

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 10 October 2013 at 7.00 pm

Boardroom - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Mitchell Murray (Chair)
Matthews (Vice-Chair)
Aden
Al-Ebadi
Arnold
Gladbaum
Kansagra
CJ Patel

First alternates

Councillors:

Daly
Sneddon
Oladapo
Jones
Krupa Sheth
S Choudhary
Baker
Leaman

Second alternates

Councillors:

Ogunro
Clues
Harrison
RS Patel
Hossain
Hector
Colwill
Green

Statutory Co-optees

Alloysius Frederick
Elsie Points
Nardia Sullivan
Vacancy

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

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020 8937 1355 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
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 previous meeting	1 - 8
4 Matters arising	
5 Corporate Parenting Strategy	9 - 30
This report sets out the council's progress and approach to acting as corporate parent of looked after children (LAC). The aim of the report is to evidence the progress being made towards improving the outcomes for LAC in order to narrow the gap in the outcomes of LAC and those of children in the wider population.	
6 Careers Advice for Young People in Brent	31 - 38
This report was requested by Brent Youth Parliament.	
7 Working with Families update	
The committee will receive a presentation on the early intervention work of the council and its partners regarding families with complex needs.	
8 Brent Youth Parliament update	
The members of the Brent Youth Parliament will be invited to provide an update on their work since the committee last met.	
9 School Places update	
Members will receive an update on the current situation regarding schools places in the borough.	

10 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 39 - 44

The Work Programme is attached.

11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny meeting is scheduled for 10 December 2013

12 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.

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MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mitchell Murray (Chair), and Councillors Arnold, Gladbaum, Mr A Frederick, Dr Levison, Sullivan, Ms J Cooper, Mrs L Gouldbourne and Brent Youth Parliament representatives

Also present: Councillors Chohan and Pavey

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Matthews, Al-Ebadi, CJ Patel, Ms E Points and Ms C Jolinon.

1. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

None declared.

2. **Deputations (if any)**

None

3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 June 2013**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2013 be approved as a correct record.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Dental Health Presentation**

The committee received a presentation from Imran Choudhury (Acting Director of Public Health) providing an overview on plans for improving oral health in Brent. The oral health of children under 5 years old had been identified as a key issue for Brent via the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and this was reflected in Brent's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The most recent survey, covering the period 2007 to 2008, found that five year olds in Brent had the worst oral health in England; 44 per cent had tooth decay and the incidence of treatment was below the national average. The significance of poor oral health in children was emphasised; it was a common cause of school absence and hospital admission for children and was an indicator of poor oral health in adulthood. A Brent Oral Health Plan was currently being developed which would fit in with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Plan would include various measures to increase earlier exposure to regular brushing with fluoride toothpaste, enhanced working with the local dental

community, and training of all frontline staff to encourage best practice. Use would also be made of two posts created as part of the transition of public health to the council which focussed on early years and schools respectively. Imran Choudhury concluded by noting that it would be important to have long-term political support to address this issue.

Several queries were raised by the committee in the subsequent discussion. Further details were sought of the Brent Oral Health Plan and further comment requested on the reasons for Brent's high incidence of poor oral health in children. It was queried whether the water in Brent was fluoride treated. The committee also noted that the two public health posts referred to were currently fixed term positions and queried whether there was a commitment for these to be extended or made permanent posts. Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that hard to reach groups and communities were considered, noting that information should be provided in a variety of languages and that schools for children with disabilities should be targeted. It was recognised that this would have a cost implication but members noted the value of such preventative work in tackling the issue. It was further noted that preventative action should be key to Brent's response and that links with Children's Centres, the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Sector and to existing campaigns such as those on nutrition, should be key to the implementation of the Brent Oral Health Plan.

In response to the queries raised, Imran Choudhury noted that the water in Brent was not treated with fluoride and advised that there were a number of well known factors which contributed to poor oral health in children; these included poor diet and a lack of regular brushing. Poverty and a highly transient population were also highlighted as key factors. Whilst other boroughs had similar drivers, the impact of these were often successfully mitigated by good oral health promotion programmes. It was anticipated that the Brent Oral Health Plan would be completed by September 2013. Imran Choudhury agreed that it was essential that the proposed interventions fed into the existing work that was taking place across the council and its partners. With regard to the two public health posts, it would be desirable for these to continue but a decision had been taken to review the viability of the posts towards the end of the financial year. Members requested that an update be provided on these posts in due course.

A member of the public, speaking as both a school governor and local dental practice owner, explained that at present due to location-specific budgets, it was not possible for NHS dentists to carry out dental checks in schools. He further explained that in his experience, language barriers and ignorance of the facilities that could be accessed free of charge, were both key difficulties.

RESOLVED:

- i. that the presentation be noted;
- ii. that the proposal that the NHS make such changes as required to facilitate and enable NHS dentists to carry out dental checks within schools be put to the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Group.

6. Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) for 2012/13 was introduced to the committee by Chris Spencer (Independent Chair of the LSCB), who had joined the Board in May 2012. Shortly after this time, the Board had been restructured, creating an Executive group. A new constitution had also been developed and the Board's three year business plan had been revised and agreed by LSCB partners in September 2012. Five sub-groups had been created, each Chaired by members of the Executive group, all of which had been fully operational as of January 2013. The Annual Report 2012/13 reviewed the progress made against year 1 of the business plan, assessing the Board's priorities as addressed via the sub-groups. The five sub-groups comprised Quality Audit and Outcomes, Vulnerable Groups, the Voice of the Child, Developing a Learning Culture, and Governance, Accountability and Business Processes. Terms of reference and support plans had been established for each of these. Chris Spencer emphasised that though the changes made had allowed significant progress to be achieved, there remained lots of work to do over the next few years.

During members' discussion, a number of issues and queries were raised. With reference to the Voice of the Child sub group, which had been set up to ensure that views of children and young people informed the Board in considering safeguarding, it was queried whether any young people sat on the Board. Further details were also sought on attendance at the LSCB meetings by various partners and it was specifically queried whether poor attendance by some organisations had hindered the progress of the Board. It was noted that the covering report stated that there were no child poverty implications and it was requested that this be revised to highlight some of the key issues.

Chris Spencer explained that there were no children on the LSCB but that there was a stated intention to establish a shadow board which children would attend. It was considered that as the meetings of the LSCB were rather technical it would not be an appropriate form of engagement to have children attend these. The Brent Youth Parliament were, however, currently involved with the Voice of the Child sub group. A key aim was to engage some of the vulnerable and hard to reach groups. One potential means of achieving this would be to utilise, train and possibly employ via the young apprenticeship scheme, young people who were or who had been part of the desired demographic. The most important aspect to good engagement would be demonstrating that the Board had listened to and used the views of young people in developing and improving practice. It was considered that the Board would play an important co-ordinating role around services for vulnerable groups to obtain better outcomes.

