



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 12 February 2013 at 7.00 pm

Committee Rooms 1 and 2, Brent Town Hall, Forty
Lane, Wembley, HA9 9HD

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Mashari (Chair)
Cheese (Vice-Chair)
Aden
Al-Ebadi
Kansagra
Matthews
Mitchell Murray
Pavey

First alternates

Councillors:

S Choudhary
CJ Patel
Oladapo
Denselow
Baker
Leaman
Daly
Krupa Sheth

Second alternates

Councillors:

Hector
Sneddon
Harrison
RS Patel
HM Patel
Lorber
Ogunro
Hossain

Statutory Co-optees

Alloysius Frederick
Dr Nanda Kumar
Elsie Points
Vacancy

Non-statutory Co-optees

Mrs Hawra Imane
Dr J Levison

Observers

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

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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
1 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests	
Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting any relevant financial or other interest in the items on the agenda.	
2 Deputations (if any)	
3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 December 2012	1 - 8
4 Brent Youth Parliament update	
The committee will receive an oral update on the work of the Brent Youth Parliament.	
5 Bullying in Schools	
The committee will receive a presentation on Anti Bullying in Brent. The presentation will focus on highlighting good practice in Brent Schools, the national and local picture and will include the views of young people from the Brent Youth Parliament and the Secondary Student Anti-bullying Council.	
6 Update on progressing recommendations of Youth Offending Task Group/Early Years Intervention Task Group	9 - 12
This report provides an update on how the recommendations of the task group have been developed and the follow-up work from the report that was considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in September 2011. The report also incorporates an update on the work around Early Intervention.	
7 Short breaks provision	
The committee will receive an oral update on how the provision for respite centres has been tackled and resolved.	

8 Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability

13 - 22

This report describes the work currently being undertaken to improve our approach to meeting the needs of pupils and students with special educational needs (SEN). A report on the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy, due to be considered by Executive at time of writing, is attached as Appendix A.

9 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 23 - 34

The Work Programme for 2012/13 is attached.

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny meeting is scheduled for 20 March 2013.

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.

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MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 11 December 2012 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mashari (Chair), Councillor Cheese (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Aden, Al-Ebadi, Kansagra, Pavey, Mr A Frederick, Ms E Points, Ms J Cooper and Brent Youth Parliament representatives

Also present: Councillor Arnold

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs L Gouldbourne and Ms C Jolinon

1. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None declared.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 October 2012

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2012 by approved as a correct record of proceedings.

3. Brent Youth Parliament update

Brent Youth Parliament informed the Committee of a recent successful trip to Parliament. Work was being undertaken to promote the new Roundwood Youth Centre opening and young people's views had been used to inform the choice of activity available and how the space would be used. It was noted that a Christmas Ball had been organised to help increase membership as well as awareness and that a campaign was being run to incorporate young people views which included a successful meeting at the Brent Children Partnership.

Brent Youth Parliament currently had 57 members and elections would be taking place on Saturday 15 December 2012 to elect five executive members, including a Chair and Vice Chair. It was explained that AQA accredited training would be taking place to ensure the importance of politics was understood and to offer an educational benefit to members.

The Committee noted the importance of the work being undertaken by Brent Youth Parliament, in particular the encouragement of arts based activities in light of the narrowing of the national curriculum. Brent Youth Parliament highlighted that they were keen to work with as many partners as possible and establish connections through forums and meetings with the next BYM2 forum meeting taking place on 18 December 2012, 5-6.30pm.

4. Plan for Children and Families in Brent

Anna Janes, Head of Children & Families Policy and Performance explained that the purpose of the report was to set out a three year partnership Plan for Children

and Families in Brent (PCFB). The Plan built on the achievements of the previous Children and Young People's Plan (2010-12) and brought together in a single document Brent's vision and key priorities for improving outcomes for children and families. It was highlighted that although the coalition government had revoked the legislation requiring the production of a plan however it was felt to be an essential strategic plan and demonstrated commitment to the children of Brent for the next three years. It was explained that the plan took a holistic approach which integrated the family and consisted of the following three priorities:

1. Ensure that children and young people in our borough are healthy and safe
2. Narrow the gap between those children who do well and those who need extra support to thrive, so the aspirations of every Brent child are realised.
Also to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the continuing increase in demand
3. To fully integrate services to develop resilient families

Promotion work with partners had been undertaken including posters and a briefing pack to ensure all partners were working towards priorities. It was noted that the Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan, which linked to the Children and Families Plan would be launched in January 2013. Given that the PCFB was a 3 year plan, the Brent Children's Partnership (BCP) Executive had agreed that the partnership would focus on two outcomes within the first year; children and young people being safe, protected from harm and neglect, and living free of poverty.

Anna Janes informed the Committee that the BCP executive had met to discuss issues surrounding the welfare cuts and how the impact on families could be reduced. It was noted that 1500 vacancies were reported across Brent job centres and courses such as CV writing were being offered to help parents back into work. Advice was also being offered to families to address the impact of the cuts and how they could be exempt from the benefit changes to avoid poverty being cast upon their family.

During discussion, it was highlighted that although initiatives were being undertaken to get parents into work, it was felt that the biggest barrier was the cost of child care. It was further noted that there were few jobs that offered suitable 'school hours' for parents with children attending school. It was explained that although a fund existed to provide 15 hours of free child care a week for children 2 - 3 years of age, it was felt that ways to make child care realistic needed to be explored. Sara Williams, Assistant Director Early Help and Education informed the Committee of the numerous breakfast and after school clubs in many schools across Brent. She continued to highlight that should a school feel that a pupil/family would benefit from a before or after school facility being available, then the pupil premium could be used.

Concern was expressed that the plan cited how Brent currently functioned and lacked inspiration during difficult times. Anna Janes explained that the policy looked at the family as a whole whilst working alongside the working with families' initiative as well as working with partners to align resources. It was further explained that monitoring of outcomes would be qualitative across partners and the impact of services would be measured against the feedback received from users which would further be used to develop the service. The monitoring across partners would be used to review the policy after each year so that the document

remained flexible and reflective of its purpose. It was noted that feedback on monitoring could be reported back to the Committee. The Committee noted the qualitative outcomes and felt that the action plan could have flowed through the report more, with greater radical initiatives.

