



## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Thursday, 2 February 2012 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  
Al-Ebadi  
Green  
Harrison  
Mitchell Murray  
HM Patel

#### First alternates

Councillors:

S Choudhary  
Clues  
Oladapo  
Mashari  
Sneddon  
Hirani  
Daly  
Baker

#### Second alternates

Councillors:

Hector  
Allie  
Oladapo  
RS Patel  
Ashraf  
Hossain  
Denselow  
Kansagra

#### Statutory Co-optees

Mrs Shabna Abbasi  
Mr Alloysius Frederick  
Dr Nanda Kumar  
Ms Elsie Points

#### Non-statutory Co-optees

Mrs Hawra Imame  
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:** Bryony Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer  
020 8937 1355 [bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk](mailto:bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk)

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**The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting**

# Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Item	Page
<b>1 Declaration of personal and prejudicial interests</b>	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting any relevant financial or other interest in the items on the agenda.	
<b>2 Deputations (if any)</b>	
<b>3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 December 2011</b>	1 - 12
<b>4 Brent Youth Parliament update</b>	
A verbal update will be provided to the committee by Brent Youth Parliament representatives.	
<b>5 Youth Offending Team Inspection</b>	13 - 18
An inspection of the Brent Youth Offending Service was conducted in September 2011 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The results of this inspection will be presented to the Committee for scrutiny.	
<b>Ward Affected:</b> All Wards	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Anita Dickinson anita.dickinson@brent.gov.uk
<b>6 Complex Families Review</b>	
A presentation providing an overview of the Complex Families Project which is being developed by the council and partner agencies will be delivered to the Committee by Fiona Ledden (Director of Legal and Procurement) and Joanna McCormick (Partnerships Co-ordinator). The aim of the project is to pilot multi agency early intervention with a cohort of families in the borough.	
<b>Ward Affected:</b> All Wards	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Joanna McCormick, Partnerships Co-ordinator Joanna.mccormick@brent.gov.uk
<b>7 Special Educational Needs - Additional Resourced Schools</b>	19 - 34

This report was prepared for the Schools Forum and is presented to the

Committee for discussion. The report provides an analysis of Brent's performance on a range of indicators in comparison with other authorities with similar characteristics. It sets out the robust actions which have been taken to manage demand and reduce costs whilst improving quality of provision and maintaining good outcomes for Brent children with Special Educational Needs.

**Ward Affected:** All Wards      **Contact Officer:** Carmen Coffey  
carmen.coffey@brent.gov.uk

## 8 School Places Update

A verbal update regarding school places in the borough will be provided to the Committee.

## 9 Items from the Forward Plan and the Work Programme

35 - 48

A list of items from the Forward Plan which relate to Children and Young People's Services is attached for the Committee's consideration. Members are asked to examine this list and to decide whether any items warrant scrutiny by the Committee. The Committee's work programme is also attached for Members' consideration.

## 10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny meeting is scheduled for 29 March 2012

## 11 Any other urgent business

Notice of items 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

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## MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 8 December 2011 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Gladbaum (Chair), Councillors Aden, Mr A Frederick, Mrs L Gouldbourne, Brent Youth Parliament representatives, Ashraf, Hirani and RS Patel

Also Present: Councillors Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Matthews, Mitchell Murray, HM Patel, Ms E Points, Mrs H Imame, Ms J Cooper and Ms C Jolinon

### 1. **Declaration of personal and prejudicial interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2. **Deputations (if any)**

There were no deputations.

### 3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 6 October 2011**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

### 4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### 5. **School places update**

Councillor Arnold (Lead Member for Children and Families) provided an update to the committee on the current position regarding school places. A supporting document was tabled for the committee's consideration.

Councillor Arnold advised that 4900 applications had been received for Reception Places from September 2011 and of these, 632 applications had been received from outside of the borough. Of the 4268 applications from Brent residents, 625 applications had been received after the closing date of 15 January 2011. Despite the 260 additional reception year places created since September 2011, there remained as of 7 December 2011, 210 unplaced children for reception year. At this time, there were 58 vacancies across the system for this year group. A further 60 places would be made available in January 2012. All vacancies had been offered to those children without a school place but these had not been accepted due to parental preference regarding the school or location of the school. With regard to 11+ transfers for 2011, Councillor Arnold confirmed that there were sufficient places to meet demand.

Councillor Arnold informed the committee that for primary aged pupils, the only year groups with sufficient vacancies were the current years 5 and 6. To address this, the council would be opening additional classes in schools for year groups other than reception year and would establish projects to provide education to out of school primary pupils in January 2012 using the newly vacant Ashley Gardens Early Learning Centre and the Pavilion. Turning to the subject of out of school secondary aged children, Councillor Arnold drew the committee's attention to the table set out in the supporting document and noted that as of 2 December 2011, there were 192 unplaced secondary school aged children. The majority of these pupils were new arrivals who would be placed in projects, schools or college courses within the following weeks.

During the subsequent discussion, members raised several issues. Councillor Hirani noted the number of late applications received and queried whether there were lessons to be learnt by the Council. Councillor Arnold advised that many of these applications were late as the families in question had recently arrived in Brent or had moved to a new location within Brent. The number of new arrivals to Brent each month was significant and in August and September 2011 over 100 new arrivals had been recorded. Councillor Hirani further queried whether the local authority should have been better prepared to meet the challenges posed by the demographic changes to the borough. Councillor Arnold advised that whilst the arrivals of new families could not be predicted, the tracking of related data enabled trends to be identified and the factors behind such changes to be better understood. With regard to predicted changes in birth rate, these figures were obtained from the LGA. All London councils were struggling to meet the same challenges as Brent. Brent was currently engaged in lobbying central government regarding the severity of these challenges. In response to a further query it was noted that immigration had increased in recent years and that due to Brent's diverse population many new arrivals to the country had a connection with Brent.

Mr A Frederick noted that the committee had been informed at its previous meeting that Wembley High School and Capital City Academy had expressed interest in becoming all-through schools. He queried whether, in view of the number of unplaced school children in Brent, any further schools had expressed an interest in this option. Councillor Arnold advised that Preston Manor was currently an all-through school and highlighted that the council's school places strategy included reference to such options. £25m of capital funding had been obtained from central government and this would be used towards the £52m required to meet the predicted school places shortfall for 2014/15.

Councillor Ashraf queried what support was provided to out of school pupils. Councillor Arnold advised that some children received educational support at home but that the focus remained on matching and placing children in a school as soon as possible. Sue Gates (Head of Integrated and Extended Services) added that some nursery places were maintained for unplaced reception year pupils.

RESOLVED: -

That the report be noted.

## 6. **Brent Youth Parliament Update**

The representative of Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) provided an update to the committee on recent work of the BYP. The committee was advised that the BYP Youth Conference took place on 23 November 2011. The conference aimed to help raise political awareness amongst young people in Brent. Invitations to attend the conference were sent to all Brent schools and youth groups. Guest speakers for the day included the Mayor of Brent, the deputy leader of the council, other councillors and council officers. The Youth Conference had been very successful and had attracted around 200 young people who had visited throughout the day. The BYP representative highlighted that the success of the conference had been determined by the hard work of both BYP members and officers of the council.

Elections had recently been held for the primary school BYP members. Inductions for these new members would commence shortly and the BYP representative emphasised that it would be very useful if councillors could attend the induction and other events which were scheduled for the following dates: -

- 17 December 2011
- 21 January 2012
- 25 February 2012
- 24 March 2012
- 21 April 2012
- 19 May 2012
- 16 June 2012

The events would commence at 10.00 am and it was estimated that they would conclude by 3.00 pm.

RESOLVED: -

That the verbal update be noted.

## 7. **Results of Ofsted Safeguarding and Looked After children Services Inspection**

Graham Genoni (Assistant Director, Social Care Division) delivered a presentation to the committee on the outcome of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children (LAC) Inspection which took place between 3 and 14 October 2011. The full Ofsted inspection report had been circulated to the committee with the agenda.

Graham Genoni advised that there was a national inspection regime for children's social care. The last inspection for Brent's children's services was a Joint Area Review in 2006. Officers were aware that since this time significant improvement had been made to service provision. This was recognised in the outcome of the inspection which noted that service provision had improved from a low base. Graham Genoni further explained that the inspection resulted in two separate judgements; one for Safeguarding and one for LAC. The possible judgements which could be awarded to the local authority ranged from Outstanding to Inadequate and Brent had received an adequate rating for both elements. Drawing on the most recent Ofsted report on "local authority children's service inspections

and outcomes”, Graham Genoni noted that 46% of Local Authorities achieved this result for Safeguarding and 53% for Looked After Children.

Graham Genoni advised that the key positive messages arising from the inspection had included that Brent’s thresholds for child protection intervention were appropriate. It had also been recognised that there had been improvements in recruitment and retention of staff since the time of the previous inspection in 2006. At this time, approximately 30% of the staff within the child protection teams had been permanent. In contrast levels of permanent staff now stood between 85 and 90%. The inspector had been particularly impressed with the Advanced Practitioner Role employed at Brent. This role was carried out by very experienced social workers and was in place to support social workers in developing their professional skills. Graham Genoni noted that it had been disappointing that the positive partnership with schools had not been commented upon by the inspectors.

Turning to the subject of the observations included within the inspection outcome, Graham Genoni advised that the number of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessments had been deemed to be low and there was limited engagement by Health professionals with these. This comment related principally to other professional agencies with which the authority worked in partnership. The inspectors had also raised a query regarding the level of resources being directed towards early intervention services, of which CAF assessments formed a key part. A further question had been raised regarding the way in which service cuts had been made, and it had been noted that cuts to youth services had not been co-ordinated with other partner agencies which had resulted in similar areas of service provision being affected.

Graham Genoni then drew the committee’s attention to some of the areas which had been highlighted for improvement. Many of the issues highlighted had been already known to the authority and had actively been raised by officers during the inspection. An action plan was being developed to meet the recommendations set out within the inspection outcome and this would be embedded within the department’s overall improvement plan. Depending on the urgency of the issue, some actions would be carried out immediately. A need had been identified for greater links to be established between strategies, plans and performance management. Graham Genoni explained that a restructure of the department in recent years had removed the strategic division and that the issues raised by the inspectors may have stemmed from this loss. Several areas of improvement had also been identified in relation to the assessments conducted by social workers. It had been found that the assessments varied in quality and did not take appropriate account of family history nor were action plans appropriately focussed or targeted using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed) objectives. It was further commented that Pathway Plans, plans for young adults aged 18 to 21 years old for whom the local authority had an enduring responsibility, also needed to be of a higher quality. In relation to an issue raised within the inspection outcome regarding safe recruitment, Graham Genoni explained that this concern had arisen with regard to two incidents which had occurred in the recent past where issues relating to the recruitment of two members of staff had been appropriately addressed but had not been recorded as required.



