young people in the press.	
	Verbal Update – School Places in Brent	This is a standing item on the committee’s agenda. Members will be updated on the current position regarding school places in the borough.	Report noted

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
9 th December 2010	16-19 Agenda	This report will detail the progress with the transfer of the 16-19 education council from the learning and skills council to the local authority.	
	Special Educational Needs	The committee will consider the outcomes of the council’s review of SEN in Brent, following on from last year’s Ofsted Report and previous reports to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	
	Safety at the school gates task group follow up	This task group report was agreed by the Executive in March 2010. This report will provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations	
	Strategy for primary school developments	The committee is to receive a report on primary school redevelopment in Brent and the schools included in the plans.	
	Verbal Update – School Places in Brent	This is a standing item on the committee’s agenda. Members will be updated on the current position regarding school places in	

		the borough.	
--	--	--------------	--

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
10 th February 2011 – social care themed meeting	Safeguarding update	The committee discussed this issue on March 25 th 2010 and requested further information on the outcome of an analysis of child protection re-referrals in the light of possible recording errors and a brief report on the progress of the relevant performance indicators following a review. The Children and Young People Committee will receive a safeguarding update each year so that members are kept informed of the key issues relating to this service.	
	Impact of domestic violence upon children and young people	The committee will consider a reporting that looks at emerging evidence that children who are affected by domestic violence in the home are more likely to experience other negative outcomes.	
	Children in care council	This is a new body set up to represent the views of looked after children. The committee may wish to meet with the council to discuss their current work.	
	Children's health in Brent	Overview of key issues regarding children's health in Brent to include update on progress with childhood obesity project and plans to recruit more school nurses, as the committee were planning to revisit these	

		issues in 2010/11.	
	Verbal Update – School Places in Brent	This is a standing item on the committee’s agenda. Members will be updated on the current position regarding school places in the borough.	

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
29 th March 2011	Education Standards in Brent	The committee will receive a report on the 2010 education standards in Brent.	
	Youth Offending Task Group	The final report of the task group will be presented to members for approval.	
	Special Educational Needs	The committee will consider the SEN One Council project, which has previously been reported to members, in December 2010. Depending on progress with this work, this could be taken by the committee in June 2011.	
	Review of full time nursery places in Brent	Cllr Gladbaum has seen an article on this in the Brent Magazine and would like a report on the key changes and the impact that this will have on young people.	
	Children’s Centres in Brent	Report listed in the forward plan, to come to the Children and Young People Committee for scrutiny.	
	Impact of the budget on future service delivery	The committee will receive a report on the impact that the CSR and local government	

	(including schools budget)	settlement will have on children's services, including the Brent schools budget, which is listed separately in the council's forward plan.	
	Youth service review update	As requested by the committee in October 2010.	
	Verbal Update – School Places in Brent	This is a standing item on the committee's agenda. Members will be updated on the current position regarding school places in the borough.	

Items to be timetabled

Item	Issue for the committee to consider
Healthy Relationships task group	This report will provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations, which the committee needs to follow up.
Emerging legislation	To look at the impact of emerging legislation on work within the children and families department, following the formation of a new government.