The Committee noted the detailed outcome structure, timescales and how these would be achieved and queried the commitment of partners, and whether any obstacles had been identified. Anna Janes informed the Committee that two outcomes had been agreed as a focus with partners to ensure full commitment to achieving the outcomes and a lead officer during the away day had been assigned for each outcome.

The Lead Member for Children and Families explained that the plan was meant to be used as a dynamic tool to engage and work with families as a whole through enhanced partnership working to deliver services in a coordinated manner. It was further clarified that the report differed from most policies as partners had fed into the document and reported on outcomes collectively, as well as the plan continuously developing and evolving to the needs of Brent.

The Committee noted that no financial implications had been identified and queried how a difference could be made in times where cuts were being introduced. The Lead Member Children and Families explained that working with partners would become an effective resource in itself. Anna Janes further clarified that by having connections and understanding what partners were doing, duplication of work could be avoided, allowing resources to be used effectively as well as being able to access greater funding streams through greater knowledge of grant information available to partners.

The Committee felt that it was important that the private and voluntary sectors were involved and were represented within the plan. Anna Janes explained that greater voluntary and private sector involvement was required and as connections were made, this would be reflected within the plan. It was felt that private sector involvement would be harder to achieve but would be valuable especially as there were larger companies within Brent.

Brent Youth Parliament informed the Committee of an initiative where a pool of young persons wishing to volunteer for work placements within schools had been created and it was agreed that they would discuss the matter further with the Lead Member for Children and Families.

Discussion took place around the second priority and in particular school places. It was noted that this priority would not result in overcrowding or a lowering of educational standards and that infant class size legislation would still be adhered to. It was felt that narrowing the gap of education standards and meeting the demand for school places did not necessarily correlate together and should be recognised separately. It was clarified that school places were not restricted to borough borders and although almost 6000 pupils outside of the borough attended Brent schools, it was noted that the number of children from Brent attending schools outside of the borough was higher. Discussion progressed to the SCN path finder and despite the delays, it was noted that the legislation enabling it was progressing however work would not take place to rush ahead in terms of budgets going to families.

Councillor Pavey queried the additional support that was to be made available to parents under outcome seven. It was noted that these would be in the form of classes and it was agreed that further information would be provided to Councillor Pavey.

RESOLVED:-

- i. Members noted the content of the PCFB and that the priorities and outcomes will be fully integrated in service area plans and priorities
- ii. That regular updates be provided to the Committee and in particular how the Council and partners were meeting targets and outcomes

5. **Working with Families Initiative**

Sara Williams, Assistant Director Early Help and Education gave a presentation on the Working with Families Initiative. She explained that the initiative included the Council, with partners, assisting families with children and young people in need to ensure they enjoyed a good quality of life and developed as confidently and responsibly as possible. Family resilience was cited as being key to underpinning the project, particularly in light of the lack of early intervention services available to families. It was noted that there was a lack of co-ordination across services and partners with a whole system approach being required to ensure families did not fall through gaps.

Sara Williams explained that the troubled families initiative was a government based scheme which provided an initial fee and also paid upon results. It was hoped that by being able to address a families issues early, it would avoid them appearing later in the system and create savings in the long term. The Government had projected 120,000 troubled families within the UK, of which 810 resided in Brent. The scheme would last for three years, with 300 families being identified to be worked with within the first year of the project. A mapping exercise was currently taking place to establish the services and support currently being accessed by the 300 families identified, with a general approach with agencies to be agreed, particularly in terms of being assertive and persistent with families to realise that improvements need to be made. A multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) would be introduced to the civic centre to allow referrals to be streamlined and escalated appropriately, and reducing the potential of emergency cases being delayed. A family support service team with a key worker would be identified for each family, allowing the needs and requirement of the family to be coordinated and referrals to be made as necessary.

The Committee expressed concern that the project may evolve into addressing families in crisis rather than early intervention and queried how it would be rolled out further to ensure the best support for all. It was clarified that a child or family would only be part of the working with families' initiative if they had come to the attention of an agency. Sara Williams clarified that it was a more holistic approach as the key worker could determine potential issues earlier, rather than it escalating and affecting the entire family on a greater scale. It was highlighted that some

families would have a greater need than others and a set of national and local criteria had been identified to determine the families who would form part of the scheme. It was noted that the initial scheme was hoping to help 810 families as identified by central government and the payments by results and the savings achieved though children not entering the system at a later stage, would mean that greater work on intervention taking place in the future.

Members queried how success would be measured in order to achieve the payment by results. It was explained that a database would record whether a family's issues had been resolved. A family's issue could be considered resolved if a child was regularly attending school or no longer on the edge of care however it was noted that measurable outcomes would differ for each family. It was clarified that the payment would be received by the Council.

The Committee queried how the MASH would appear different and how the initiative would physically differ for a family. Sara Williams clarified that the MASH would incorporate all the relevant agencies to allow a referral to be made in conjunction with other agencies and to the same escalation standards. It was clarified that the physical difference for the family would be the key worker who would be looking at the family as a whole rather than the individual.

Members queried the quoted savings of £700,000, whether the savings were sustainable and how that figure had been determined. It was explained that the savings were hoped to be achieved through children not entering the system at a later stage and the money being reinvested. It was noted that further modelling on how the savings would be achieved needed to take place and would be circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

- i. Members noted the presentation
- ii. That information be provided to the Committee on how the projected savings are to be achieved

6. Corporate Parenting

Graham Genoni, Assistant Director Social Care Division, introduced the report which summarised the key issues relevant to Looked after Children (LAC) in Brent and set out the core principles that ensured the Corporate Parenting Group adopted a locally robust approach to ensure that LAC received at least the same standard of care as would be given by a reasonable and responsible parent. The Care Planning and Children in Care Service supported LAC and care leavers from 0-25yrs. The service comprised of four social work teams delivering a service to Looked after Children aged from 0 to 17 and Care Leavers from 18 to 21yrs (24 plus if the young person was in higher education).

It was reported that the current number of LAC in Brent was 338 compared to 410 previously, with a reduction in asylum seekers and Black Caribbean LAC. It was reported that the majority of children were housed in house foster carers which was approximately £300-£350 cheaper per week than using fostering agencies, with few children in residential children homes.