Further commenting on the role of the LSCB, Chris Spencer explained that the Board also undertook audit work to ensure that the services provided by its constituent organisations were underpinned by safe practice and acted to minimise risk. An audit report reviewing the outcome of this work would be submitted to the Board. With regard to the impact of poor attendance on the work of the LSCB, the committee was advised that some partners had a statutory duty to attend meetings whilst others attended on a voluntary basis. It was not expected that representatives from very specialised services would attend unless there was a relevant item being considered. Certainly, however, the attendance and turnover of the individual representatives of some of the key partners such as Health and the Police, had been negatively affected by the multitude of changes happening in their

respective sectors. As Chair of the LSCB, Chris Spencer explained that he did have the power to issue a formal challenge to some statutory partners for poor attendance.

Responding to the query on the child poverty implications of the report, Chris Spencer highlighted that comment could be made by an officer of the council on the relevant links between the work of the LSCB and other key strategies.

RESOLVED:

- i. that the Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board for 2012/13 be noted
- ii. that a report setting out the findings of the audit work of the LSCB be submitted to the committee in due course.
- iii. That the child poverty implications of the report be submitted to the next meeting of the committee.

7. **Brent Youth Parliament update**

Thivya Jeyashanker (Chair of the Brent Youth Parliament [BYP]) provided an update to the committee on the recent work undertaken by BYP. An event had recently been held on Thursday 11 July 2013 for the UK Youth Parliament Curriculum for Life Campaign. BYP was a strong supporter of this campaign which sought an overhaul of the curriculum via a youth-led UK wide review to enable subjects such as financial and political literacy to be included. The event had been very successful with approximately 100 people attending from over 6 different schools. Similarly, a lot of work was currently being undertaken to maintain the momentum arising out of the success of the recent Eton Challenge. The young people involved had been very active in maintaining links with each other via social media and many of them had joined various youth committees. It was hoped that a number of them would engage further with BYP, elections for which would be held in October 2013. These elections would draw new members from secondary schools, primary schools, youth groups and other youth organisations across the borough.

The committee was further advised that Brent In Summer (BIS) had been re-launched successfully. BIS aimed to create a seamless service for children and young people aged 5 to 19 years old, bringing together Brent Council's sports, library and youth activities into one summer programme. A smaller special needs programme was also provided.

Up coming events included the provision of training to assist in the establishment of school based anti-bullying councils. This training was being offered by the Brent Anti Bullying Council in conjunction with Mosaic. 20 young people would be trained, who in turn would be able to train other young people. The next BYP session would be held on 20 July 2013 to which all councillors were invited and their attendance encouraged. It was also queried whether any councillors might wish to go into schools to give presentations on their role. The Chair confirmed that this proposal would be forwarded to all councillors and it was suggested that thought also be given to councillors and union members offering young people the opportunity to shadow them for a period.

In concluding, Thivya Jeyashanker raised a concern regarding the support available to the BYP. There had been a number of recent personnel changes and it was considered that this had and would continue to negatively impact the ability to maintain representation on BYP of hard to reach and vulnerable groups of young people. There were currently two BYP members with special educational needs. The committee sought comment on these concerns. Councillor Pavey (Lead Member for children and Families) advised that the support post recently vacated would be filled; it was unlikely however, that additional resources would be able to be provided due to financial constraints.

Members congratulated the officers on the successes relating to the Eton Challenge and launch of the BIS programme.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

8. Special Educational Needs (SEN) progress since 2011

Sara Williams (Acting Director of Children and Families) presented a report to the committee setting out the improvement made since 2011 to the council's Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service. This progress had been achieved via a One Council project which was scheduled for completion by the end of August 2013. Members were reminded that as part of this project, the council had formulated a new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy which had been considered by the committee previously.

Sara Williams explained that the One Council Project had supported the service to achieve a number of significant improvements. The reliance on statements of SEN for meeting need had been reduced. This enabled resources to be targeted at those with the greatest need and brought Brent more into line with practice in statistical and neighbouring authorities in West London. SEN provision within the borough had been increased to enable parents of children with SEN to access good and outstanding SEN provision closer to their homes. Importantly, this had prevented further increase in reliance on expensive independent and non maintained schools located outside of Brent. The financial performance of the service had also demonstrably improved with the recent years' trend of increasing Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) expenditure having been halted and the first years savings target as set out in the DSG recovery plan having been exceeded.

It was emphasised by Sara Williams that there remained significant challenges, however. The capacity of SEN provision in Brent would need to expand further to meet the projected demand by 2020 and it was acknowledged that Brent's population, and therefore demand on services, was expected to increase over the next five years. One of the greatest challenges facing the service, however, was the new SEN regime that was due to be implemented in September 2014. This would require all local authorities to undertake a radical re-think and transformation of their SEN processes and required closer working with Health and Social Care. It was essential that the challenges facing the service were systematically planned for and managed going forward and it was considered that the council was in a good

position to achieve these reforms, having developed the new Education, Health and Care department.

During the committee's discussion, clarification was sought regarding the obligation of the council to meet parental preference in allocating SEN school places. It was further queried how the additional capacity required in SEN provision would be achieved by 2020. Reference was made to the revised home to school transport policy which had been agreed by the Executive in April 2013. It was noted that the new policy was reported to place a focus on independent travel and it was queried how it would be determined which children could undertake independent travel.

In response to the queries raised, Sara Williams advised the committee that when a statement of SEN was produced, the school thought appropriate for that child would be named and this decision was ultimately made by the Local Authority. Past practice had been more flexible in meeting parent's preferences but now there was an enhanced focus on the local authority taking a clear and transparent stance. Where parents were unsatisfied with the choice made they could pursue the matter via a SEN tribunal. The council would continue to focus on expanding SEN provision within Brent. It was anticipated that use would be made of additionally resourced provision in Brent's secondary schools which was currently under-utilised. The council was also intending to relocate and expand Manor School. With regard to the transport policy, this had been based on the recognition that if children were able to travel independently, it would be in their interest to do so. However, the policy also recognised that it may be that some children would need support before they could become independent travellers. A careful assessment process would be undertaken to determine this.

Jenny Cooper (Observer) commented that the new Village school building was brilliant. She further highlighted that it was important to recognise that education also represented an opportunity to enrich pupil's lives and should not only be applauded for educational outcomes.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9. **School Places Update**

An update on school places within the borough was provided to the committee by Sara Williams (Acting Director of Children and Families). As of 12 July 2013 there were 24 children who had not been offered a school place. These cases represented children who had moved into the borough very recently and there were presently approximately 50 new arrivals per week. There were places available for all 24 children and the school admissions service would be ensuring offers were made. There were also currently 205 children without school places but for whom offers had been made. These cases would be followed up and, if school places were not taken up, would be referred to the Education Welfare Team. At the present time there was particular pressure on school places in Reception and Year 1. Higher year groups had sufficient vacancies, though not always in the locations desired. With regard to the 2013/14 Secondary Transfer there were sufficient school places in Year 7. Rather, the pressure for the Secondary sector related to Years 9, 10 and 11.