In members' subsequent discussion, several queries were raised. The Chair requested that further clarification be provided to the committee on the different remits of the Safeguarding and LAC service areas. Graham Genoni explained that at present there was approximately 380 Looked After Children in Brent, most of who were in the care of foster carers. The local authority had a corporate parenting responsibility to these children and the inspection examined how well this responsibility was met. Turning to safeguarding, the committee was advised that this related to the work that the local authority carried out to ensure that all children were safe and protected whilst in the care of their families. The Safeguarding element of the inspection had sought to identify how safe Brent's children were and how well the council worked with other agencies to ensure that children were appropriately protected.

Councillor Ashraf requested further details regarding the frequency of inspections and queried whether any follow up action was taken by inspectors to check that the recommendations set out within the judgement were acted upon. He further queried whether any penalty was awarded against local authorities which achieve an inadequate judgement. Graham Genoni explained that a further follow up inspection would only be carried out where a local authority had performed very poorly. Again referring to the Ofsted report, "local authority children's service inspections and outcomes", Graham Genoni noted that 25% of local authorities in the United Kingdom had been rated inadequate. Where this judgement was received, a team would be set up to work with that local authority to improve their service.

Councillor Hirani sought further details regarding several of the areas identified for improvement. With regard to service user engagement, councillor Hirani noted that it had been recognised that family group conferences had increased in the current year and queried whether this had resulted in improvements for the service. Graham Genoni explained that family group conferences (FGCs) were held before a child was accommodated by the local authority to try to identify what support or care the family members could provide. FGCs formed a key part of the council's attempts to keep children out of the care system.

Councillor Hirani sought further details regarding the recruitment issues highlighted within the inspection report. Graham Genoni explained that all staff within the children's social care department were CRB checked. The incidents which had been highlighted by the inspection related to two occasions where CRB checks conducted as part of the recruitment process had returned a positive result. The correct processes had been followed and the information had been shared with senior managers and Human Resources and risk assessments had been completed. Unfortunately, the actions taken by the council had not been recorded and the local authority had therefore been found to be at fault.

In response to a further query by Councillor Hirani, Graham Genoni advised that every looked after child was required to have a health review every 6 months if the child was under 5 or once a year if the child was over 5 years old. The inspection had identified that not every child had had their health review within these timescales. It had been identified in 2010 by the local authority that there were not enough Health staff to cope with the workload and the PCT had agreed to double the LAC nurses to a total of two; however, there remained at present a back log of approximately 30 LAC health reviews.

Councillor HM Patel queried how the local authority would respond if an allegation was made against a member of staff regarding child abuse or negligence. Graham Genoni asserted that the first priority of the council would be to ensure the safety of the child. Following that, an established process existed for dealing with allegations against a professional which would formally question the individual's suitability to work with children. It was noted for instance that there were a number of allegations made against teachers which in turn necessitated detailed formal investigations. Ms Gouldbourne (Observer) highlighted that most allegations against teachers were determined to be unfounded.

The Chair noted the hierarchical supervision arrangements within the department and the conclusion that there was not sufficient time for adequate reflection on cases or procedures. In response, Graham Genoni confirmed that there was a need for improvement in this area and that training (via the West London Alliance) and other resources would be utilised to this purpose. The Chair further noted the judgement that there was a high degree of inexperienced staff within the department. Graham Genoni advised this was one of the issues with which the local authority did not agree. The training support provided to inexperienced staff was strong. The council was in line with other London boroughs regarding the number of inexperienced social workers and the number of social workers qualified outside of the United Kingdom.

The chair of the committee was keen that the Executive is given an opportunity to consider the inspection report as well as the action plan that would be produced by the Department in response to the report's recommendations. For this reason, the committee agreed to recommend the Ofsted Inspection report to the Executive, so that they have "ownership" of it, as well as the action plan. The committee also agreed to consider the action plan, once it becomes available,

RESOLVED: -

- i. That the action plan be presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and discussion once it is available.
- ii. That the Ofsted report, presentation and action plan be submitted to a meeting of the Executive for their consideration and to ensure they "own" the council's response to the Inspection.

## **8. Adoption Services in Brent**

The Chair advised that she had requested this report due to the current public focus on Adoption and the recent publication of performance data regarding Local Authorities Adoption Services.

Graham Genoni (Assistant Director Social Care Division) presented a report updating the committee on key issues relating to Adoption Services in Brent. It was noted that whilst the information released in November 2011 by the Department for Education (DfE) had encompassed a range of performance data, attention had principally focused on the timeliness of adoptions against which Brent had not performed well. This performance indicator measured the percentage of children placed for adoption within 12 months of a decision for adoption being made. A

range of factors influencing this indicator were outlined to the committee and these included the age of the child; whether the child was part of a sibling group; the length of the legal proceedings; and the complexity of the child's needs.

In expanding upon these factors, Graham Genoni highlighted that contrary to popular understanding, the number of young babies waiting to be placed for adoption was comparatively few. Rather, babies tended to be placed quickly and any delays were generally attributable to the court process. Often, the circumstances of the children being placed for adoption could make the process of identifying suitable placements for those children far more difficult and this was particularly so for children part of sibling groups or with complex needs. The department worked hard to minimise delays for children. Consequently, the option of placing siblings separately would be considered if required and if a suitable placement for children with complex needs was not found within a set period, alternative care plans would be pursued. The council had recognised the need to identify more prospective adopters and at present was assessing 21 prospective families; this represented a significant increase on the 9 families who were assessed during the previous year.

Graham Genoni advised that significant delay was also caused for these children by the length of the legal proceedings to which they were subject. Delay caused by legal proceedings had increased in recent years and this had been recognised within the final report of the Family Justice Review group. That report recommended that urgent action be taken to reduce the average length of legal proceedings from over 1 year to 6 months.

Graham Genoni further explained that adoption was only one of the options pursued by the local authority in securing the permanent placement of children with alternative carers. Special Guardianship Order (SGO) was an option which was increasingly relied upon by local authorities. SGOs did not remove the birth parents' rights in quite the same way as in adoption and for this reason, it could be a preferable option both for prospective carers and the child in question. It was emphasised to the committee that when SGOs were taken into consideration alongside adoptions, Brent had performed above its statistical neighbours. It was emphasised that matching between children and their carers was carefully undertaken within Brent as reflected in the fact that there had been only one adoptive placement breakdown in the preceding two years. In response to a query, Graham Genoni explained that SGOs were thought to be a more attractive option to some communities as they tended to reflect some traditional family childcare arrangements.

In the subsequent discussion, members raised several issues. Councillor Gladbaum sought clarity regarding the reference at paragraph 2.3 to cases which begin to 'drift'. Graham Genoni explained that this was a subjective judgement but that a care plan for a child would be given a set period of either 3 or 6 months after which time it was reviewed. If it was deemed necessary at the review an alternative plan might be pursued. Graham Genoni noted that in the government's view local authorities focused too greatly upon identifying a suitable ethnic match for a child, to the detriment of the timescales for achieving a permanent placement. However, whilst attempts would be made to secure an appropriate ethnic match, it would not prevent the authority from placing a child with carers who could meet the majority of the child's range of needs.

With reference to paragraph 2.5 of the report, the Chair noted that it was reported that approximately 25% more children were now being placed permanently compared to 5 years previously and sought further detail regarding this. Graham Genoni confirmed that the local authority reported annually on the number of adoption and SGO placements and for 2010, 26 children had been placed. It was predicted that 30 children would be placed for 2011. The use of SGOs had increased within recent years and were a particularly popular option in London boroughs. No London borough had appeared in the top quarter with regard to adoption timeliness and it was felt this was a reflection of the differences between London and other parts of the country.

The Chair noted that additional performance data was due to be published by the DfE in December 2011 and queried if this was now available. Graham Genoni advised that this information had not yet been published.

In response to a further query Graham Genoni advised that the way in which looked after children were cared for had changed within the last 20 years, with the numbers of children's home/residential care facilities for children being drastically reduced across the country. At present, Brent had no residential care facilities for children. The local authority attempted to keep the number of children within residential units low both due to the expense but also the view that all other alternatives should first be explored. Currently there were approximately only 30 Brent children in residential units. Children would only be cared for in a residential unit if their behaviour was so difficult that a fostering placement would not be sustainable and this would be concluded only after several foster placements broke down.

Councillor Ashraf queried what support was provided to parents in relation to SGOs and whether children subject to an SGO ever returned to their birth family. Graham Genoni clarified that when an SGO was explored it meant that a permanency decision regarding the child had been made and the child would almost never return to the care of their parents. This stage would have only been reached following assessments of the parents, expert assessments and court proceedings. Graham Genoni emphasised that the local authority did not remove children from their parent's care readily and rather worked extremely hard to support families to ensure that children are safe in their parents care.

Councillor Ashraf queried whether community and religious organisations were approached in seeking suitable adoptive families. Graham Genoni confirmed that the department worked with a wide range of organisations including religious and community organisations to raise awareness and interest in adoption and fostering. Councillors confirmed that they would happily distribute literature or posters to organisations with which they worked to support the borough's drive for further adoptive families and foster carers.

Referring to paragraph 2.11, Councillor HB Patel noted that the local authority had had one adoptive placement breakdown in the preceding two years and queried why it had broken down. Graham Genoni advised that he was not aware of the specific circumstances but that common reasons included difficult behaviour and separation of the adoptive parents. To have only 1 adoption breakdown in 2 years was very positive.

RESOLVED: -

That the report be noted.

## 9. **Review of policy for the provision of early years full time places**

Sue Gates (Head of Integrated and Extended Services) presented a report updating the committee on the provision of full-time Early Year's Places to disadvantaged children and responding to issues raised by the committee at its meeting on 6 October 2011.

Sue Gates briefly outlined the background to the policy and explained that in February 2010, the Executive had decided that free full-time (30 hours per week) early years places should be allocated on a priority basis to disadvantaged children aged 3 to 4 years old. However, due to an anticipated growth in demand for places for children aged 2 to 3 years old, an alternative proposal was developed in early 2011. This proposal envisaged the provision of the statutory part-time (15 hours per week) places only but was subsequently rejected by the Schools Forum in June 2011. Consequently, following this, work re-commenced on the implementation of the original decision taken by the Executive in February 2010.