It was reported that all LAC had a personal education plan and a senior teacher working within the local authority was charged with ensuring improved educational achievements for LAC by tracking their progress. It was reported that a higher percentage of LAC were progressing into higher education as well as successful placements being achieved on the national and local apprenticeship schemes.

It was reported that the safeguarding and LAC inspection that took place in October 2011 rated the service overall as “adequate” with some good features. However, health outcomes for LAC in Brent were “inadequate”. The primary areas of concern were the timeliness and the quality of health assessments. A Health Action Plan was developed by Brent Primary Care Trust as well as monthly meetings being held by the Care Quality Commission to review and monitor the plan. Additionally, a nurse had been hired to address sexual health which had seen a successful reduction in the rate of teenage pregnancies.

Graham Genoni circulated a comparison of Corporate Parenting Groups across several boroughs and noted that they were similar to Brent in terms of constitutional makeup and the issues which they covered.

During discussion members queried that there were no actual parent representatives on the group. It was clarified that there were children and young person’s representatives and that many of the officers and Councillors would also be parents themselves. Members also queried the level of support offered to care leavers when moving into their own accommodation. It was clarified that a care leaver would be given a choice of flats which they would normally visit with their social worker. A fixed future programme will be created with training into basic skills such as changing a fuse etc to assist with the transition from childhood to adulthood. The Chair requested examples that were operating differently to Brent and details of the pros and cons of these models. Members were interested in models adopted by council’s where members had more involvement and even take on more responsibility and ownership for the child as a ‘case’. Members feel that there was a lack of personal touch with Brent’s model such as regular birthday cards not being received by a child. Councillor Pavey requested further information on the educational attainment of Corporate Parented children going to university. The figures in the report didn’t show percentages and how Brent rated in comparison to similar authorities. He requested for confirmation of how many children had attended university and how many had successfully completed their course and achieved a degree, if available. The Chair requested a copy of the current care action plan and how many meetings had taken place in the last 24 months with children in attendance.

RESOLVED:-

- i. Members noted the report
- ii. That further information be provided regarding Looked after Children and university figures
- iii. That information be provided to the Chair regarding the care action plan and meetings

7. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chair requested an update on the recent LAC and Safeguarding inspection. The Lead Member for Children and Families informed the Committee that an interim single agency inspection had taken place with a finding of adequate.

The Chair queried whether there were any additional items to be placed on the work programme. Councillor Al Ebadi requested that the PSHE curriculum be placed on the agenda with particular reference to the sexual education programme delivered in schools. It was noted that an update on school places should be provided at each meeting and a copy of the 'School Places Provision in Brent' newsletter circulated to governors would be provided to the Committee. It was noted that there were numerous items which had not been scheduled to a particular meeting and it was agreed to keep this in check.

RESOLVED:-

- i. That the PSHE curriculum be added to the work programme
- ii. A copy of the newsletter be circulated to the Committee
- iii. Unscheduled items would be addressed
- iv. Members noted the work programme

8. Date of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 12 February 2013.


9. Any other urgent business

None

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

R Mashari
Chair

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 February 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Children and Families Department</p>
For Information	<p style="text-align: right;">Wards Affected: ALL</p>
<p>Update on progressing recommendations of Youth Offending Task Group/Early Years Intervention Task Group</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 A report was produced by the above Task Groups which was considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in September 2011. This included a set of recommendations which were commented on at the time by officers and actions were proposed. This report updates this Committee on the follow-up work from that report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the committee notes and comments upon the information provided in the attached report.

3.0 Draft

- 3.1 The recommendations from the report on prevention and early intervention are attached as Appendix A to this report. At the time that the report was produced, September 2011, a detailed commentary was produced on each recommendation by officers in Children and Families and other council departments. Rather than reproduce that lengthy document with a further commentary, a more succinct summary is set out of the work that has followed on from and been informed by the scrutiny reviews.
- 3.2 It is important to recognise that prevention is now centre stage in the working of the Children and Families Department and in the Plan for Children and Young People in Brent which was adopted at the end of 2012. It will also feature in the refresh of the Borough Plan which is currently being undertaken by the Chief Executive.
- 3.3 Most significant in the development of a more coherent approach to prevention is the Working with Families Programme, on which the Assistant Director, Early Help and Education presented to the CYP Scrutiny Committee in December. There is a series of detailed project plans for that Programme, including timelines and performance indicators. This effectively constitutes the comprehensive preventative strategy which the scrutiny reviews sought. While there are resource constraints in the

current financial climate and organisational and technical barriers to be overcome, the Working with Families Strategy incorporates the following:

- The development of a financial model which shows the savings and cost-avoidance from a preventative approach
- The development of a 'team around the family' approach through the use of Family Support Workers and others playing a co-ordinating role
- Improved data sharing through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and a better common understanding of risk factors
- Greater commonality of thresholds and arrangements for stepping up and stepping down from social care and other interventions, again supported by the MASH
- Co-location of teams at the new Civic Centre and in Children's Centres and Social Care Locality Offices
- Involving the schools in identifying and referring families as well as better aligning the support they provide to council services
- Realigning provision for young people to ensure that those at risk of becoming involved in crime are better targeted and those lower risk cases held by the Youth Offending Service are prevented from escalating

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications of the Working with Families Programme have been dealt with within that programme

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications from this report

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The Working with Families Programme is subject to a predictive EIA.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 None directly. This report refers to co-location of teams at the new Civic Centre and other existing council locations.