In response to several queries, Sara Williams confirmed that there would be sufficient secondary school places for the 2014/15 academic year due to free schools opening up in the borough. This had meant that the council had been required to put off plans for expansion for the time-being. With regard to those cases where offers had been made and refused, it was considered that a principal reason for this was that they were on waiting lists for other schools.

RESOLVED

- i. That the update be noted.
- ii. That the next update include detail on the number of children not taking up a school place after more than six months.

10. **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

RESOLVED

That the work programme be noted.

11. **Date of next meeting**

The committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 10 October 2013.

12. **Any other urgent business**

Councillor Gladbaum raised a concern that a great number of the borough's Children's Centres and nurseries had failed to achieve a good outcome in the latest inspection round. The importance of early years education was emphasised and it was proposed therefore, that an urgent report be presented to the committee analysing the strengths and weaknesses of the council's the early years service. Councillor Gladbaum added that staff participation and morale was paramount in effective service delivery.


RESOLVED:

That a report analysing the strengths and weaknesses of the council's early years service be submitted to the committee at its next meeting on 10 October 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Cllr W Mitchell Murray
Chair

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 Brent	Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10 October 2013 Report from the Acting Director of Children and Families
For Action	Wards Affected: ALL
Corporate Parenting Strategy	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations effective from the 1st April 2011 introduced a requirement to provide an annual report on the outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC). The aim of this report is to evidence the progress being made towards improving the outcomes for LAC in order to narrow the gap in the outcomes of LAC and those of children in the wider population. The first of these reports was produced in December 2012.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Corporate Parenting

- 3.1 The concept of Corporate Parenting was introduced through legislation i.e. Quality Protects (Department of Health 1998), The Children Act 2004, and Care Matters: Time for Change (DCSF 2007) and Care Matters: Time to Deliver (DCSF 2008). This places collective responsibility on local authorities to achieve good parenting for all children in the public care. It requires ownership and leadership at a senior level and includes both officers and elected members. The needs of Looked After Children cannot be met by a single agency and the council must work closely with key partners. It is important, not only to listen to young people's views but also to act on them. Elected members in Brent carry out this duty effectively through:

- Weekly meetings between lead member for children and DCS and the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
- Regular meetings between representatives of Care in Action (which is Brent's Council for Children in Care), with the lead member, Director, and Assistant Director
- Regular reports to scrutiny

- Quarterly meetings of the Corporate Parenting
- Corporate Parenting Group, which is chaired by the lead member for Children and Families and contains senior officers as well as cross party member representation.

4.0 Service Provision

4.1 The Care Planning and Children in Care Service supports Looked After Children and care leavers from 0-25yrs. The service is managed by a Head of Care Planning and Children in Care and comprises 4 social work teams delivering a service to Looked after Children aged from 0 to 18 and Care Leavers from 18 to 21yrs (24 + if the young person is in higher education). Within the service there are Participation Officers, a Sexual Health Nurse Connexions/Prospects Intensive Workers and a Life coaches for F4F (Big Lottery Funded Project).

5.0 Overall Picture for children in care and care-leavers in Brent.

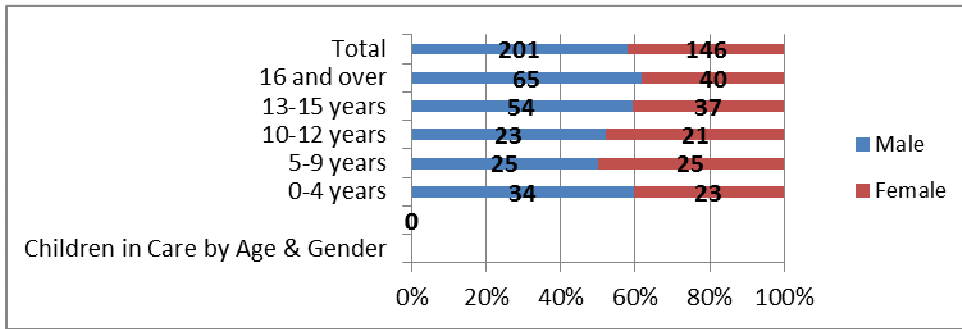
5.1 Numbers of children and young people in care

5.1.1 As of 31st March 2013 Brent had 347 children and young people Looked After. This contrast with 369 Looked After in 31st March 2012, which is in effect a 5.9% reduction. This represents 47.6 % LAC per 10,000 head of child population against the rate for statistical neighbours of 55 per 10,000 head of child population. This suggests that we are effective at targeting services at those children who need to be looked after and preventing those coming into the system who can be better cared for at home. There are 145 Care Leavers (18 – 24 years old) who are supported by the CPCIC service.

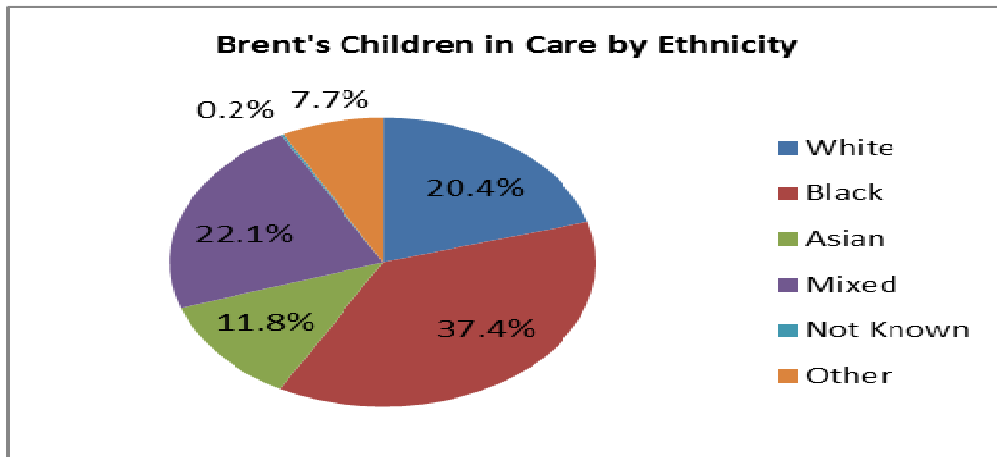
The gender of the LAC population consists of:

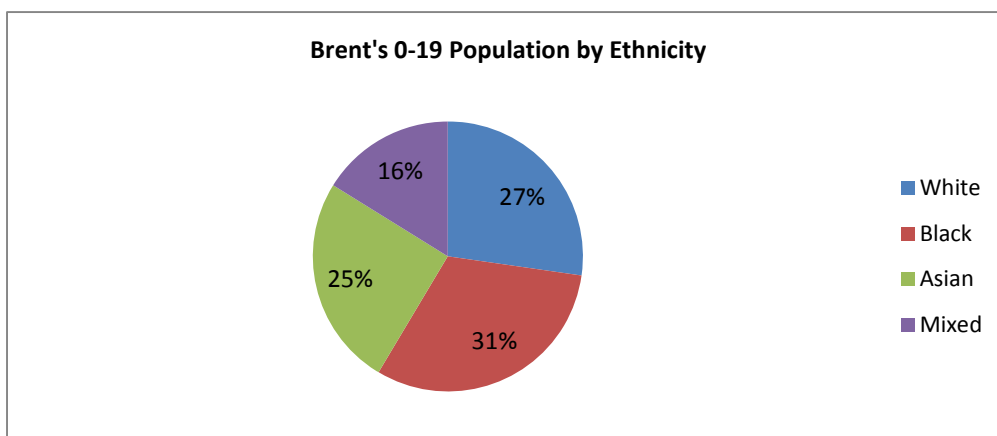
Age	Male	Female
0 to 4	34	23
5 to 9	25	25
10 to 12	23	21
13 to 15	54	37
16 and over	65	40
Total	201	146

Over 56% of the care population in Brent are aged 13 and over. There are 23 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in this number compared with 29 in March 2012.