Sue Gates explained that an Early Years Funding sub-group had been established and a two stage admissions process was developed. This process proposed that at stage 1, schools would still apply their own local admissions criteria and those children that met the criteria would proceed to stage 2 of the process. At stage 2, children that lived in Brent and that met the free school meals criteria could be offered funded full-time places. Schools were consulted regarding this proposed process in October 2011. Responses were received from 7 of the schools with full time places and these confirmed that most schools were happy to manage the admissions process locally and merge it with normal admissions practice. Some concerns had been raised regarding the additional administration arrangements and it was felt that advice would be required on validating eligibility claims on dealing with appeals. The committee was advised that the admissions process would be in place for January 2012, for applications for September 2012. Some schools which had been offering full time places had decided to offer only part time places from September 2012.

Turning to the subject of the provision of Early Years Places for children aged 2 to 3 years old, Sue Gates informed the committee that the government had created a statutory entitlement of 15 hours per week of free childcare integrated with early education for children deemed vulnerable. This was due to commence in 2013. It was currently proposed that eligibility for this provision would be determined by the free school meal criteria. Whilst the exact number of children who were eligible for the provision could not be provided, Sue Gates explained that based on the number of children living in the most deprived areas of Brent, it was estimated that there could be around 3,000 children who would qualify for the provision. Based on this estimation, it was evident that there would be insufficient places to meet demand and consequently several options for expanding the number of places available had been explored. The issue was further complicated by the government's proposal that only 'good' and 'outstanding' Ofsted rated providers should offer the provision for vulnerable 2 year olds. Based on this criteria it had been determined that there

were approximately 1880 PVI childcare places that could be made available for disadvantaged 2 year olds. This resulted in a shortfall of places of approximately 1,020. Whilst child-minder vacancies could augment the available places to reduce the shortfall, this provision was not popular with parents and would require considerable additional training of child-minders. Actions to address this shortfall had been initiated and at the beginning of 2011 a strategy to improve the quality of Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) child care providers and child-minders had been introduced. Work was also being carried out to ensure that all relevant professionals were aware of the free entitlement for disadvantaged children so that families could be appropriately advised to apply.

During members discussion Councillor Ashraf raised a concern that with schools managing the admissions process it would result in an inconsistent and unequal system. Sue Gates advised that there were insufficient places for all disadvantaged 3 and 4 years olds and consequently the system had been unfair for many years. The new policy merely ensured that disadvantaged children were given priority. Sue Gates advised that it was important that the professionals who interacted with families in need were aware of the entitlement but that it was not intended to widely promote the scheme to other parents given the shortage of places.

The Chair of the committee noted that she had two concerns; the first of these was that there was no appeals procedure except those put in place by individual schools. The second related to hard to reach vulnerable families including recent arrivals to the country for whom language offered another significant barrier. The committee did not feel that these issues had been adequately addressed by officers. As a result, it was agreed to refer these issues to the Executive.

RESOLVED: -

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to refer the report on the provision of full time early years places to the Executive and recommended that action be taken to address the two issues of concern to members:

(i). That a consistent appeals procedure be put in place in schools offering full time early years places for 3 and 4 year olds

(ii). That steps are taken to promote the availability of places to the most vulnerable families, including those who are new arrivals to the UK where language could be a significant barrier to accessing services.

#### **10. Provision of services for children with learning and physical disabilities**

Graham Genoni (Assistant Director Social Care Division) provided an update to the committee on the provision of services for children with disabilities. This was a standing item on the committee's work programme, following the decision taken by the Executive at its meeting on 23 May 2011 to restructure the short term break offer provided by the Council. The restructure of the service encompassed the closure of the centre at Crawford Avenue and the provision of an enhanced service at the centre on Clement Close. On 23 August 2011 a judicial review had been filed against the decision of the Executive to close the centre at Crawford Avenue. The judicial review had since been concluded in the council's favour. There was a

period of time within which this judgement could be appealed and the council had decided to take no further action until this period had passed.

RESOLVED: - that the verbal report be noted.

**11. Items from the Forward Plan and Work Programme**

Andrew Davies (Policy and Performance Officer) advised that there were two items on the Forward Plan which related to Children and Young People; an item on Children Centres and another regarding the Islamia Primary School.

Turning to the committee's work programme, it was noted that there were several items already scheduled for the next meeting of the committee. It was agreed that the Chair would liaise with the lead officers to manage the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

**12. Feedback from One Community, Many Voices Event**

Andrew Davies (Policy and Performance Officer) advised the committee that this feedback report had been put to all the scrutiny committees for information. Members were advised that several issues had been raised via the event which interacted with the committee's remit and were asked to view the report with a view to considering future work programme items.

**13. Date of next meeting**

The committee noted that the date of the next meeting was 2 February 2012.

**14. Any other urgent business**


There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

H GLADBAUM  
Chair

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	<p><b>Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2012</b></p> <p><b>Report from the Director of Children and Families</b></p>
For Information	Wards Affected: ALL
<p><b>Report on the Core Case Inspection of Brent Youth Offending Service by HMIP.</b></p>	

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Brent Youth Offending Service was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in September 2011 over a period of four days, the report of that process being published in early December 2011. A full version of the Inspection report is available on the HMIP website (see link below).
- 1.2 The core methodology was to examine a representative sample of offender cases and to assess whether each aspect of work was done sufficiently well against the criteria established by HMIP. The Inspection did not directly address matters such as strategic and partnership arrangements.
- 1.3 The Inspection looked at three key practice criteria
- Risk of Harm (This is primarily about Public Protection)
  - Safeguarding (This is about the protection of the young person)
  - Likelihood of Re-offending
- 1.4 The judgements 'scale' utilised is described by level of improvement required (so is a deficit model): **Minimum, Moderate, Substantial or Drastic**. Brent scored as follows

<b>Safeguarding Score:</b>	
<b>Score:</b> 65%	<b>Comment:</b> Moderate improvement required
<b>Public Protection ( Risk of Harm )Score:</b>	
<b>Score:</b> 59%	<b>Comment :</b> Substantial improvement required
<b>Likelihood of re-offending Score:</b>	
<b>Score:</b> 62%	<b>Comment :</b> Moderate improvement required

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee, by noting the content of this report, are aware of both the HMIP Report on Youth Offending Work in Brent and of the Improvement Plan drawn up to address the recommendations made in that report.

## 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 HM Inspectorate of Probation is an independent Inspectorate, funded by the Ministry of Justice, and reporting directly to the Secretary of State. This Core Case Inspection (CCI) in Brent is a part of a programme of inspection of all YOS in England & Wales over a three-year period which began in April 2009. Its primary purpose being to assess the quality of practice against HMIP's set criteria

- 3.2 The Foreword to the report summarised the results thus:

“Overall, we consider this a reasonable set of findings, with *Risk of Harm to others* and the delivery of interventions requiring particular attention. However, we are confident that if the recommendations in this report are followed the improvement required can be made and sustained.”

The preamble also included the following:

“In Brent we found a YOS working with children and young people from diverse backgrounds and with complex needs, some of whom posed a high *Risk of Harm* to others including involvement in organised gang crime. Due to austerity measures, the YOS had recently undergone changes to its internal delivery structures, with a reduction in staffing levels. However, despite these challenges case managers were keen to improve their assessment and case management skills. The enthusiasm we found among this group of staff should be built upon.”

Summarising the results of the service users perspective (young people's) survey the Inspectors commented that:

“A majority of respondents reported that as a result of action taken by the YOS, some aspects of their lives had improved. In particular, they told us that the YOS had helped them understand their offending and make better decisions”.

- 3.4 It is of note that Brent's scores were close to the National Averages and higher than the average scores for those London YOTS so far published. It is also the case that virtually all London YOTs were found to need Substantial Improvement for the Risk of Harm criteria.

- 3.5 It must be noted that the way in which these scores are derived is dependent on process driven indicators including the timeliness of completion of documents and their signing-off by managers. It has been argued by a number of sources, including the ADSC London Region, that this approach fails to address what should be the key focus – the outcomes for young people and the community. In addition London YOTs like Brent face the burdens of high levels of young people presenting with serious and complex problems, engaging in higher than average levels of serious offending. The Inspection round in London started in June 2011 at a point when a

number of YOTS were struggling to deal with substantial budget reductions (in Brent's case of almost 30%) and the concomitant re-organisations prompted by those reductions. HMIP rejected calls made by the London Region YOT Managers to postpone Inspections in the light of these issues.

3.6 The detail of the Inspectors findings on the strengths and areas for improvement in relation to each of the criteria examined is appended as Appendix 1.

3.7 The Inspectors made five recommendations as a result of the process and an Improvement Plan to address them has now been agreed by HMIP. Its implementation will be overseen by the London Region of the YJB.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 None

#### **6.0 Diversity Implications**

6.1 None

#### **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

7.1 None

#### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1 – detailed summary of findings

A full copy of the HMIP Report on Youth Offending Services in Brent's can be viewed on the [HMIP](#) website.

A full copy of the Improvement Plan can be obtained from [anita.dickinson@brent.gov.uk](mailto:anita.dickinson@brent.gov.uk)

#### **Contact Officer**

Anita Dickinson  
Head of Service Brent YOS

## **Appendix 1**

### **Safeguarding**

#### ***HMIP Identified as strengths:***

- All necessary immediate action was taken to safeguard and protect the child or young person in all appropriate cases in the community. Similar figures were achieved in relation to other affected children and young people in the community.
- Specific interventions to promote Safeguarding were identified in 89% of relevant custody cases.
- In most cases, where necessary, Safeguarding referrals to other agencies had been made.
- There was good evidence that the YOS workers and other relevant agencies (especially ETE/Connexions, substance misuse services, physical health and secure establishments) worked together to promote the Safeguarding and well-being of children and young people. There was less evidence of joint working between YOS workers and children's social care services or emotional and mental health services.
- A vulnerability screening was completed in all cases, and on time in 84%.
- The secure establishment was made aware of vulnerability issues prior to, or
- Immediately upon sentence, in 80% of relevant cases.
- YOS workers had made a contribution to other multi – agency assessments and plans designed to safeguard the child or young person, in 10 of 13 relevant cases.

#### ***HMIP Identified as Areas for improvement:***

- The vulnerability screening was not completed to a sufficient quality in 37% of cases.
- Whilst the majority of Vulnerability Management Plans were timely only 46% were of a sufficient quality. In some cases the quality was affected by a lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities of staff and agencies involved with the child or young person.
- There was Insufficient evidence of management oversight of vulnerability assessments and needs both within the community and the secure estate
- Specific interventions to promote Safeguarding were identified in 89% of relevant custody cases. However, these were incorporated in the Vulnerability Management Plan in only 60% and delivered in just over half (56%) of all applicable cases.