Contact Officers

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Appendix A

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Review on Prevention – August 2011

Recommendation
<p>1. Brent should develop a comprehensive Prevention Strategy, joining up and coordinating the prevention of all negative outcomes for children and young people including poor educational achievement, poor mental, emotional and physical health, teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol misuse and offending and antisocial behaviour. The Strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) include an explicit commitment to prevention as a cost-effective long term approach to managing demand on services, which is embedded in practice amongst the council and its partners; b) set out the joint commitment of all partners to working together at all levels to prevent and intervene early against poor outcomes, based on “Think Family”; c) revise the existing data-sharing protocol to address issues preventing the quick and convenient sharing of secure data electronically by the NHS with relevant teams in the council; d) explore options for embedded working across disciplines, such as virtual teams or co-location; e) feature supporting parenting as a major component, including any unmet objectives from the Parenting Strategy 2010-11; and f) be implemented with specific, measurable, time limited actions; individual accountability; and regular and rigorous monitoring by the Children’s Partnership Board’s Executive.
<p>2. Early Years settings, primary and secondary schools, and other relevant institutions should cooperate to enable early intervention in relation to needs arising from transitions.</p>
<p>3. Universal Early Years practitioners, such as health visitors, child minders, and nursery nurses, should be equipped to identify additional needs early and encouraged to provide support to children and families where possible, to reduce demand for Tier 2 services. This should focus in particular on social and emotional development and parenting support, and should include appropriate professional supervision.</p>
<p>4. The Task and Finish Group on Complex Families should consider opportunities for pooling resources to enhance the effectiveness of early intervention, for the purposes of realising longer-term savings for all public service providers.</p>
<p>5. Preventative work by the Council and its partners should address each of the eight categories set out by the Independent Commission; and any new programmes funded in future should be selected from those approved by the Graham Allen review.</p>
<p>6. A regularly-updated needs assessment should be undertaken to inform the Prevention Strategy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a profile of relevant risk factors, protective factors and outcomes for children; b) an audit of existing services and programmes for their effectiveness and supporting evidence;

<p>c) the findings of the final report on the Parenting Strategy 2010-11; and</p> <p>d) in-depth research and analysis regarding families' experiences of preventative and early intervention services.</p>
<p>7. The tools used to assess risks in young people include all risk factors identified by the Independent Commission.</p>
<p>8. Future Child Poverty Needs Assessments and Strategies take into account the findings of this report.</p>
<p>9. The needs assessment and Prevention Strategy are overseen by the Children's Partnership Board.</p>
<p>10. The Strategic Implementation Group acts to address weaknesses and inconsistencies in Team Around the Child meetings, including non-attendance by professionals, unwillingness to take on the Lead Professional role, and perceptions of meetings' ineffectiveness amongst participants.</p>
<p>11. Work is undertaken to benchmark reintegration rates of excluded pupils in Brent against peer authorities. This should take into account reintegrated pupils who are subsequently permanently excluded again.</p>
<p>12. The School Improvement Service prioritises and advocates programmes on the Allen list intended for educational settings, and focuses on increased support for Early Years providers.</p>
<p>13. The availability of opportunities for young people in Brent to engage in alternative and vocational forms of learning is expanded where possible; and takeup is encouraged where appropriate to pupils' aptitudes and abilities.</p>
<p>14. Croydon's Peer2Peer Support measures are examined and evaluated, and effective elements replicated in Brent to support networks for vulnerable and isolated parents.</p>
<p>15. Options are examined for the views of parents to be represented on an ongoing basis, such as via a Parents' Council.</p>
<p>16. With the support of the Corporate Policy Team, Mosaic Public Sector is used to analyse and determine the most effective methods of promoting parenting support, and determining the best access channels for different groups of parents.</p>
<p>17. Strategic objectives and measures of success for preventative services should focus on achievement of sustained outcomes beyond the lifetime of specific interventions.</p>
<p>18. Professionals from the relevant teams and agencies are trained jointly, to ensure consistent understanding of obligations, and to build relationships. The benefits of working together and complementing each others' services should be a core learning point.</p>
<p>19. Learning and development for all professionals incorporates opportunities to reflect and learn about emerging practice, and fosters innovation, eg time away from the day-to-day working environment and learning from peers.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 February 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Children and Families Department</p>
<p>For Information</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Wards Affected: ALL</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report describes the work currently being undertaken to improve our approach to meeting the needs of pupils and students with special educational needs (SEN). The Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy, due to be considered by Executive at time of writing, is attached as Appendix A.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the committee notes and comments upon the information provided in the attached report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 SEN update for CYP Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1.1 The strategy links into the council's Children and Young People's Plan and the council and NHS Brent's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It will be underpinned by robust performance management arrangements which will help to monitor and drive forward new initiatives and improvements. The development of the strategy has been undertaken as part of the One Council SEN Phase 2 Project.
- 3.1.2 The SEN Code of Practice 2002 is the current statutory guidance to Local Authorities (LAs), schools, early years settings and other agencies on matters relating to their respective functions and duties in making provision for the SEND of children and young people. It sets out the role of the LA and requires the publication of the "general arrangements, including any plans setting out objectives, targets and timescales". The Code of Practice is prescriptive about what LAs should publish and advises that strategic planning should be partnership based aimed at "providing for the inclusion of children with SEN in mainstream schools" as far as possible.
- 3.1.3 The previous SEND strategy of the LA covered the period 2007-2010 and is referred to in the new strategy document as part of the baseline for the proposed strategy.
- 3.1.4 Towards the end of the last strategy period the LA faced increasing challenges (resulting largely from a rapid increase in demand) to its services for SEND. These challenges have continued to place the LA and all partners under great strain leading

to a significant overspend on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and central service expenditure. The LA increased its activities on statutory assessments and producing statements of SEN in response to these challenges. This is out of step with the national and regional pattern of these activities.