5.1.2 The ethnic breakdown of children and young people in care, in descending order, are 37.4 % Black Caribbean, African & other children and young people from a Black background; 19.3 % White British, Irish and White Other; 11.8 % Asian and 22.1 % mixed parentage. The demographics of the Looked After populations however appear to be changing within Brent. Historically, Black children Looked After by Brent had always been the highest proportion by ethnicity type. Although this has remained the same, there has been a 6.6% reduction of Black children over the last two years, It should be noted there has also been a 8.2% increase in Asian children being looked after and 5% increase in White children being looked after by Brent. The demographics of the Looked After populations appear to be changing within Brent.





5.1.3 The number of care proceedings in the Department has remained relatively consistent at approximately 61 issued for 2010/2011, 74 for 2011/2012 and 57 public law proceedings and 3 other significant cases for 2012-13.

5.1.4 **Independent Reviewing Role**

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008, Section 11 includes a power to confer the delivery of Independent Reviewing Officer Service. The IRO's primary focus is to quality assure the care planning and review process for each child and to ensure that his/her current wishes and feelings are given full consideration. The first Looked After Review of a child's case is within 20 working days of the date on which the child becomes looked after; the second review no more than three months after the first; the third and subsequent reviews no more than six months after the previous one.

5.1.5 The department has a statutory duty to ensure there is compliance with this statutory requirement and this activity is monitored and reported to the social care management team on a monthly basis tracked each month. For the year ending 31st March 2013 97% of LAC Reviews complied with statutory time scales.

5.1.6 **Permanence**

Planning for permanent care underpins work with looked after children and their families, seeking to give a child a sense of security, continuity, commitment and identity throughout childhood and into adulthood.

A range of options for permanence exists, all of which can deliver good outcomes for individual children and will reduce the numbers of children in care:

- For many children, permanence is achieved through a successful return to their birth family.
- For other children routes to permanence may include family and friends care, particularly where such care can be supported by a legal order such as a residence order, special guardianship order.
- Another important route to permanence is long term foster care.

- For children who are unable to return to their birth or wider family permanence is through adoption.

5.1.7 **Adoption**

There is a national focus on adoption due to the declining number of children being adopted and the length of time some children have had to wait for a family. The Adoption Service is taking action along with Looked After Children's social workers to reduce delay and increase the timeliness of the assessments of adopters and the timeliness of placing children with adopters.

5.1.8 There are a number of routes out of care for children. For many children the most suitable option for those that need a permanent home is adoption. The government has prioritised the adoption issue over the last 18 months and there have been developments in a number of related areas:

- Measuring timeliness of adoption decisions to ensure there are no delays in progressing adoption plans. In 2012-13 there were 19 adoptions of Brent children (compared to 9 the previous year). The average time taken from these children coming into care to being placed with their adopters was 565 days (compared to 955 days for the previous year's cohort). The current adoption projection for this financial year is that there will be 15 adoptions with an average time taken for these children to be placed reducing to 450 days. Brent now has clear tracking systems in place to ensure that those children with an adoption plan are prioritised without delay.
- Ensuring the supply of prospective adopter's increases to enable more children to be placed quickly in permanent families. A change to Adoption regulations (2013) has been made which requires Local Authorities to introduce a 2-stage assessment process for prospective adopters. This is an adopter led process and will reduce the risks of delays that were present within the previous system. Brent introduced our new 2-stage assessment process on 1st September 2013 and we are working closely with our partner boroughs within West London to ensure this is successful. The Adoption regulations (2013) also introduced the formal concept of 'fostering to adopt' – providing Local Authorities with the option of placing children swiftly with approved adopters on a fostering basis until the formal adoption process is concluded. This will be a preferred option for a small number of children and is actively considered alongside other placement choices for children that need accommodating.
- Considering how to improve adopter's access to support services once adoption orders are made. Adopters now have an adoption passport which enables their child to be prioritised for certain services. Within Brent our post-adoption support team maintain links to our adoptive families, providing advice and assessments of need for services where this is required.

5.1.9 **Private Residential Provision**

Brent Children's Commissioning Services commissions residential places for children and young people. This can be for respite care, shorter term and longer term care. Brent will try and commission units that have been assessed by Ofsted as "good". The staff teams in the units are a committed group of key workers who work with the outcomes framework of every child matters to provide excellent day to day

care for children. The aim of the units is to help young people do as well as they can in their education, enjoy good health, keep in touch with family and friends and also support with preparation for independence.

5.1.10 Current Provision

When a child is initially cared for by Brent the Children's Commissioning Team will try and place the child within an in-house foster placement. The use of Brent's own foster carers is always the first preference as they are considerably cheaper than Independent Fostering Agency placements and tend to be more local to Brent allowing for more continuity in terms of education, parental contact and community links. The department will only place a child within an Independent Fostering placement if there is no local provision. Residential care is only reserved for a child with complex needs/challenging behaviour/risky lifestyles for example gang related. There is also difference with the costing for each care provision. Residential care is of a high cost and will often be based outside of London. Reasons why the main of residential provision is outside of London is based of higher quality provision outside of London.

Currently Brent places children in the following provision:

- **Placement Types as 31 March 2012**

➤ Independent Fostering Agencies	98
➤ Brent In House fostering	115
➤ Placed with relative or friend	35
➤ Residential	90

- **Placement Types as 31 March 2013**

➤ Independent Fostering Agencies	90
➤ Brent In House fostering	125
➤ Placed with relative or friend	35
➤ Residential	75

5.1.11 Placing children within their own community ensures continuity of their contact with birth family and siblings, friends, education, community links. In this way, the children's identity/emotional needs are being addressed rather than placing them away from their own cultural and emotional links. During the last 12 months great efforts have been made to place/move complex needs children from residential into specialist/highly supported foster care placement. The number of LAC in residential provision has reduced from **90** in March 2012 to **75** children in March 2013.