### **Risk of Harm (RoH)**

#### ***HMIP Identified as strengths:***

- An *RoH* screening was undertaken in all 38 cases in the sample and on time in all but five.
- The *RoH* classification recorded by the YOS was correct in 79% of cases.
- Inspectors assessed that there should have been a full *RoH* analysis in 34 cases. This was done in 97% of cases and was on time in 78% of these.
- In the majority of cases the *RoH* assessment drew adequately on all appropriate information from other agencies.
- A Risk Management Plan had been completed in all but 4 of the 27 cases that required one.
- Where there were changes in *RoH* factors they were identified swiftly and acted on appropriately in 78% of cases.

- Case managers and other relevant YOS staff contributed effectively to multi-agency meetings in a substantial majority of cases – 88% when the child or young person was in custody and 86% when they were living in the community.

***HMIP Identified as Areas for improvement:***

- The *RoH* screening was not accurate in 37% of cases and the analysis was not of a sufficient quality in 47% of cases. The main reason for this was that the *Risk of Harm* to victims was not fully considered.
- In the 23 cases where an RMP was completed, nine were not done on time and only 12 were of a sufficient quality.
- In cases that did not require an RMP the need to address potential *RoH* issues had been recognised in 8 of 11 relevant cases; however, action was taken in only five cases.
- High priority was given to victim safety in just over one-third of relevant cases. Full assessments of the safety of victims had not been carried out in 63% of the cases requiring them.
- There was evidence of the effective management oversight of *RoH* in only one-quarter of both the custody and community cases.
- Specific interventions to manage *RoH* in the community were delivered as planned in just over half of the cases and interventions to manage *RoH* during the custodial phase of the sentence were delivered as planned in three of six relevant cases.

**Likelihood of Reoffending (LoR)**

***HMIP Identified as strengths:***

- There had been a reduction in the frequency of offending in 69%, and the seriousness of offending in 75% of cases.
- In all cases an initial assessment of LoR had been conducted; it was completed on time in 76% of cases. Good use was made of the information available from other agencies, including children’s social care services, the police and educational providers.
- There was evidence of active engagement with the child or young person in 76% of cases, and with parents/carers in 74% of cases.
- The majority of plans or contracts in the community set relevant goals and timescales, reflected the purpose of sentencing and national standards, and focused on achievable change.
- In eight out of ten custody cases there was a custodial sentence plan. All of these were completed on time
- Plans were reviewed at appropriate intervals in all but one case in custody
- YOS staff had been involved appropriately in the review of interventions delivered in custody in all but two DTO cases.
- The YOS worker actively motivated and supported the child or young person throughout the sentence in all but three cases while in custody.
- Based upon the YOS assessment of LoR and *RoH* Inspectors found that the initial Scaled Approach intervention level was correct in all but three relevant cases.
- Appropriate resources had been allocated according to *RoH* throughout the sentence in just under three-quarters of cases in the sample.

***HMIP Identified as Areas for improvement:***

- The quality of the initial assessments of the LoR was not satisfactory in 37% of cases.

- The learning style of the child or young person had been assessed in less than one-quarter (22%) of the cases.
- The initial assessment was not reviewed at appropriate intervals in 15 of 38 of cases.
- Only three of ten custodial sentence plans sufficiently included factors linked to the child or young person's offending
- The child or young person had been actively and meaningfully involved in the planning process in 53% of cases and parents/carers in 42%.
- Intervention plans were reviewed at appropriate intervals in just under half (49%) of the community cases.
- Interventions in the community were implemented in line with the intervention plan in 53% of cases.
- They were sequenced and reviewed in 45% of cases; and were appropriate to the child or young person's learning style in only 42%. Only half of plans incorporated all diversity issues.
- All requirements of the sentence had been implemented in two-thirds of relevant cases.



## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012

### Report from Director of Children and Families

#### **Special educational needs: developments in specialist provision in response to rising demand.**

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The majority of children and young people identified with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have their needs met in mainstream schools through arrangements put into place by schools making use of their delegated schools budget. For a small percentage of children and young people with the most severe and complex needs, a statement of SEN is drawn up. The statement determines the special provision required which may be additional help at a mainstream school or a specialist placement.
- 1.2 Brent has maintained an increasing number of statements of special educational needs over the past 5 years, rising from 2.01% of the 0-19 population in 2005 to 2.37% in 2010. This is at variance with the national trend over this period where the percentage has fallen from 2.07% in 2005 to 1.84% in 2010.
- 1.3 Alongside this increase in volume and partly because of it, there has been an increasing shortfall between the demand and supply of local placements for children with high level needs, particularly those on the autistic spectrum. An increasing number of young people are placed in the day out-Borough non-maintained school sector. Placement costs have risen very significantly resulting in an overspend in the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) of approximately £2.7 million in 2010/11 and a cumulative deficit of £5.7 million. This is clearly an area of acute cost pressure requiring urgent resolution.
- 1.4 This report provides an analysis of the cost drivers and of Brent's performance on a range of indicators in comparison with other authorities with similar characteristics. It sets out the robust actions which have been taken to manage demand and reduce costs whilst improving quality of provision and maintaining good outcomes for Brent children with SEN.
- 1.5 The SEN transformation programme is being driven through the One Council Programme Management Board. Key elements of the programme include
  - More rigorous demand management and decision-making processes

- Expansion of local specialist provision in Brent mainstream and special schools
- Improved commissioning arrangements and strong engagement in the West London Alliance SEN project

Each of these strands of work contributes directly to reducing costs.

- 1.6 The SEN transformation programme is an ambitious yet realistically achievable programme which will bring significant financial and educational benefits. There are good indications of early progress. 26 new additional specialist places for children with severe and complex learning needs including autism have been established in September/October 2011. The numbers of new statutory assessments leading to statements have reduced from 251 in the 2009/10 school year to 204 in the 2010/11 school year. An alternative to statutory assessments was introduced in September 2010 called Individual Pupil Support Agreement (IPSA). There were 31 IPSA allocations made in the 2010/11 school year, the first year of operation. Progress is being closely monitored both through the Children and Families Department SEN budget review group and through the Council's Programme Management Board.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny committee is requested to:

- 2.1 Note the extent of the financial pressures on the Dedicated School Grant arising from increasing expenditure on SEN support and placements.
- 2.2 Note the key factors which are driving the SEN overspend
- 2.3 Note the range of actions which have been taken to manage demand, increase local provision and reduce costs whilst maintaining good outcomes for Brent children with SEN.

## **3.0 Detail**

### **3.1 Legislative Background.**

The assessment of SEN and determining the provision and services for children with SEN is governed by a statutory framework. Educational provision is made for children and young people identified with SEN in a variety of settings after assessment which begins as early in the child's life as possible. For the vast majority of children (19.1% of the school aged population nationally in 2010) their mainstream setting will assess and meet all their SEN using their budgeted resources. Some children will require additional help from SEN services or other agencies which the setting can access.



A very small minority of children and young people (1.7% of the school aged population nationally in 2010 rising to 1.84% with the addition of pre-school age children) will have SEN of a severity or complexity that requires the Local Authority to determine and arrange the special educational provision their learning difficulties call for. In these circumstances the Local Authority is required to carry out a statutory multi professional Assessment of the child's educational needs. It is these children that the Local Authority has a direct responsibility for in terms of co-ordinating the formal assessment process and making provision.

### 3.2 **Strategic overview of the delivery of SEN services**

The following principles underpin Brent's strategic approach to delivering SEN services:

- Securing the best possible educational outcomes for children and young people identified with SEN and promote their independence and autonomy to assist transition to adult life
- Wherever possible, meeting the needs of children and young people in a local, inclusive setting and promoting their full participation in wider community life
- Increasing the skills and capacity of all schools and other education providers to effectively meet a wide range of needs
- Providing information, advice and assistance to parents and carers of children with SEN so they are fully aware of the options available to them.

3.3 There is an ambitious programme for the transformation of SEN services according to these principles driven through the One Council Review. The aim of this programme is to maintain and improve on the current good outcomes for children and young people identified with SEN and the good quality of Brent's SEN provision, whilst at the same time significantly reducing expenditure. The main elements of the transformation programme are as follows:

- Managing demand and expectations by reviewing the threshold criteria and decision making processes to take account of the changed financial climate. This will be part of a broader culture change programme within SEN assessment and placement services.
- Developing a refreshed communication strategy with parents/carers, Brent's schools, other providers and partners to ensure consistent understanding of aims and strategy.
- Developing a renewed programme of support and training to sustain and increase the capacity of Brent's schools to meet a range of SEN within delegated budget.
- Continuing the expansion and adaptation of Brent's specialist school provision (including Additionally Resourced Provision in mainstream schools) to reduce reliance on the out borough non maintained special school sector. A major programme is being developed and implemented through the One Council review that will match

changing demand and future projected SEN more closely and will bring both educational and financial benefits.

- Working through the West London Alliance SEN Project to develop more cost effective commissioning of the out borough non-maintained special school placements that will still need to be purchased.

More detail about the progress of actions taken on these elements so far and those that are planned is included in Section 5 of this report.

#### **4.0 Analysis of key issues for Brent**

- 4.1 Comparison of Brent's performance on a range of indicators, in comparison with other local authorities, is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The educational outcomes for children and young people with SEN are good in Brent when compared with like authorities but also in a national context.
- 4.3 Brent's spend on SEN transport is also cost effective when compared with like authorities. However this is comparative in a national context of high spending and exceeding budget provision. Whilst this is a good base to be working from there will continue to be a strong focus on driving down costs on transport.
- 4.4 There has been a significant growth in demand for statements of SEN in Brent. This has been particularly marked for children on the autistic spectrum where the number of children with a statement of SEN has steadily risen from 304 in 2008 to 412 in 2011, a 36% increase over 3 years. This is partly due to a significant increase in the numbers of children under 5 with complex needs who have been notified by health as likely to require a statement. This has resulted in an 86% increase over the last 3 years in the number of young children undergoing a statutory assessment from 49 in 2008-09 to 91 in 2010-11. The increase in demand is partly related to demographic growth which has placed pressure on the provision of sufficient school places generally. However there will be other reasons which need to be explored with partners in the Health services.
- 4.5 The percentage of the 0-19 population with statements in Brent (2.37%) is currently around 0.5% higher than both national and WLA averages. This suggests that the management of the increased level of demand is a significant issue and that 'gate keeping' functions need to be strengthened. This involves the review and consistent application of threshold criteria to further strengthen the robustness of decision making processes. It also involves managing expectations through a planned communication strategy with schools and parents.
- 4.6 A key cost driver has been the increasing shortfall between the demand and supply of local specialist places for children with high level needs which has led to an increased reliance on expensive out-borough non-maintained special school placements. There were 169 children and young people in day out

borough placements at the end of March 2011 costing an average of £32k per place. 82 children and young people (51%) within this total were placed for autism costing an average £49k. The average cost of maintained places for autism is £22k. These out borough placements put pressure both on the Dedicated Schools Grant for the placement costs and the local authority General Fund for transport costs.