- 3.1.5 In addition to these significant local challenges national Government will be implementing some fundamental reforms to the legislative framework for SEND between 2013 -16. These reforms will continue to place LAs at the centre of activity with significant but altered statutory responsibilities and duties. The draft strategy outlines these and builds in suggested flexibility in order to ensure that the LA is proactive with its partners in shaping and implementing the reforms.
- 3.1.6 The LA has addressed these challenges so far through the One Council SEN phase 1 and 2 transformation projects. The projects originated from a concept paper to deliver improved SEND services, which was agreed in September 2010. The current SEN phase 2 project is addressing the following 6 work streams and is scheduled to end in August 2013.
- Refresh SEND strategy
 - Culture change and transformation of service delivery
 - Additional SEN school places within Borough
 - Develop commissioning approaches
 - Re-organisation of SEN support services to support mainstream capacity
 - Review of financial approaches
- 3.1.7 Achievements of the Project so far include:
- Reduction in the production of new statements from 226(2011/12) to 150 projected 2012/13. This is reducing the reliance on statements for meeting the needs of pupils with SEND over time and strengthening early intervention and school based processes.
 - Improvement in the efficiency of production of statements within 26 weeks, estimated to be 70+% for 2012-13 improved from 30+% for 2011-12. The current monthly performance is 100% produced on time.
 - Reduction in placements in out-Borough independent special schools from 68(2011/12) to 5 maximum projected 2012/13, reducing the reliance on out-Borough provision and relieving approximately £500k full year spend from the DSG budget.
 - Development of a minimum of 60 additional SEN school places which will progressively increase the capacity of maintained special school provision in the Borough resulting in approximately £500k of cost avoidance by 2013/14. This has been achieved through the development of additional Inclusive places at Alperton Community School and Queens Park Community School but also by making better use of existing provision at Phoenix Arch (previously Vernon House) special school, which is now admitting autistic pupils who previously would have been placed in independent special schools outside the Borough.
 - Re-negotiated contracts with independent special school providers resulting in approximately £500k savings by 2014/15.
 - Developing the strategic support of the head teachers of the special schools, who are working very positively and collaboratively with the LA in tackling the challenges in developing inclusive approaches to SEN in all schools.
- 3.1.8 These developments are significantly contributing to the achievement of the first year target towards the LA's DSG recovery plan, pulling back the overspend. The project will achieve more significant financial savings as the bulge of children with statements

of SEN and those placed in independent special schools moves through the system and leave.

- 3.1.9 This transformation programme is faced with the usual challenges of change programmes such as resistance to the introduction of new ways of doing things. However there are additional challenges to add to these resulting from the strong statutory framework surrounding SEND which provides parents/carers with rights of appeal to tribunal and the strong human emotions that are aroused when established practices are challenged.

3.2 Strategic development to achieve sustainability

- 3.2.1 The draft strategy has been developed through dedicated work stream 1 of the SEN Phase 2 project with the aim of sustaining the approach after the project ends. It has been developed through a two stage consultation process with all partners. The first stage of the consultation took place in March and April 2012 and was designed to capture the interest of all partners (schools, governing bodies, health services etc.) in agreeing the principles and priorities upon which a new strategy should be developed.
- 3.2.2 The engagement of partners in this consultation was limited but significant with 31 responses and a majority being on behalf of organisations. There was overwhelming support from these responses for the principles and priorities that were suggested. A draft strategy was developed based on the agreed principles and priorities with significant input from council managers. This draft was used as the basis of the second stage of consultation.
- 3.2.3 The second stage was designed to raise awareness of all partners and engage them in subscribing to the strategy and developing their role in delivering it over the next three years. Much of this consultation was conducted through face to face involvement with partners at their key meetings during the consultation period. The draft strategy was also made available to the public on the LA's consultation tracker. The consultation period started on 24th September and ended on 30th November.
- 3.2.4 This stage of the consultation was successful in engaging key partnership groups in the health service, social care services, schools, governing bodies, voluntary agencies and parents. The draft strategy document has been shaped in the light of the feedback from these groups and is attached as Appendix A. The document reflects the strong support from partners and emphasis on continuing to develop effective inclusive approaches to SEND. The process has identified three broad key principles:
- Involve children and young people and their parents and carers in all decisions about them, promoting independence and autonomy through to adulthood.
 - Ensure inclusion and participation in all aspects of family, school and community life in a local and inclusive setting, making the best possible use of available resources.
 - Secure the right support at the right time for families by working in partnership with schools, health, social care and other key partners.
- 3.2.5 Three main priorities have been agreed which will be worked on through nine objectives. These are described in detail in the strategy document.
- 3.2.6 The strategy will be monitored through a detailed operational action plan which will be developed with partners during implementation. This action plan will be used to call partners to account for achieving the strategic objectives. Attached with the strategy document is an initial high level version of this action plan which will be developed to include the source of resources that will be required, quantifiable success criteria and

clearly identified accountable personnel and services. The action plan will be flexible and will be reviewed regularly over the 3 year period of the strategy as the national reforms are launched.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 All areas covered by this report are related to the Schools Budget and therefore have no impact on the Council's General Fund resources.
- 4.2 The Schools Budget which is funded via the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant has experienced increasing spending pressures over recent years primarily due to increasing SEN expenditure. This resulted in a cumulative deficit by the end of 2011/12 of £5.7m.
- 4.3 A deficit recovery plan was agreed with the Schools Forum on 21 September 2011, which would bring the Schools Budget back to a balanced position by the financial year 2014/15
- 4.4 The strategy covered in this report will support the Deficit Recovery Plan agreed with the Schools Forum.
- 4.5 The One Council Project and the linked deficit recovery plan are currently both on track to achieve a balanced Schools Budget by the target time of 2014/15.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The LA has a duty under Section 315 Education Act 1996 as amended to keep under review the arrangements made for special educational provision, and where necessary in order to co-ordinate provision for its children consult governing bodies of schools in its area.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 A predictive Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for this strategy. Improving the life chances and safeguarding of children and young people with SEND is a priority for the LA and the proposed strategy will significantly contribute to securing greater equality of opportunity. It will underpin the human rights to accessing full educational opportunities. The strategy will also significantly strengthen opportunities for the inclusion of these children and young people in mainstream services alongside their peers. It will support the development of new approaches to the disproportionate incidence of some disabilities in certain ethnic groups.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific staffing or accommodation issues arising from this report.