- **Placement Location as 31 March 2012**

➤ In Borough	158 (42.6%)
➤ Out Borough	213 (57.4%)
➤ Within Neighbouring Boroughs	97 (26.1%)
➤ Outside Neighbouring Boroughs	116 (31.3%)

- **Placement Location as 31 March 2013**

➤ In Borough	153 (44.1%)
➤ Out Borough	194 (55.9%)
➤ Within Neighbouring Boroughs	86 (24.8%)
➤ Outside Neighbouring Boroughs	107 (30.8%)

5.1.12 In Brent the numbers of LAC placed in residential provision has decreased over the year from 90 in March 2012 to 75 in March 2013. The Borough has supported the move for a number of LAC with complex needs into specialised foster placements to meet the complex needs of these children and young people.

5.1.13 **Staying Safe**

5.1.14 **Child Sexual Exploitation**

A multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Group of Brent's Safeguarding Children Board has been established to address the needs of children and young people who are at risk of or currently experiencing sexual exploitation. Its focus is prevention and protection. This group is addressing the risk within the LAC/Care Population.

5.1.15 **Definition of child sexual exploitation**

'Any involvement of a child or young person below the age of 18 years in sexual activity for which remuneration in cash or in kind is given to the child or young person or to a third person or persons. The perpetrator will have power over the child by virtue of one or more of the following: age, emotional maturity, gender, physical strength, intellect.' (**Tink Palmer, Barnardo's, 2001**)

5.1.16 There is a strong link between CSE and children who go missing. For some young people at risk of serious harm it is one of the 'push' factors in them running away from home and placements.

5.1.17 Children who are already deemed vulnerable, particularly those looked after by the Local Authority, are at disproportionate risk of being sexually exploited by older men who may they may view in certain circumstances as their 'boyfriends'.

5.1.18 In some cases children may be drawn into sexual exploitation by peers who are already involved, and additionally, there appears to be a strong link between trafficked children and CSE.

5.1.19 **Children Missing from Care**

The current government statutory guidance on *Children Who Run Away and Go Missing from Home or Care* was published in July 2009. From this guidance, Brent Local Safeguarding Board developed a protocol for children who go missing from care. This protocol is designed to support the effective collaborative safeguarding response from all agencies involved when a child goes missing. It aims to provide guidance for assessing both the risk of the child going missing and the risk to the child when they are missing. The Protocol describes appropriate staff/agency actions to locate the child, to effect their return and to identify the issues which caused, and may continue to cause, the child to go missing.

Research has shown that:

- Every year approximately 100,000 (or 1 in 9) young people in the UK will run away overnight or on at least one occasion before the age of 16.
- 20,000 of them (or 1 in 5) will be at serious risk while they are away as they may be hurt or harmed, sleep rough or stay with someone they have just met.
- 1 in 10 young people run away before the age of 10; the majority of young people who will run away are in the 13- 15 year age group.
(The Children's Society, Jan 2010)

5.1.20 Recent high profile court cases including Rochdale and Oxford, and the report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner on Child Sexual Exploitation in gangs, all highlighted the vulnerability of children in care who go missing from their placement. The recent Ofsted thematic report on *Missing Children* published in February 2013 highlighted that some local authorities were inconsistent in applying and meeting the requirements of the statutory guidance *Children Who Run Away and Go Missing from Home or Care* (2009).

5.1.21 Brent's Local Safeguarding Board is currently reviewing our protocol/policies and risk assessments plans/tools. Brent Senior Management and the board is monitoring and interrogating data on children who go missing. Social workers are expected to complete risk management plans for individual looked after children and these plans are reviewed by managers on the level of risk. Missing from Care Meetings (Strategy Meetings) are being held with the police to review the risk management plans for those children who go missing.

5.1.22 Return interviews are being carried out with the child/young person when they return.

5.1.23 The service is analysing trends and patterns in relation to children in care who runaway particular attention should be paid to repeat 'missing

5.1.24 **Children Missing from Education**

Children who miss school are more likely to be at risk of offending, sexual exploitation, being victims of crime and drug misuse. In Brent the number of looked after children absent from school for 25 days or more was 22% in 2012/13.

5.1.25 **Gangs within the LAC/Care Population**

There are a small numbers of males in the Looked After population who are/were affiliated to gangs. At a Borough level, the recent report '*Gangs in Brent: An assessment of gangs in Brent and services for at risk young people and gang members to exit*', March 2013, provides background in terms of information about the nature of gangs and gang activity In Brent. There are 12 to 13 identifiable gangs in Brent with approximately 500 members between them, ranging from around 13 to mid 30's. To address the conflict with gangs in the borough the council has developed the *Pathway Multi Agency Partnership (PMAP)*. PMAP meetings provide a coordinated, visible and accountable partnership response for managing high risk gang members in Brent, and diverting them away from crime and into positive lifestyle choices. The purpose of the meetings will be to identify, monitor, divert and

disrupt high risk gang members in Brent through facilitating information sharing on referred gang members, their siblings and other family members, and ensuring that the most appropriate interventions are in place for them. Looked after children are discussed in this forum to reduce the risk they place themselves in. A small number of those in residential provision/unit have been placed out of Borough to keep them safe and address their allegiance to their gangs operating in their community.

5.1.26 During the year ending 31st March 2013, 10 looked after young people received a conviction or were cautioned or received a final warning. Comparisons to the previous year shows an increase by 1 looked after child.

Indicator	Outturn 10/11	Outturn 11/12	Outturn 12/13
Final warnings and reprimands and convictions of children looked after	2.3%	3.9%	4.4%

6.0 Education and Higher Education

6.1 The Brent Virtual School for Looked After Children 2012

6.1.1 The concept of the “Virtual School Head for Children Looked After was first outlined in the White Paper” Care Matters: Time for Change (DCSF, June 2007). The current role within Brent is a senior teacher working within the local authority, charged with ensuring improved educational achievements for this specific group, responsible for overseeing a coordinated system of support for children looked after. The role of the Virtual Head attending the Corporate Parenting Group is to ensure that looked after children's attainment, progression, attendance, exclusion and out of school learning is monitored and tracked to enable support to be put in place where needed.

6.1.2 The current Brent Virtual School consists of the Virtual Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, four LAC Advisory Teachers. The school is ‘virtual’ in the sense that it tracks the educational progress of all Brent LAC wherever they are placed and collates and monitors data for this cohort like a school would.

6.1.3 The school monitors/supports 235 Brent LAC (of statutory school age) of which 60% reside out of Brent across the country. Approximately 30% of Brent looked after pupils have a statement of special educational needs which is more or less in line with the national LAC % but much higher when compared to the general population.

6.1.4 The Brent looked after population in 2012/13 was placed across 46 different schools/education settings in borough and 90 schools/education settings out borough. This shows the diverse number of education settings the virtual school has to liaise with in order to collect key information such as attendance, attainment and exclusion information.