4.7 There has been expansion of Brent specialist provision in mainstream and special schools over the past five years (see paragraph 5.2) but this has not kept pace with the rise in numbers requiring specialist provision over that period. Major capital expenditure is not necessarily required to expand provision. Strengthening the skills of school based staff in meeting SEN through targeted training programmes and specialist support builds capacity in mainstream schools to effectively meet a wider range of SEN. Special schools are also adapting and developing skills to meet a changing profile of needs. The local authority are driving these developments as part of the demand management and cost reduction strategy.

4.8 In line with other London authorities, Brent will not be able to meet the full diverse range of SEN completely within local provision. The local authority will continue to need to commission specialist placements from out-Borough maintained schools and day and residential independent providers although at a much reduced level than is currently the case. Stronger commissioning arrangements are required in Brent and across the West London Alliance in the negotiation of placement costs with independent providers and in contract management. Brent is fully engaged in the WLA SEN project which is helping to drive improvements in these areas.

## **5.0 Range of actions taken**

5.1 A number of actions to address these issues have already been taken. These are summarised below.

5.2 Expansion of specialist provision in Brent has taken place over the past 5 years including:

- The development of a 50 place 16-19 provision at Hay Lane and Grove Park Schools in 2008
- The amalgamation and rebuilding of Hay Lane and Grove Park schools which will create an additional 25 places for children and young people with severe learning difficulties scheduled for completion in September 2013.
- Establishment of a mainstream secondary provision at Preston Manor High School which opened in September 2010 and has created an additional 12 places for children and young people with autism.

5.3 In September 2010, a process to provide support to children and young people outside of statutory procedures was introduced. Instead of a statement of SEN,

in certain circumstances, an 'Individual Pupil Support Agreement' (IPSA) is drawn up. This avoids the administrative costs of the statutory assessment process. The operation of the IPSA process is currently being reviewed following the first year of its implementation, but it has been effective in reducing the numbers of Statutory Assessments by 39% in the first year of operation. The resources allocated through this process are time limited which creates greater flexibility in resource allocation than currently exists through statutory assessment and statements.

- 5.4 A review of formula funding arrangements for schools has been carried out. New banding arrangements for special schools and for additionally resourced mainstream provision were introduced in April 2010. This provided
- greater fairness and transparency in comparison with previous historical arrangements
  - a system which avoided the need for individual funding in addition to formula allocation for children with the highest level of needs
  - allocation of resources related to specific numbers on roll rather than capacity
- 5.5 In April 2011, following extensive consultation with the Schools Forum, revised thresholds and criteria were set for initiating statutory assessment of SEN with increased expectations for the level of needs that schools would meet from their delegated resources.
- 5.6 Following the Council's Staffing and Structure review, new management arrangements for SEN Services have been put into place from June 2011. This has resulted in the beginnings of a culture change and more clearly drawn lines of accountability. Further changes to service structures are under consideration aimed at better aligning services to strengthen the robustness of decision making processes.
- 5.7 In December 2010 the One Council Programme Board commissioned a targeted specialist review of SEN to develop a business case for radical service improvement. The detailed SEN One Council Business Case set out a raft of short term and long term recommendations for improving SEN provision in Brent.

A dedicated specialist project manager was engaged for a limited period of time for strategic projects and programmes within Achievement and Inclusion to provide drive and dedicated focus. The first phase of development took place between April and July 2011. It resulted in the following:

- The creation of 26 additional places for pupils with severe and moderate learning difficulties for the immediate 2011-12 school year. These initiatives have developed a new co-located provision for Village school at Queens Park Community School for secondary aged students with severe learning difficulties. This has brought forward the planned expansion of provision at Village school (referred

to in 5.2) by 2 years. It will also promote improved outcomes for both schools.

- Expanded specialist nursery provision providing 11 new places for young children with autism at Granville Plus Children's Centre.
- Proposals agreed with Governors to co-consult on the re-designation and development of Vernon House special school to provide up to 30 additional places for pupils with autism. This is proposed for September 2012.
- Significant improvement in SEN data and management information systems in order to provide a stronger foundation and better capacity for strategic planning.
- The WLA SEN Project was officially launched on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011. There has been a very active level of engagement with the project since July 2011 focusing on the development of smarter commissioning processes for out-borough independent provision. It is envisaged that this will significantly drive down the unit cost of these placements by anything between £2,000 and £12,000 in a number of schools
- Agreement in principle to a 20 place Additionally Resourced Provision to be established at Alperton Community School. This is being developed as a partnership between Alperton and Woodfield Special School. It will provide for the needs of year 10 and 11 pupils with identified Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) who will transfer from Woodfield in order to experience a mainstream school experience and access to a broader range of qualifications prior to leaving school. It is anticipated that the provision will be open for September 2012.

- 5.8 The Programme Board has agreed a second phase of development for September 2011 to August 2012. This includes a number of key initiatives centred on a review and refresh of Brent's overall strategy for SEN and Inclusion and further expansion of local provision. A summary of existing specialist SEN provision in Brent and planned new developments in provision is shown in Appendix 2.
- 5.9 New placement authorisation processes have been put into place from September 2011. Any out-borough special school placements in non-maintained and maintained provision now require the authorisation of the Head of Pupil and Parent Services. Any placements with an overall cost (including transport costs) over £40,000, requires the authorisation of the Assistant Director, Achievement and Inclusion.
- 5.10 A targeted review of high cost independent day placements will take place by September 2012 with the aim of bringing children back into local provision wherever possible, particularly at key times such as secondary transfer.
- 5.11 Common eligibility criteria for provision of SEN transport across West London Alliance authorities will be in place by September 2012, as part of the WLA transport project. In addition a system for annual application for travel

assistance will be put into place from April 2012. This will replace the automatic entitlement to home to school transport in cases where criteria are met.

- 5.12 The active engagement with the WLA SEN project is producing revised commissioning approaches to the annual fee review process and individual contract negotiations with high volume providers in the independent/non maintained school sector. As already pointed out these actions will achieve significant reductions in unit costs during the current financial year. The new appointment of a Children and Families procurement officer will support this work.

## **6.0 Impact of action taken**

6.1 These actions have so far resulted in:

- 26 additional specialist places for severe and moderate learning difficulties which is forecast to achieve £350k savings over 2 years.
- 12 additional specialist places for autism which is forecast to achieve £50k savings over 2 years.
- A reduction in the number of Statutory Assessments initiated from 251(2009-10 school year) to 204 (2010-11 school year). This represents a significant decrease in reliance on statutory assessments which will lead to a reduction in the number of statements being maintained in the longer term and associated reduction in costs. It will also reduce the administrative burden on the local authority.
- A flattening in the number of new statements of SEN produced from 244 in 2009-10 to 249 in 2010-11 after an increase of 30 from 214 in 2008-09.
- This is a positive indicator of the success in reducing reliance on statements for allocating additional resources. We are anticipating a reduction in the number of new statements issued in 2011/12.

6.2 The impact of the action on expenditure is being closely monitored. A deficit recovery plan has now been set and approved by the Schools Forum which is aimed at eliminating the Schools Budget cumulative deficit by the end of 2014/15.

### **Contact officers:**

**Carmen Coffey, Head of Pupil and Parent Services**

Andrew Beckett, SEN Project Manager

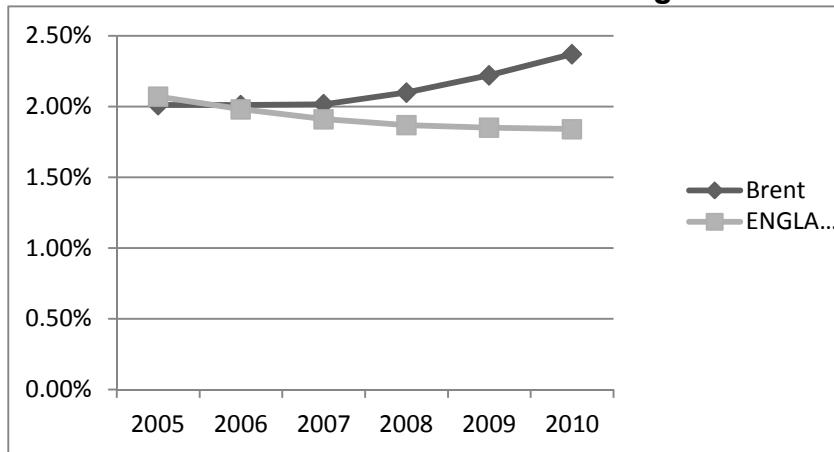
Rik Boxer, Assistant Director Achievement and Inclusion

Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane Wembley Middlesex HA9 7RH

1.0 Comparison of Brent’s performance with other Authorities

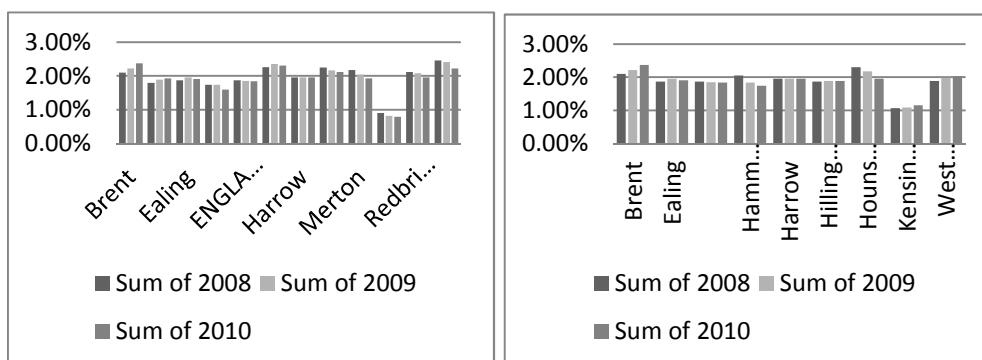
1.1 Statements of SEN

**Graph 1: % 0-19 population with a statement of SEN Brent compared to National Average**



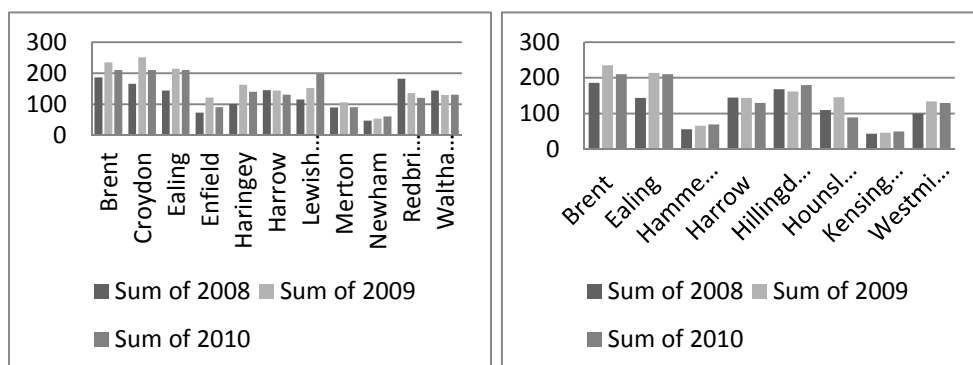
The percentage of children and young people with statements of SEN over the last 5 years has increased from 2.01% (below the national average of 2.07%) in 2005 to 2.37% (above the national average of 1.84%) in 2010. In 2010 Brent maintained 1491 statements of SEN and this has continued to rise to around 1600 in September 2011. This indicates a shift in the balance of the management of SEN towards greater reliance on the statutory framework.