Contact Officers

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Executive 11 February 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Children and Families</p>
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
<p>A New Council partnership strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (2013-16).</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report responds to the statutory duty on councils to set out its arrangements to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and to consult on these arrangements. Attached to this report is a draft, three year partnership strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Brent (Appendix A) for consideration and approval by the Executive.
- 1.2 The strategy has been developed through a two stage consultation process with all key partners and stakeholders. The first stage took place in March and April 2012 and consulted on the principles and priorities that should underpin the strategy. The outcomes of this were used to develop a draft strategy which was the focus of the second stage of consultation. This stage commenced on 24th September and finished on 30th November.
- 1.3 The strategy links into the council's Children and Families Plan and the council and NHS Brent's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It will be underpinned by robust performance management arrangements which will help to monitor and drive forward new initiatives and improvements. The development of the strategy has been undertaken as part of the One Council SEN Phase 2 Project.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the attached partnership strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities be approved as the Local Authority strategy for 2013-2016.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The SEN Code of Practice 2002 is the current statutory guidance to Local Authorities (LAs), schools, early years settings and other agencies on matters relating to their respective functions and duties in making provision for the SEND of children and young people. It sets out the role of the LA and requires the publication of the “general arrangements, including any plans setting out objectives, targets and timescales”. The Code of Practice is prescriptive about what LAs should publish and advises that strategic planning should be partnership based aimed at “providing for the inclusion of children with SEN in mainstream schools” as far as possible.
- 3.2 The previous SEND strategy of the LA covered the period 2007-2010 and is referred to in the new strategy document as part of the baseline for the proposed strategy.
- 3.3 Towards the end of the last strategy period the LA faced increasing challenges (resulting largely from a rapid increase in demand) to its services for SEND. These challenges have continued to place the LA and all partners under great strain leading to a significant overspend on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and central service expenditure. The LA increased its activities on statutory assessments and producing statements of SEN in response to these challenges. This is out of step with the national and regional pattern of these activities.
- 3.4 In addition to these significant local challenges national Government will be implementing some fundamental reforms to the legislative framework for SEND between 2013 -16. These reforms will continue to place LAs at the centre of activity with significant but altered statutory responsibilities and duties. The draft strategy outlines these and builds in suggested flexibility in order to ensure that the LA is pro-active with its partners in shaping and implementing the reforms.
- 3.5 The LA has addressed these challenges so far through the One Council SEN phase 1 and 2 transformation projects. The projects originated from a concept paper to deliver improved SEND services, which was agreed in September 2010. The current SEN phase 2 project is addressing the following 6 work streams and is scheduled to end in August 2013.
- Refresh SEND strategy
 - Culture change and transformation of service delivery
 - Additional SEN school places within Borough
 - Develop commissioning approaches
 - Re-organisation of SEN support services to support mainstream capacity
 - Review of financial approaches
- 3.6 Achievements of the Project so far include:
- Reduction in the production of new statements from 226(2011/12) to 150 projected 2012/13. This is reducing the reliance on statements for

meeting the needs of pupils with SEND over time and strengthening early intervention and school based processes.

- Improvement in the efficiency of production of statements within 26 weeks, estimated to be 70+% for 2012-13 improved from 30+% for 2011-12. The current monthly performance is 100% produced on time.
- Reduction in placements in out-Borough independent special schools from 68(2011/12) to 5 maximum projected 2012/13, reducing the reliance on out-Borough provision and relieving approximately £500k full year spend from the DSG budget.
- Development of a minimum of 60 additional SEN school places which will progressively increase the capacity of maintained special school provision in the Borough resulting in approximately £500k of cost avoidance by 2013/14. This has been achieved through the development of additional Inclusive places at Alperton Community School and Queens Park Community School but also by making better use of existing provision at Phoenix Arch (previously Vernon House) special school, which is now admitting autistic pupils who previously would have been placed in independent special schools outside the Borough.
- Re-negotiated contracts with independent special school providers resulting in approximately £500k savings by 2014/15.
- Developing the strategic support of the head teachers of the special schools, who are working very positively and collaboratively with the LA in tackling the challenges in developing inclusive approaches to SEN in all schools.

3.7 These developments are significantly contributing to the achievement of the first year target towards the LA's DSG recovery plan, pulling back the overspend. The project will achieve more significant financial savings as the bulge of children with statements of SEN and those placed in independent special schools moves through the system and leave.

3.8 This transformation programme is faced with the usual challenges of change programmes such as resistance to the introduction of new ways of doing things. However there are additional challenges to add to these resulting from the strong statutory framework surrounding SEND which provides parents/carers with rights of appeal to tribunal and the strong human emotions that are aroused when established practices are challenged.

Strategic development to achieve sustainability

3.9 The draft strategy has been developed through dedicated work stream 1 of the SEN Phase 2 project with the aim of sustaining the approach after the project ends. It has been developed through a two stage consultation process with all partners. The first stage of the consultation took place in March and April 2012 and was designed to capture the interest of all partners (schools, governing bodies, health services etc.) in agreeing the principles and priorities upon which a new strategy should be developed.

3.10 The engagement of partners in this consultation was limited but significant with 31 responses and a majority being on behalf of organisations. There was overwhelming support from these responses for the principles and priorities that

were suggested. A draft strategy was developed based on the agreed principles and priorities with significant input from council managers. This draft was used as the basis of the second stage of consultation.

- 3.11 The second stage was designed to raise awareness of all partners and engage them in subscribing to the strategy and developing their role in delivering it over the next three years. Much of this consultation was conducted through face to face involvement with partners at their key meetings during the consultation period. The draft strategy was also made available to the public on the LA's consultation tracker. The consultation period started on 24th September and ended on 30th November.
- 3.12 This stage of the consultation was successful in engaging key partnership groups in the health service, social care services, schools, governing bodies, voluntary agencies and parents. The draft strategy document has been shaped in the light of the feedback from these groups and is attached as Appendix A. The document reflects the strong support from partners and emphasis on continuing to develop effective inclusive approaches to SEND. The process has identified three broad key principles:
- Involve children and young people and their parents and carers in all decisions about them, promoting independence and autonomy through to adulthood.
 - Ensure inclusion and participation in all aspects of family, school and community life in a local and inclusive setting, making the best possible use of available resources.
 - Secure the right support at the right time for families by working in partnership with schools, health, social care and other key partners.
- 3.13 Three main priorities have been agreed which will be worked on through nine objectives. These are described in detail in the strategy document.
- 3.14 The strategy will be monitored through a detailed operational action plan which will be developed with partners during implementation. This action plan will be used to call partners to account for achieving the strategic objectives. Attached with the strategy document is an initial high level version of this action plan which will be developed to include the source of resources that will be required, quantifiable success criteria and clearly identified accountable personnel and services. The action plan will be flexible and will be reviewed regularly over the 3 year period of the strategy as the national reforms are launched.
- 3.15 The strategy document and development process is being brought to the attention of Members of the Executive to seek their approval and formal adoption for 2013-16.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 All areas covered by this report are related to the Schools Budget and therefore have no impact on the Council's General Fund resources.
- 4.2 The Schools Budget which is funded via the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant has experienced increasing spending pressures over recent years primarily due to increasing SEN expenditure. This resulted in a cumulative deficit by the end of 2011/12 of £5.7m.
- 4.3 A deficit recovery plan was agreed with the Schools Forum on 21 September 2011, which would bring the Schools Budget back to a balanced position by the financial year 2014/15
- 4.4 The strategy covered in this report will support the Deficit Recovery Plan agreed with the Schools Forum.
- 4.5 The One Council Project and the linked deficit recovery plan are currently both on track to achieve a balanced Schools Budget by the target time of 2014/15.