6.1.5 Since April 2012, the Virtual School has been using an external company called Welfare Call who call schools daily to check on attendance and report daily absences

which can then be followed up. The data has enabled the Virtual School to provide monthly reports / data on all aspects of LAC attendance which in turn has helped us to focus resources, to intervene early and to provide a clear and simple attendance protocol for all staff working with Looked After Children.

6.1.6 Headline statistics for the 2012/13 academic year are:

- Overall LAC absence was 10.30%. The general Brent population school absence in 2011/12 was 4.81%.
- Of the above, 6.93% was authorised absence and 3.37% was unauthorised.
- Overall persistent absence for LAC (those who had total absence of 15% and above) was 20%. Persistent absence for the general Brent population is around 5%.
- 15% of LAC received one or more periods of fixed term exclusions.

6.1.7 The school also ensure children and young people partake in the same cultural and educational experiences as other children in the community through educational trips, arranging extra curriculum lessons, for example, booster classes, reading days, taster day experience at Cambridge University and organise the Celebration of Achievement Day each year which is held in December. Activities are open to all LAC but are often age-group specific and although often dependent on local access, opportunities are offered for LAC outside Brent to participate where possible.

6.1.8 In the academic year 2012-13, the Virtual School ran over ten out of school activities for over 100 Brent LAC from Brent and across the UK, including trips to Cambridge University, Highgate School, Duke of Edinburgh outdoor activities, a Spoken Word drama activity led by the Brent Poet Laureate, Simon Mole and a week-long creative writing residential in Devon with Ealing LAC as part of the John Lyons Charity cross-borough project. In addition they ran the Year 10/11 GCSE Booster Classes and the 2012 Celebration of Achievement attended by over 250 children carers and staff.

6.1.9 OSHL DATA SEPT 2012-13

Activity	Date	Total LAC / Adults	Purpose	Funder
Cambridge University Taster Day Years 12/13 Realise Programme	Oct 012	17 LAC / ; 3 Adults	Years 12/13 – Taster in Humanities / Sciences	Cambridge University
Highgate Chrysalis Project (1 x term)	Sep 2012 Mar 2013 May 2013	12 LAC / 6 Adults	Termly activities to promote ongoing education and raise aspiration to enter university – in conjunction with 6 other LA's	Highgate School
Duke of Edinburgh Programme (1 x 3 events)	Aug 2012 Feb 2013 Aug 2013	24 LAC / 4 adults	Hikes and an overnight residential with Ealing LAC to introduce the D of E Programme	John Lyon's Charity
Cambridge Taster Day Years 7,8,9 Realise Programme	April 2013	16 LAC / 13 Adults / Carers	Introduction to Social Sciences / interactive museum experience	Cambridge University
Synergy Theatre Project	August 2013	9 LAC 3 adults	Three-day Spoken Word / Drama + writing workshop + performance in front of an invited audience at the Brent Civic Centre, led by Brent Poet Laureate, Simon Mole	Synergy + John Lyons Charity
Arvon Creative Writing Workshop in Devon	August 2013	12 LAC 4 Adults 3 tutors	5-day residential writing workshop with Ealing LAC / teachers with Courttia Newland, Caroline Bird and Inua Ellams	John Lyon's Charity cross-borough project

6.1.10 LAC KS2/KS4 Performance

6.1.11 The table below shows the year on year KS2 and KS4 results for Brent looked after children. It is important to note that the LAC population is not a stable cohort group as children come in and out of care at different times. Each year the make up of the cohort group can vary considerably which explains some of the year on year fluctuations.

Indicator	Outturn 09/10	Outturn 10/11	Outturn 11/12	Outturn 12/14
Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	47%	56%	88%	54%
Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	41%	67%	71%	54%
Children in care reaching level 4 in Science at Key Stage 2	41%	56%	82%	54%

Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	20%	16%	15%	19%
Children in care achieving at least 1 A*-G (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4	73%	64%	77%	77%
Children in care achieving 5 A*-G (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4	43%	52%	44%	60%

6.1.12 Post 16

6.1.13 The Virtual School Post 16 Teacher monitors and supports approximately 65 care leavers in Post 16 education and 34 at university (figures correct at Sept 2013). A Level results for 2013 were very good, attributed to early intervention and support such as putting in additional tuition and offering pupils the option of having a Post 16 Personal Education Plan meeting at college.

AS & A Level (A¹) Results for 2013

No of Post 16 LAC	AS Results, passed at Grades A-C	AS Results, passed at Grades A-G	AS Results Grade U
7	9	21	4
AS Subjects passed at grades A-E: Theology, Politics, Sociology, Maths, Economics, English Language, Government & Politics, Chemistry, English Literature, Drama & Theatre Studies, Law.			
No of Post 16 LAC	A2 Results, passed at Grades A-C	A2 Results, passed at Grades A-G	A2 Results Grade U
8	16	22	2
A2 Subjects passed at grades A-E: Media Studies, Drama, Art & Design, English Literature, Economics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Sociology, English Language, Psychology, French, IT, Physics.			

AS & A Level (A²) Results for 2013 Comparative tables

Year	AS		A Level A ²	
2011	9 A-C passes	21 A-G passes	4 A-C passes	4 A-G passes
2012	19 A-C passes	26 A-G Passes	8 A-C passes	12 A-G passes
2013	9 A-C passes	17 A-G passes	16 A-C passes	22 A-G passes

6.1.14 Brent's Apprenticeship Programme

Brent Council piloted an apprenticeship programme in 2009/10, the Brent Apprenticeship Scheme. The purpose of this programme was to assist 8 local young people and care leavers with work opportunities for 1 year within various council departments. This was paid work with an NVQ qualification at the end of the period.

6.1.15 To assist 16 to 18 year olds into Brent Council Apprenticeship Programme or the Government's own apprenticeship programme, the Care Planning Service, Brent Employment Initiative Officer and the College of North West London devised a local pre apprenticeship programme at the college to assist our young people back into structured education at a vocational level. This was piloted in May 2012:

- 6 care leavers people completed the initial apprenticeship training pilot in 2010/2011.

- Two care leavers from this cohort had a six week work experience within the council.
- In 2012/13 there was 1 young person successfully employed in Brent Early Years Service.
- This year the young people will be supported via a local apprenticeship provider during their time in the council.

6.1.16 Fixed 4 Your Future' (F4F) Project

Background

6.1.17 The Fixed 4 Your Future (F4F) Project is funded through the Big Lottery (BIG) Youth in Focus funding stream. The Lead Partner is Prospects Services Ltd, who currently deliver the main Connexions contract on behalf of the Council. Other partners include Brent Care Planning, Youth Offending Service, Genesis Community Foundation, First Rung, BANG Edutainment and the College of North West London.

6.1.18 Project Description

6.1.19 Across 3 calendar years (2011/14), the project will work with 240 care leavers or those who have left Youth Offenders' Institutions, helping them to develop their personal effectiveness, resilience and employability skills so that they can achieve their goals and cope better with life events. The project is open to young people between the ages of 15 and 25. Young people who have been on remand or remain in a YOI are not eligible for the programme.