**Graphs 2 & 3: % 0-19 population with a statement of SEN Brent (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



This increase is shown in comparison with trends in Brent’s Statistical Neighbour (SN) group of 10 Authorities and West London Alliance (WLA) group of 8 Authorities in Graphs 2 and 3. The increasing trend in Brent is in contrast to the general trend in both LA groups where it is static or on a downward trajectory. The only exceptions are Kensington and Chelsea in the WLA group and Croydon in the SN group.

**Graphs 4 & 5: Number of children for whom statements were newly made (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**

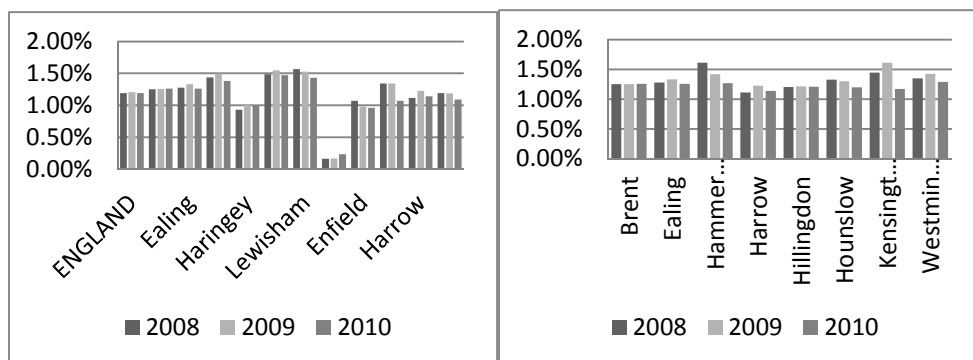


There are indications from the statistics relating to the number of new statements issued that this increasing trend in Brent will begin to change (Graphs 3 and 4). There was a decrease in the number of new statements issued in 2010 after 4 years of consecutive increase. This was the second biggest decrease in the WLA group where new statements tended to remain relatively static or actually increase (Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea). A reduction in the number of new statements was more the norm in 2010 in the SN group.

**1.2 Placements**

56% of children and young people with statements of SEN in Brent have their needs met in mainstream schools, the majority in Brent. 31% are placed in LA maintained special schools, again the majority within Brent but some in neighbouring Borough special schools. The remaining 13% are placed in independent/non maintained schools outside of Brent and in some cases at great distance from home.

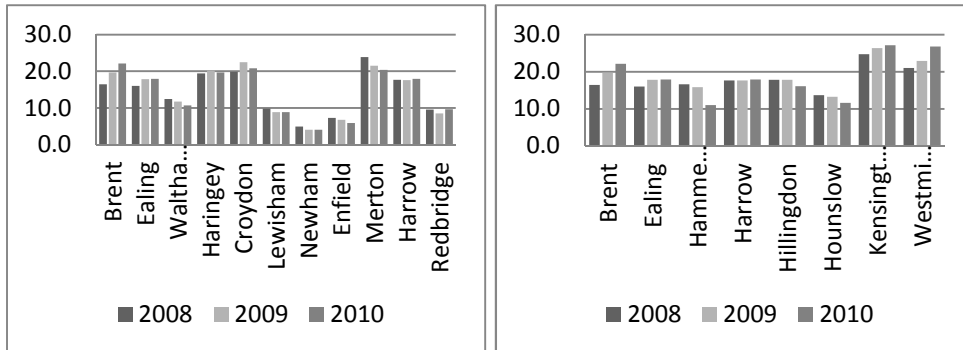
**Graphs 6 & 7: % of resident school population placed in LA maintained special schools (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



Placements in maintained special schools (Graphs 6 and 7) remained stable in Brent between 2006-10 and are generally in line with placements made by both WLA and SN group Authorities at 1% -1.5% of the resident school population.



**Graphs 8 & 9: Placements made by LA in independent and non maintained special schools - Rate per 10,000 population (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



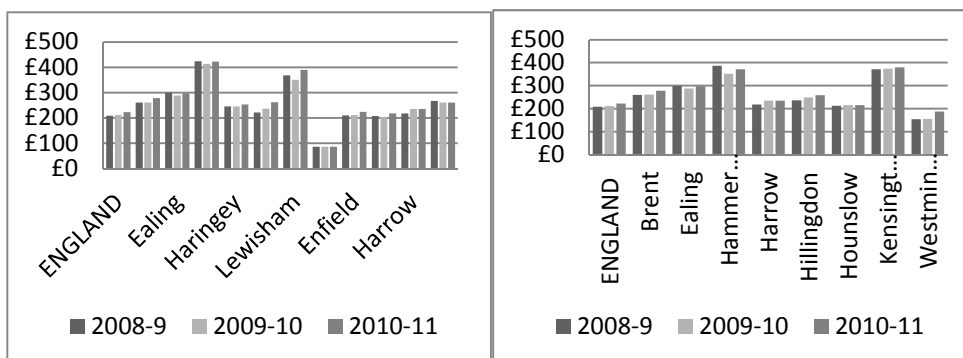
Placements by Brent in independent and non maintained schools (Graphs 8 and 9) increased from 14.3 to 22.1 per 10,000 population between 2007-10. Increase in placements occurred in some other SN and WLA group Authorities (Ealing, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Haringey). Placements have remained generally stable or have decreased in other SN and WLA group Authorities over this period. In 2010 Brent had the third highest rate of placements in independent and non maintained schools in the WLA group.

1.3 Cost Indicators

Costs for LA maintained special schools

Brent's expenditure on in-borough maintained special school places has risen from £260 to £278 per 3-19 population over the last 3 years (Graphs 10 and 11). This is above the national average of £233, 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the WLA group and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the SN group. The trend in expenditure is generally upward in all Authorities in the WLA group.

**Graph 10 & 11: LA expenditure on in borough maintained special schools per 3-19 pop. (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**

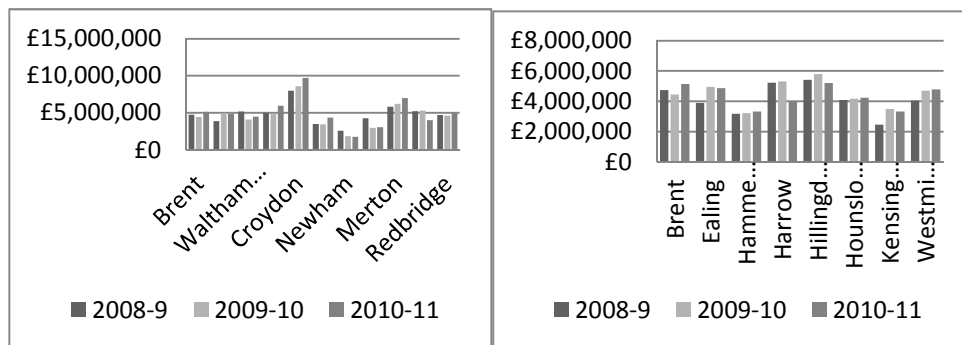


Costs for Independent/non-maintained special schools

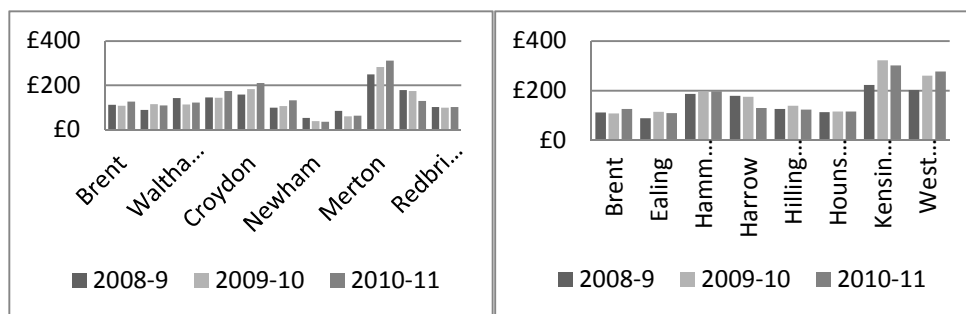
Expenditure by Brent on out-borough places in independent/non maintained schools (Graphs 12 and 13) fluctuated over the last 3 financial years increasing from £4.4m to £5.1m between 2009-10 and 2010-11. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest expenditure in the WLA group. The range of expenditure in WLA group Authorities was £3.3m-£5.2m in 2010-11.

The range of expenditure was wider in the SN group in 2010-11 at £3.1m-£9.7m. Brent had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest expenditure in the group.

**Graphs 12 & 13: Expenditure on out-borough places in independent/non-maintained schools (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



**Graphs 14 & 15: Expenditure on out-borough independent/non-maintained schools - costs per 3-19 pop. (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



When proportional expenditure on out-borough independent/non-maintained schools (costs per 3-19 population-Graphs 14 and 15) is compared, Brent had the fifth highest expenditure in 2010-11 in the WLA group at £127 per 0-19 population. Expenditure ranged from £110-£302 per 0-19 population in this group and compared with a national average expenditure of £90 for 2010-11. Brent also had the fifth highest proportional expenditure in 2010-11 when compared with the SN group. The range of expenditure in 2010-11 in this group was £36-£311 in 2010-11.