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- 5.1 The LA has a duty under Section 315 Education Act 1996 as amended to keep under review the arrangements made for special educational provision, and where necessary in order to co-ordinate provision for its children consult governing bodies of schools in its area.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 A predictive Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for this strategy. Improving the life chances and safeguarding of children and young people with SEND is a priority for the LA and the proposed strategy will significantly contribute to securing greater equality of opportunity. It will underpin the human rights to accessing full educational opportunities. The strategy will also significantly strengthen opportunities for the inclusion of these children and young people in mainstream services alongside their peers. It will support the development of new approaches to the disproportionate incidence of some disabilities in certain ethnic groups.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific staffing or accommodation issues arising from this report.

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2012/13

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	Recommendations
13 June 2012	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.	No representation from BYP at this meeting.	
	Achievement at KS5 and destinations	Committee will be presented with a short report on KS5, A level results analysis for individual schools in Brent. Report will also include the Destinations report, which is a report on school leavers and progression after leaving school. Report will be presented by John Galligan.	Report was noted by members of the committee. Breakdown of the type of “other courses” started in 2011 in the table in section 3.7 requested. This information is not available as yet as students have not completed their courses. To be followed up later in the year.	
	Expansion of Brent Schools	Progress Report on Brent being allocated the best Capital Settlement in the country and an update on the 2 application bids under the ‘Priority Schools Building Programme’ for Alperton and Copland. Committee will consider the plans on expanding Brent schools. Report will be presented by Rik Boxer.	Report was noted by members of the committee.	

	Analysis of educational achievement by ethnicity	Report focussing in particular on attainment levels of under achieving groups in the borough.	Report was noted by members of the committee. Copy of the work programme mentioned in 4.7 of the report was requested. Query about why the 'White other' group was not filtered down into further groups and why was there no analysis on the individual groups that fall into this category. Naureen to feedback and provide information requested	
Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	
19 July 2012	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.	BYP to be invited to contribute ideas to the committee's work programme.	
	Background of Auditing Practices in Brent	The chair has requested for a report on the auditing procedures and findings for Brent schools. In addition to this information regarding governing practices and support to governors has also been requested. Report will also include an outline of procedures with C&F to ensure probity and correct auditing procedures and policies are in place. Report will be presented by Mustafa Salih, AD Strategic Finance CF and Simon Lane, Head of Audit & Investigations.	Report was noted and an update report is submitted to committee in six months' time.	

	Safeguarding and LAC action plan/Adoption inspection and Adoption Scorecard update	Committee will be presented with an update on the action plan and an opportunity to scrutinise progress in its implementation. Report on the latest inspection of Adoption services will also be provided with an update on new Adoption scorecards. Report will be presented by Graham Genoni.	<p>The committee received an update from Hilary Brooks on the Adoption inspection and Adoption Scorecards and the report was noted. Members requested to know how many trans racial adoptions have taken place in Brent in the last 2 years.</p> <p>The Safeguarding and LAC action plan item was deferred to the October committee meeting.</p>	
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Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	
11 October 2012 Page 25	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.	Thivya Jeyashankar, chair of BYP provided an update on what the BYP have been doing. BYP elections are on 17.11.12. Visits to schools have been very successful and recommend that members also take the time to visit schools to give children a real insight.	BYP would like see the subjects of bullying and work experience on the agenda. Members also requested information about what is being done to tackle Gangs in Brent.
	Safeguarding and LAC action plan	Committee will be presented with an update on the action plan and an opportunity to scrutinise progress in its implementation. Report will be presented by Graham Genoni. This item was deferred at the last meeting.	<p>Plan was noted and members raised questions relating to social workers and requested the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of permanent social workers • Number of newly qualified social workers 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of interim social workers 	
	Child Poverty Strategy	Anna Janes & Tony Hirsch will present the report.	Members noted the report and strategy, however expressed their concerns about the delivery of the action plan.	It was recommended that this should be a regular item for the committee. It was also recommended that poverty implications should be considered in all reports to committee.

Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	
11 December 2012 Page 26	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.	Members noted the recent activity of BYP and commended their commitment and enthusiasm.	
	Working with Families Initiative	Members to receive an update on how this is being progressed. This presentation will outline what is being done to align services to work together for the family as a whole and how this encompasses partnership working. This includes looking at how to bring partners together to create a Multi Agency Service Hub in the new civic centre. This will be presented by Sara Williams.	Members noted the presentation and requested further information on the financial savings to be made from the initiative.	

	<p>Implementing the Children & Young Peoples Plan</p> <p>Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>Members will be presented with the plan and a covering report outlining the partnership structure and proposed outcomes of the plan.</p> <p>Members will receive a report on Brent's model of corporate parenting in comparison to other local authorities. Including reasons for our approach and details of member involvement in the process. Examples of Best Practice models will be presented to members for discussion. An update on the LAC virtual school will also be included.</p>	<p>Members noted the report and requested that regular updates be provided to committee on the plans priorities.</p> <p>Members noted the report and requested for figures on how many LAC attend university and information on the care action plan and meetings to be provided.</p>	
Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	
12 February 2013	<p>Brent Youth Parliament</p> <p>Bullying in Schools</p>	<p>The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will 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.</p> <p>Request from BYP for the committee to request a report on how this is being tackled in Brent schools. A best practice presentation from a Brent school would be beneficial. Presentation</p>		

	<p>Youth Offending Task Group/Early Years Intervention Task Group</p> <p>Short breaks provision</p> <p>Services for SEN</p>	<p>by Stephen McMullan and BYP highlighting what is currently being done to tackle bullying to be presented to members.</p> <p>Members will receive a verbal update by Sara Williams on the progress of the recommendations made by the task group and how this is being developed.</p> <p>Committee to be presented with a verbal update by Sara Williams on how the provision for respite centres has been tackled and resolved.</p> <p>Committee to receive an update report by Sara Williams following the changes that have been made to the service. How are we addressing the issue of placing children outside of the borough?</p>		
Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	
20 March 2013	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.		