Year 1 (July 2012)	Male	Female	Total
Care Leavers	33	16	49
YP leaving YOIs	17	0	17
TOTAL	50	16	66

Year 2 (July 2013)	Male	Female	Total
Care Leavers	39	29	68
YP leaving YOIs	10	1	11
TOTAL	49	30	79

6.1.20 NEETS

6.1.21 NEET is a government acronym which refers to 16 – 24 year olds who are currently not in education, employment or training. Nationally, at the end of 2011 there were 154,900 (8.1 per cent) 16 to 18 year olds who were NEET. The characteristics of young people who are NEET include those with few qualifications and those with a health problem, disability or low aspirations.

6.1.22 In Brent we ensure a continued focus on LAC Not in Education, Employment or Training through the work of Connexions, Prospects, Fixed for Your Future Project and new providers, for example Skills UK based in Brent. This work with the various providers assists to develop support, advice and guidance for young people who are EET, including high achievers, in order to assist them to develop their

educational or career potential. The improved number of EET is delivered through having a teacher in the virtual school tracking progression of high achieving care leavers at post 16.

6.1.23 This is delivered through having a teacher in the Virtual School who monitors and tracks the progression of looked after children/leaving care at post-16 transition. This monitoring is reviewed in a bi monthly tracking meeting with Care Planning to review progress with this cohort. A sub group is running in parallel with Connexions, Prospects and the F4F Project to ensure that intensive work is available for the people.

6.1.24 See relevant data below for the years 2012 to 2013:

2012	Total Number of YP in Group	NEETs	% NEET
Aged 16-18 (LAC)	89	7	7.9%
Aged 18-21 Care Leavers)	158	42	26.6%
Aged 21+ (Care Leavers)	29	2	6.9%
Totals	276	51	18.5%

2013	Total Number of YP in Group	NEETs	% NEET
Aged 16-18 (LAC)	88	9	10.2%
Aged 18-21 (Care Leavers)	171	57	33.3%
Aged 21+ (Care Leavers)	26	8	30.8%
Totals	285	74	26.0%

6.1.25 Data analysis on the **9** young people in this cohort of 16 – 18 who are NEET in 2013 indicates that; they are either in secure accommodation, prison, just released from prison, new UCAS or have a significant learning difficulty.

6.1.26 Data analysis on the cohort of **57** young people within the age range of 18 – 21 in 2013 who are NEET indicate that they are a group comprised of young mothers, the long term non-engaged, young people suffering from mental health problems, those who have learning difficulties and young people in prison or recently released from prison.

7.0 Health

7.1 An OFSTED/CQC inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children Services in Brent in October 2011 judged that the 'being healthy' standard for Looked after Children (LAC) was inadequate. A remedial action plan was agreed between the Ealing Hospitals Trust (Integrated Care Organisation Brent – *the Provider*), NHS Brent / Brent CCG and Brent Council from 1 April 2012.

7.2 Current Situation

- Following a review of the service and in line with statutory guidance, the post of Designated Nurse and Designated Doctor for Looked After Children have been moved into the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Discussions regarding geographical location of these children are being held and decisions will be made regarding health care for those children who are placed out of Borough. Commissioning arrangements will be secured to ensure that those children who are placed out of Borough receive their health care from the area within which they will be residing
- During April and May 2013 health file records were audited. All available health file initial assessments and review health assessments were reviewed (383 and a further 20 unaccompanied asylum seeking children).

7.3 Outcomes

- All the health files audited with the exception of three, were compliant with recognised good practice and complied with professional record keeping guidance and standards.
- There is an overall trajectory of improvement in health assessments, both initial and review health assessments and their resulting action plans.
- The quality of health assessments is being sustained most notably those completed in the last 6 months prior to this audit.
- The main reason as to why a 'good' under the new grading structure, cannot be awarded is due in part to the lack of information sharing across the partnership and from the lead agency, which is adversely affecting the quality of assessments.

Progress to Date

- Designated Nurse for LAC post is covered in the interim to ensure expectations from statutory agencies, commissioners and children and young people are met and all services (multi-agency) work effectively to improve outcomes for children and young people. NHS Brent CCG intends to recruit to the CLA post substantively.
- Joint working with partner agencies to develop a service model for delivery of this specialist service with skilled practitioners, with transparent governance ensuring quality.
- Agreement that the Designated Nurse will attend regular meetings and have a stronger presence at the Local Authority to foster excellent communication and joint working arrangements.

7.4 Being Healthy

	31st March 2011	31st March 2012	31st March 2013
Total Children looked after for 12 months or more at the 31st March.	255	253	227
Immunisations	58.8%	80.6%	78.4%
Teeth Checks	88.2%	87.3%	89.9%
Health Assessments	78.4%	98.8%	99.1%
Substance misuse	1.5%	1.2%	5.7%
Intervention offered	0.4%	1.2%	0.4%
Intervention taken	0.4%	0%	0.4%
C19 The Health of Children Looked After	83%	93%	94%

7.5 The above table details the numbers of looked after children looked after by Brent for 12 months or more at the 31st March. Over the last three years overall there has been an increase in the number of children who had their teeth checks, immunisations up to date and health assessments being carried. In 2011 overall 83% of children had their teeth checked, health assessments carried and immunisations all up to date and this has risen to 94% in 2013.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

7.6 The average number of Looked After Child cases open to CAMHS during 2012 and 2013 stands at 83 children and young people. Additionally, the Service provides regular consultations, advice and information to practitioners and carers to aid their work with children and families.

7.7 The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire is a short screening questionnaire for children and young people aged 4 to 16 years that gives information on emotional health, conduct problems, hyperactivity, peer relationship problems and pro social behaviour. The higher the overall score, the more issues have been raised in the questionnaire. There has been an increase in the average SDQ score for LAC but these remains below the level of the national and statistical neighbour figures from 2010/11. 97% LAC have Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire completed on their emotional health

7.8 Research and experience also suggests that the health and educational needs of looked-after children are different from and greater than many other groups of children and young people. This has an impact on their ability to be parents as they are more likely than others to be unemployed, have more mental health problems, be expected to be independent and have little support.

7.9 Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy rates are at their lowest since 1969, according to figures released by the Office for National Statistics on 27th Feb 2013.

They have now fallen by 34% from the baseline year of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

Office for National Statistics, 2013 www.statistics.gov.uk : The statistical data for rates of teenage pregnancy has declined steadily in Brent.

The challenge is to reduce rates of teenage pregnancy in Brent's looked after population. The Sexual Health Nurses based within the service have assisted in reducing this target for LAC over the last 3 years.