## SEN Transport costs

**Graphs 16 & 17: SEN transport expenditure - £ per 3-19 pop (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



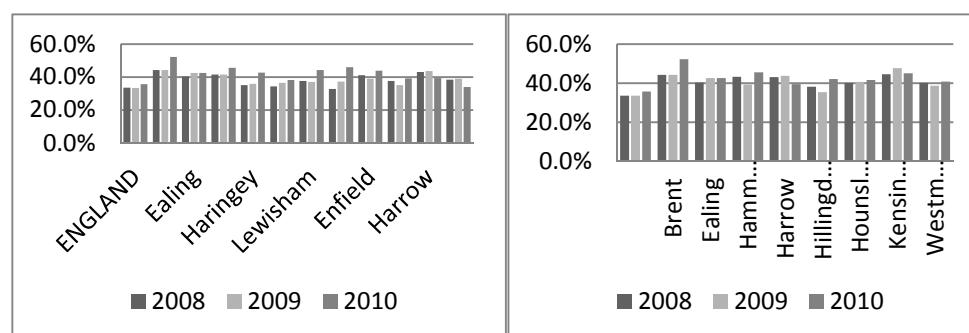
Expenditure in Brent on SEN transport (Graphs 16 and 17) fluctuated between 2008-09 and 2010-11 with £84 spent per 3-19 population in 2010-11. This was the lowest expenditure of the WLA group where the range in 2010-11 was £84-£144 per 3-19 population.

In the SN group of Authorities Brent had the 6<sup>th</sup> highest expenditure on SEN transport in 2010-11 where the range in 2010-11 was £46-£123 per 3-19 population.

## 1.4 Outcome Indicators

### Attainment of Pupils with SEN

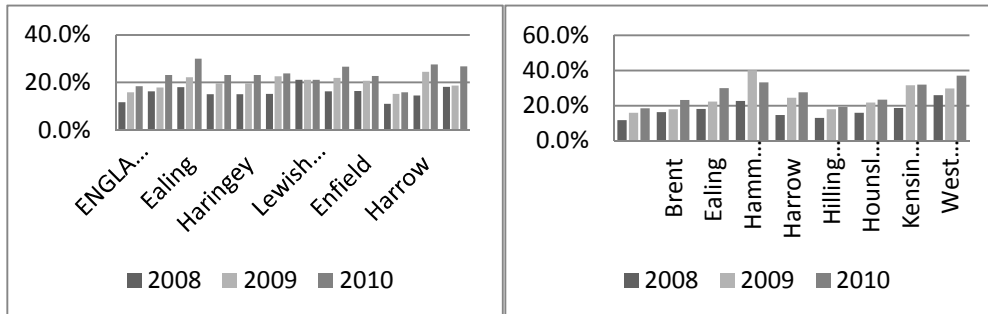
**Graphs 18 & 19: % pupils with identified SEN achieving L4 and above in Eng & Maths at the end of KS2 (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



Outcomes at the end of key stage 2 for pupils identified with SEN (Graphs 18 and 19) improved from a high base between 2008-2010 with 52.2% achieving the expected attainment standard of level 4 and above in English and Maths. This was the highest attainment in the WLA group. The level of attainment of these pupils in this group of Authorities ranged from 39.5%-52.2% in 2010. Outcomes in Brent were significantly above the national average of 35.7% in 2010.

The level of attainment of Brent pupils identified with SEN at the end of key stage 2 in 2010-11 was also the highest in the SN group. The attainment in 2010 ranged from 34.1%-52.2% in these Authorities.

**Graphs 20 & 21: % pupils with identified SEN achieving 5A\*-C GCSE including Eng & Maths at the end of KS4 (compared with SN and WLA Authorities)**



Outcomes at the end of key stage 4 for pupils identified with SEN (Graphs 24 and 25) improved from 16.3% to 23.1% achieving the attainment standard of 5A\*-C GCSE including English and Maths between 2008-10. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> highest level of attainment in the WLA group. The level of attainment of these pupils in this group of Authorities ranged from 19.1%-37% in 2010. The level of attainment of Brent pupils identified with SEN at the end of key stage 4 in 2010 was 8th highest in the SN group of 11 Authorities. The attainment in 2010 ranged from 15.9%-30% in these Authorities.

Although outcomes in Brent for this group of pupils at key stage 4 were not as good as outcomes at key stage 2 they were above the national average of 18.5% in 2010.

**Summary of existing special school and additionally resourced mainstream provision in Brent**

<b>Special Schools</b>	<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Type of Needs</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
<b>Manor</b>	<b>4-11</b>	<b>Moderate/severe learning difficulties. Autism and associated learning difficulties</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Woodfield</b>	<b>11-19</b>	<b>Moderate learning difficulties with additional needs. Autism and associated learning difficulties</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Village</b>	<b>3-19</b>	<b>Severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties. Autism and associated learning difficulties.</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>Vernon House</b>	<b>4-11</b>	<b>Behaviour social and emotional difficulties</b>	<b>30</b>

**Additionally resourced mainstream provision**

	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Type of need</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
<b>Preston Manor</b>	<b>11-19</b>	<b>Speech, language and communication.</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Preston Manor</b>	<b>11-19</b>	<b>Autism</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Kingsbury High</b>	<b>11-19</b>	<b>Deaf and hearing impaired.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Oakington Manor</b>	<b>4-11</b>	<b>Speech, language and communication.</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Kensal Rise</b>	<b>4-11</b>	<b>Speech, language and communication.</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Kingsbury Green</b>	<b>4-11</b>	<b>Deaf and hearing impaired.</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Fawood</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>Autism</b>	<b>10</b>

**Summary of new developments in specialist provision in Brent**

	<b>Description of development</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Type of needs</b>	<b>Number of additional places</b>	<b>Completion</b>
<b>Village School</b>	Satellite centre at Queens Park Community School	11-16	Severe learning difficulties	20	Completed October 2011
<b>Granville Plus</b>	New additionally resourced mainstream provision	3-5	Autism	15 (part-time at 15 hours/week)	Completed Sept 2011
<b>Vernon House</b>	Re-designation and remodelling of existing provision	4-11	Autism	10 for Sept 2012 20 for Sept 2013	Under consultation to commence for September 2012
<b>Alperton</b>	New additionally resourced mainstream provision in collaboration with Woodfield School	14-19	Moderate learning difficulties	8 for Sept 2012 12 for Sept 2013	Planned to commence for September 2012
<b>Woodfield expansion</b>	Expansion of the capacity of the current school	11-19	Autism/Severe Learning Difficulties	30	Planned for Sept 2013 subject to approval of business case.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

## THE FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

### for the four month period 11 January 2012 to 21 May 2012

**The Forward Plan** sets out the **key decisions** and other decisions **that the Executive intends to take over the following four months**, together with key decisions by officers. Briefly, a Key Decision is defined by Regulations as an Executive decision which is likely to result in significant expenditure or savings, or have a significant effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards. In Brent the council will treat as a key decision all decisions taken at a meeting of the Executive whether or not the decision would be classed as a key decision according to the statutory definition.

Decisions made by the Executive are subject to a call-in provision. If any item is called in, the Forward Plan Select Committee (a sub-committee of the Scrutiny Committee, made up of councillors not on the Executive) will meet to consider the item. Following this, the Executive will meet and take into account the recommendations of the select committee. This will usually take place within 4-6 weeks of the original decision. The Executive may then implement or change its decision as it sees fit. The exact date when the recommendations of the Select Committee on a matter are to be considered by the Executive can be obtained from Democratic Services. The Plan is updated monthly. Copies can also be obtained from Democratic Services, Room 106, Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9HD, telephone 020 8937 1366 or via e-mail at [committee@brent.gov.uk](mailto:committee@brent.gov.uk).

Members of the public are entitled to see the reports that will be relied on when the decision is taken unless they contain confidential or exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972 as amended. These are listed in column 3 and will be published on the council's website five clear working days before the date the decision is due to be taken. Paper copies will be made available via Democratic Services as detailed above. The council's Access to Information Rules set out the entitlement of the public to see documents and reports.

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding any of the matters listed in the Forward Plan can do so by forwarding a written submission to Democratic Services using the above address/telephone number up to one week before the date the decision is to be taken (see column 4). Where a specific decision date has yet to be identified, contact Democratic Services who will forward representations to the Lead Officer.

The current membership of the Executive is as follows:

Cllr John (Corporate Strategy and Policy Co-ordination)  
Cllr Butt (Resources)  
Cllr Long (Housing)  
Cllr J Moher (Highways and Transportation)  
Cllr R Moher (Adults and Health)  
Cllr Crane (Regeneration and Major Projects)  
Cllr Beswick (Crime and Public Safety)  
Cllr Jones (Customers and Citizens)  
Cllr Powney (Environment and Neighbourhoods)  
Cllr Arnold (Children and Families)

**Publication Date: December 2011**

Contact Officer: Anne Reid  
email: [anne.reid@brent.gov.uk](mailto:anne.reid@brent.gov.uk)  
Tel: 020 8937 1359  
Fax: 020 8937 1360

<b>Details of the decision to be taken</b>	<b>Decision to be taken by</b>	<b>Relevant report from</b>	<b>Expected date of decision</b>	<b>Those to be consulted and how</b>	<b>Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated</b>
<b>Future of Children's Centre childcare provision</b> - To agree the future of children's centre childcare provision.	Executive	Director of Children and Families	13 Feb 2012	Internal	Director of Children and Families  Tel: 020 8937 3126 <a href="mailto:krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk">krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Islamia Primary School - Primary Capital Programme Funding</b> To agree funding arrangements for the Islamia Primary School Primary Capital project.	Executive	Director of Regeneration and Major Projects	13 Feb 2012	School governors	Property and Asset Management  Tel: 020 8937 3118 <a href="mailto:christine.moore@brent.gov.uk">christine.moore@brent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Young people accommodation based services and floating support services – further update on framework contracts</b> To note the extension of the existing contracts and to award new framework contracts	Executive	Director of Adult Social Services	13 Feb 2012	Internal	Director of Adult Social Services Tel: 020 8937 4230 <a href="mailto:Alison.elliott@brent.gov.uk">Alison.elliott@brent.gov.uk</a>