	Update on Auditing Practices in Brent	Update requested from the report presented to the committee in July 2012. Chair has requested for an update on the financial situation and information related to the uptake from schools on the traded services offered by Brent.		
	Academies and Free Schools	Members have requested a report clarifying the current situation in Brent in relation to which schools are academies. What is the current policy on this and what are the future plans for Brent schools.		
Items from the Forward Plan and Work Programme to be timetabled.				
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				
Item		Issue for the committee to consider		
Impact and Service Improvement Report		Anna Janes to provide information and will present the report.		
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 on going youth services		

	review, being carried out by the Children's Trust Sub Group.	
Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) Annual report April 2012	Update report against the LSCB action plan goes to executive on 19 September 2012.	
Early Years	Committee to be presented with a report on how the provision for early years has changed and what these changes mean for Brent. Report will be from a policy perspective.	
Educational Benefits of all through schools	Suggestion for a report covering the benefits and disadvantages of all through schools for members to consider.	
Adoption and Fostering annual report April 2011 to March 2012	Report goes to Executive on 19 September 2012. Main action of report is to increase recruitment and to move children out of Independent Fostering Agencies (IFS's)	
A plan for Children and Families in Brent (PSCFB) 2012-2015	Report on how Brent is will provide the support to ensure that children and young people in Brent are healthy and safe. The aim is to narrow the gap between those children who do well and those who need extra support to thrive. Report goes to Executive on 19 September 2012.	
Travel Plans and Parking Permits for schools	Report on the progress made on school travel planning, the process for school parking permits and future priorities.	
Child Poverty Strategy	It was agreed by members at the October meeting that this should be a regular item on the agenda and that members should receive regular updates on the work being done around this. This area links into various other projects and strategies and therefore will be presented to the committee as part of those.	
Payment by Results in Early Years	This initiative is aimed at children's centres and is a project to identify families with children in the 0-5 year age group. Sue Gates is the project manager.	

Youth Service Review	Not yet complete. Lead officer is Cathy Tyson.	
Review of young people's services	Committee to receive a report on the proposed restructure and how this will bring the different strands together.	
Items on the Forward Plan 07 2012-13, relevant to committee		
Decision will be taken by Executive between 1 Dec 2012 and 31 Jan 2013. Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk	Authority to invite tenders for a Speech and Language Therapy service from June 2013. To approve a one year extension to the current contract with the incumbent for the Key Stage 1&2 and Key Stage 3&4 speech and language therapy service in mainstream Brent schools, on the basis that there is a proposed review of services to determine whether there are merits and savings/efficiencies to be made by commissioning the service jointly with health.	
Expected date of decision by Executive on 7 Feb 2013 Head of Transportation Tel: 020 8937 151 paul.chandler@brent.gov.uk	School parking arrangements. To consider the report from Head of Safer Streets outlining the results of parking compliance surveys at schools, an examination of potential equalities issues and recommendation for future enforcement prioritization.	
Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013 Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk	Authority for exemption to award up to a three year contract for Special Educational Needs Independent School Revision. To agree an exemption to the competitive requirements of Standing Orders to allow the direct award of a contract to an independent school for moderate learning difficulties to secure cost efficiencies for the council and on going provision for Brent children.	
Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013 Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126	Authority for exemption to award contracts to selected Academies for specific SEN services formerly delivered to Brent Council via Service Level Agreement. To grant an exemption to the competitive requirements of Standing Orders to allow the direct award of contracts to Alperton Academy,	

<p>krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Kingsbury High School, Queens Park Community School and Claremont Academy for SEN Services including a moderate learning difficulties unit, services to children with significant hearing impairment, and children new to Brent with English as an additional language.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Page 32</p>	<p>SEN and Disability Strategy 2013-2016 To note the progress to date on development priorities for SEN and to approve the priorities contained within the SEN and Disability Strategy document for 2013-2016. Brent Council's strategy for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) will replace the previous SEND strategy produced in 2007 which was supplemented by the Education Accessibility Strategy published in 2010. The strategy contributes to our commitments outlined in our high level plan for Children and Families and has been developed from the One Council project review of SEND services and provision which is a two year review due for completion in 2013. Whilst the project review is designed to provide better services, increase our performance and reduce costs, it will also ensure that through this strategy our policy and practice will reflect the many changes and recommendations made at national level. These include the Equality Act (2010) and the government Green Paper Support and Aspiration: a new approach to special educational a new approach to special educational needs and disability (2011).</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Renewal of existing contracts relating to services at Children's Centres for the delivery of Speech and Language Therapy and Independent Advice and Guidance to Brent Families with children aged under 5 years To agree an exemption from the tendering requirements of Contract Standing Orders to allow the renewal of the current Speech and Language Therapy contract for children aged under five years and contract for Independent advice and guidance from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 to allow officers to carry out a competitive procurement of both services with a view to achieving cost efficiencies.</p>	

<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 Feb 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Outcome of Safeguarding Inspection report and Action Plan To note the outcome of the recent Safeguarding Children's inspection; the recommendations made for improvement and agree the action plan to address these.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive not before 1 March 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Children and Young People - eligibility for assisted travel To note the report and agree to implementation of the new policy from April 2013. The council has worked with the West London alliance (WLA) to develop a common policy for deciding when assistance with transport to school will be provided. The purpose of the policy is to have parity with neighbouring boroughs in determining assistance with transport. The policy also focuses on developing independence and independent travel skills, and making best use of resources available to the council.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 11 March 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Annual School Standards report To note current school standards in the borough and agree the approach to improving standards and narrowing attainment gaps.</p>	
<p>Expected date of decision by Executive on 20 May 2013</p> <p>Director of Children and Families Tel: 020 8937 3126 krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk</p>	<p>WLA/IFA Framework: outcome of procurement To agree Children's Services to be able to 'call off' (access) the West London Alliance Independent Fostering Framework. Tendering of the framework is being led by the London Borough of Hillingdon on behalf of the West London Alliance.</p>	

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