<p><b>Authority for exemption to tender contract for SEN Independent Special School provision</b></p> <p>To approve, for one year to waive the requirement to undertake a competitive tender exercise in compliance with Brent Standing Orders and to give approval to the pre-tender considerations and the criteria to be used to evaluate tenders for a contract for the next three years.</p>	Executive	Director of Children & Families	13 Feb 2012		<p>Director of Children and Families</p> <p>Tel: 020 8937 3126  <a href="mailto:krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk">krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Inspection Report on Safeguarding and Looked after Children's services</b></p> <p>To note the outcome of a Safeguarding and Looked After Children (SLAC) Inspection by Ofsted in November 2011 contained in an Action Plan</p>	Executive	Director of Children & Families	13 Feb 2012	Internal	<p>Director of Children and Families</p> <p>Tel: 020 8937 3126  <a href="mailto:krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk">krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</a></p>

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**Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2011/2**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue for committee to consider</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> July 2011</b>	Tribute and thanks to retiring head teachers	This has been placed on the agenda at the request of the Chair. Details of the head teachers retiring in Brent at the end of the school year will be provided for the committee.	Report noted. The chair will write to retiring head teachers to express her thanks for their hard work on behalf of the committee.
	Brent Youth Parliament Update	Standing item – BYP members will update the committee on their work and campaigns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute Mid Year Progress Report</li> <li>• Show Shisha DVD</li> </ul>	Update from the BYP noted.
	Provision of services for children with disabilities	The chair of the committee has asked that a regular item on the provision of services for children with disabilities be included on each agenda. This follows the decision to close the short break service at Crawford Avenue and restructure services for children with disabilities at Clement Close.	It was agreed that this issue would become a standing item for the committee. Rik Boxer was asked to provide information for the next meeting on the range of service provision that parents are using for respite services, as an alternative to Crawford Avenue and Clement Close.
	Impact of the budget on future service delivery (including schools budget)	The committee will receive a report on the impact that the CSR and local government settlement will have on children’s services, including the Brent schools budget, which is listed separately in the council’s forward plan.	Report noted
	The implications of the Government’s policy on academies and Free	The committee will consider a report looking at the impact of Free Schools and academies in Brent and the implications for	The committee agreed the report’s recommendations to:

	Schools in Brent	the council and school pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorse the council's collaborative and inclusive approach to working with local schools within a mixed economy of provision to meet the needs of local children.</li> <li>• Support the Local Government Association in its lobbying during the committee stage of the Education Bill with regard to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the central importance of local authorities in the strategic planning of school places and the regulation of fair admissions procedures.</li> <li>○ the vital role of elected member as representative on schools governing bodies whatever their status.</li> <li>○ the need for a fair funding allocation for all schools which does not disadvantage maintained schools in favour of academies and free schools.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• note the work of the One Council SEN project to develop a strategic and affordable approach to the provision and commissioning of appropriate SEN places.</li> <li>• note the need to develop a more commercially viable approach to the future provision of school improvement services in the light of the provisions contained within the Education Bill which will significantly increase competition in this market.</li> </ul>
	Youth Offending Task Group	The final report of the task group will be presented to members for approval.	The report was agreed and will be submitted to the Executive for approval in September 2011.

	School places update	Standing item, in the form of a verbal report on school places in the borough.	Report noted.
	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme	For information and to give members an opportunity to suggest items for the work programme.	Report noted.

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
<b>6<sup>th</sup> October 2011</b>	Brent Youth Parliament	The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will be invited to provide an update on their work since the committee last met, as well as to raise any issues of concern they would like the committee to consider.	Report noted
	Review of policy for the provision of early years full time places	The chair of the committee has asked for a report to come to the committee on the plan to reverse the policy agreed in February 2010 regarding the allocation of full time early years places. This is currently in the Forward Plan, with a decision due in October 2011. The chair of the committee would like to consider this issue before the decision is taken.	<p>The committee has asked for a report to their next meeting, which should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The outcome of the consultation with schools on the process for offering full time nursery places to 3 and 4 year olds</li> <li>• The opinion of the Schools Forum on this issue</li> <li>• A projection on how the requirement for 2 year olds will be met, including the role for children's centres in meeting this requirement</li> <li>• Safeguards to ensure the most vulnerable children are able to take up the places for 3 to 4 year olds</li> <li>• Information on the number of disadvantaged children in Brent and the number of full time nursery places available</li> </ul>

			for them
	Strategy to provide primary school places in Brent up to 2014/15	The chair of the committee has asked for this report to be presented to members. It was originally considered by the Executive in August 2011, and sets out the challenges faced by the council in providing adequate numbers of primary school places in the borough up to 2014/15, due to increasing demand in Brent.	Report noted
	2011 Education Standards	Verbal update on 2011 education standards.	Report noted. The full results will be presented at a future meeting, once they have been verified.
	Provision of services for children with disabilities	<p>The chair of the committee has asked that a regular item on the provision of services for children with disabilities be included on each agenda. This follows the decision to close the short break service at Crawford Avenue and restructure services for children with disabilities at Clement Close.</p> <p>For the meeting in October, the committee has specifically asked for information on the range of service provision that parents are using for respite services, as an alternative to Crawford Avenue and Clement Close.</p>	Report noted.
	Items on the Forward Plan in relation to Children and Young People	The committee will receive a summary of the items on the Forward Plan that relate to services for children and young people. The committee should consider whether there are any items they wish to call to scrutiny.	Report noted

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Brent Youth Parliament Update	BYP will give a verbal update on their work over the previous 2 to 3 months, since the committee last met.	Report Noted
	Results of Safeguarding Inspection	The Council's Safeguarding and Looked After Children Teams have been inspected by Ofsted (October 2011). The results of the inspection, plus the council's response will be presented to the committee.	The committee has requested a further report back in 2012 with the Action Plan arising from the Inspection.  The committee has also recommended the report is passed to the Executive, with the Action Plan, so that they take ownership of its implementation.
	Adoption Services in Brent	The chair of the committee has asked officers to prepare a paper setting out how Brent is working to address the issues relating to adoption services highlighted in figures published by the DoE on the adoption of children in care.	The committee noted the report on adoption services. They have asked for a further paper on ethnicity and adoption at a later date. This will be added to the committee's work programme, but is likely to be a report taken for information rather than scrutiny.
	Review of policy for the provision of early years full time places	The committee has asked for another report on this issue, which should include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The outcome of the consultation with schools on the process for offering full time nursery places to 3 and 4 year olds</li> <li>• The opinion of the Schools Forum on this issue</li> <li>• A projection on how the requirement for 2 year olds will be met, including the role for children's centres in meeting this requirement</li> <li>• Safeguards to ensure the most</li> </ul>	The committee considered the report and still had concerns about two issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The admissions procedure and the lack of appeals process. Complaints to the council from unsuccessful applicants are a possibility.</li> <li>• That places won't reach those most in need, or those who need additional help before starting school to reduce underachievement. Brent's Somali community was given as an example of a group that should be informed about the</li> </ul>

		<p>vulnerable children are able to take up the places for 3 to 4 year olds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the number of disadvantaged children in Brent and the number of full time nursery places available for them</li> </ul>	<p>availability of early-years places.</p> <p>The committee agreed to recommend the report to the Executive, along with their specific concerns so that the Executive can consider a response to these issues.</p>
	School places update	Verbal report on the shortage of school places in the borough, a standing item on the committee's agenda.	Report noted.
	Provision of services for children with learning and physical disabilities	The committee has asked that a standing item on the provision of services for children with learning and physical disabilities is included on each meeting agenda. The results of the Judicial Review hearing into the closure of Crawford Avenue will be reported to members.	Report noted – JR result was in the council's favour, but an appeal is possible. Further information to be provided at the February meeting.
	Items from the Forward Plan and Work Programme	The committee will consider items from the Forward Plan relating to Children and Young People as well as the committee's work programme.	The chair requested that an item on Special Educational Needs is included on the committee's next agenda.

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2012	Brent Youth Parliament Update	BYP will give a verbal update on their work over the previous 2 to 3 months, since the committee last met.	
	Youth Offending Team Inspection	The results of the inspection of the Youth Offending Team will be presented to the committee for scrutiny.	
	Complex Families Review Update	The chair of the committee has asked for an update on the work that is taking place with	



		complex families in Brent. This will be in the form of a presentation due to short notice.	
	Special Educational Needs – Additional Resourced Schools	The chair of the committee has asked that the report on Additional Resourced Schools prepared for the School's Forum is presented to the OSC for discussion.	
	School Places Update	The committee will be given an update on the school places situation in the borough.	
	Items from the Forward Plan and Work Programme	The committee will be presented with a list of items related to children and young people's services on the Forward Plan, to decide whether there are any they wish to scrutinise. The committee's work programme will also be included on the meeting agenda.	

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	Brent Youth Parliament Update	BYP will give a verbal update on their work over the previous 2 to 3 months, since the committee last met.	
	Education standards in Brent schools – 2011 results.	The committee will receive a report on education standards in Brent schools for 2011. Included within this will be an analysis of areas of underperformance and the steps being taken to address these.	
	Expansion of Brent Schools	The committee will consider a report on the plans to expand Brent schools following the allocation of £25m capital funding by Government to provide more school places. The report will include information on the pros and cons of all through schools.	

	Preventing Youth Offending Task Group follow up	The committee will follow up the recommendations from the preventing youth offending task group.	
	Complex Families Review Update	The chair of the committee has asked for an update on the work that is taking place with complex families in Brent. (moved to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb meeting)	
	Safeguarding and LAC Action Plan	The committee has asked to see the Safeguarding and LAC Ofsted Inspection Action Plan to scrutinise progress in its implementation.	
	School Places Update	The committee will be given an update on the school places situation in the borough.	
	Items from the Forward Plan and Work Programme	The committee will be presented with a list of items related to children and young people's services on the Forward Plan, to decide whether there are any they wish to scrutinise. The committee's work programme will also be included on the meeting agenda.	

#### Items to be timetabled

Item	Issue for the committee to consider
Children's Centre Nursery restructure and fees increase	This item is in the Forward Plan, with a decision due in February 2012. The chair of the committee would like members to consider this issue and comment on the restructure prior to the Executive taking the decision.
Implications of the Munro Review	The committee will receive a report setting out the implications of the Munro Review on child protection arrangements in Brent.
PE and Sports in Brent Schools	A review has been carried out to look at the quality of PE and sport provided by Brent schools. The committee will consider the outcomes from this and how the recommendations from the review are being taken forward.

Domestic Violence – Children’s Partnership Project	The committee will consider the Children’s Partnership report on domestic violence in Brent, following up previous presentations to the committee on this issue.
Youth service review update	As requested by the committee in October 2010, the committee will receive an update on the progress of the ongoing youth services review, being carried out by the Children’s Trust Sub Group.

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