Age of Mother/Father	As at Dec 2011	Pregnancy Planned/Not Planned	2012	Pregnancy Planned/Not Planned	As at 15 th Sept 2013	Pregnancy Planned/Not Planned
14 to 18 years	5	1 termination 4 planned	3	1 termination 2 planned	1	Planned
19 to 21 years	1	planned	1	planned	4	Planned

8.0 Participation of children and young people

8.1 Care in Action (CIA) is Brent's established Children in Care Council which emphasises the participation and views of children and young people in care. The principle of participation combines the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004 and Care Matters: Time for Change White paper, including the Pledge for children in care and care leavers

8.2 Brent Care in Action encourages young people to take an active part in the shaping the services they use in order to make improvements and respond to their needs. The work of the Participation Officer workers is to provide a forum for the children and young people in care to share their views and to make decisions. They group work on campaigns about being in care and hold events. They have fun and enjoy activities for example visiting Wembley Stadium, going into central London etc.

8.3 CIA meets twice a month and the age range is 12 to 16. There is a separate Junior Care in Action for the young people in care aged 7 – 12 in Brent which meets once a month.

- A young person in care sits on Brent's Youth Parliament.
- The group is currently developing a website for all children looked after and care leavers.
- The group has been piloting subsidised gym membership for 16 year olds not in foster care.
- A Health Awareness Day was arranged in July by the group in partnership with health professional to promote health lifestyles.
- There was the annual Celebration of Achievement Ceremony held in December 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Brent at which various awards were presented.
- Young People are part of interview panels for interview of staff in the service

8.4 There are regular meetings between representatives of Care in Action, with the lead member, Director of Children's Services, and Assistant Director. A group of children and young people from CIA attend the Corporate Parenting Group, which is chaired by the Lead Member and contains senior officers as well as cross party member's representative.

9.0 Housing

All local authorities have an obligation to provide housing to those young people who were looked after and who are now designated as care leavers. A monthly joint meeting with housing and care planning ensures that all care leavers have options around their future housing needs. The appropriate young people are nominated for housing at 17.5 years of age and are generally housed by the time they are 18 1/2yrs. The data below shows those young people who obtained their own tenancy:

9.1 2011

Young People 18 + placed in their own housing during 2011 were **66**.

2012

Young People 18+ waiting to be housed is **33**.

Young People offered their own tenancy during 2012 was **51**

2013

Young People 18+ waiting to be housed is **49**

Young People as of September 2013 offered own tenancy is **43**

9.2 There is a recent complication as a result of new immigration legislation which was introduced in August 2012. This has the effect of allowing young people (and in fact families) to stay legally in the UK, but prevents them from gaining access to benefits (and therefore public sector housing). This means that there is a small, but increasing number of care leavers (unaccompanied minors) who are neither entitled to housing nor to the benefits to pay for it.

10.0 Family Assessment and Intervention Resource Team (Barnardo's/Brent)

10.1 The Children and Families Bill legislates for the outcome of the Family Justice Review. The expectation is that care proceedings cases, which currently take on average 54 weeks to complete, will be limited to 26 weeks, with a dedicated Family Court. The Freeman Family Centre based in Harlesden – a team managed by Barnardo's under a service level agreement and Brent Council, in partnership are developing a pre assessment service to reduce delays for children whilst at the same reducing risk for children.

10.2 The 'edge of care' arrangements will assist Brent's respond to these legal requirements and also reduce the need for costly expert assessments and residential family assessments during court proceedings.

10.3 The Family Assessment Intervention Resource Team will undertake pre-care proceedings, mainly for younger children: This involves assessment and intervention when care proceedings are under serious consideration. The families are likely to have younger children (or pre-birth) who are subject to a child protection plan. Currently there is no specific provision for intensive interventions with this group and it is proposed to put in place new arrangements which will either:

- support improvements in family functioning in order to divert children from care; or

- if care proceedings are required, enable proceedings to take place within 26 weeks as required by the Family Justice Review, thus ensuring permanency arrangements are made for the children without any delay.

11.0 Summary

11.1 A significant amount of progress has already been made in reducing the number of Looked After Children in Brent, improving outcomes for LAC and narrowing the gap between LAC and their peers. Ensuring LAC live in stable placements, within the local authority boundary with access to local services is crucial to improving outcomes and we remain relentless in our desire to narrowing the gap. Although the gap in outcomes between LAC and the rest of the population is narrowing, LAC still achieve below their ability and their peers. Looked After Children living in residential children's homes in particular, are more likely to achieve poorer outcomes. In Brent the numbers of LAC in residential has decreased over the year from 90 in September 2012 to 75 in September 2013. We have supported the move for a number of LAC with complex needs into highly supported foster placement to meet the complex needs of these challenging children.

11.2 The service developments for the looked after children service are largely contained within Brent's Corporate Parenting Strategy, which also provides an analysis of how well the council is meeting its responsibilities to children and young people in care. The strategy will increasingly focus on planning for those children who are 'on the edge of care' and those young people moving into adulthood/independence. The work of the joint initiative between Barnardo's/Brent Care Planning should aim to reduce delays for children on the "edge of care". Good outcomes cannot be achieved without commitment by the Elected Members and the active participation and engagement of children and young people, practitioners, partners, parents and carers. The importance of participation and partnership in improving outcomes for looked after children is essential within a Corporate Parenting Strategy.

11.3 Over the last 12 months there have been significant improvements to the service delivery of Looked after Children

- **LAC Population** - the numbers of children looked after has continued to reduce over the last two years. There were 369 2012 and 347 in 2013. There has been a gradual decrease in the numbers of asylum seekers. There has been a reduction of LAC in residential from 90 to 75.
- **Participation** – Looked after Children in Brent participate with officers and members in a number of different ways. A Looked After Child sits on Brent's Parliament. There is both a junior and senior group for young people in care called Care in Action (CIA). The group have regular meetings with the Lead Member, Director and Assistant Director. There is attendance by the Care in Actions Groups at the Corporate Parenting Group, which is chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Families and contains senior officers as well as cross party member representation. The group developed, a DVD that will now be available for all children entering care. The various groups are developing a healthy lifestyle pack for children entering care, a website for all children whether placed in borough or out of borough to access via a secured link. A joint initiative with health has resulted in funding through health for a part time Participation Officer post to take forward the health agenda around healthy lifestyle/options for

Looked after Children and Care Leavers. Looked after children participate in in the recruitment and selection of staff within the department.

- **Health** – there has been a substantial improvement in the quality of health provision to LAC since the Ofsted Inspection in 2011. Health Assessments have been audited and the outcome is that the quality has improved since the inspection in 2011. Further work is still required with those children placed outside the borough. Health has an action plan to address this. Early indicators are that the Sexual Health Nurse is engaging with hard to reach young people around harm reduction through reducing sexual diseases, pregnancy.
- **Education/Economic wellbeing** – There is a care leaver working in the council for 1 year through Brent's apprenticeship programme. The 3 year Big Lottery Funding through Fixed for your Future Project has now been in place for 2 year and has had some success with hard to engage young people through getting them back into some form of education or training.
- **Children's Placements** – the work of the Brent's Placement Service have resulted in an increase of in house foster carers to 122. This will ensure that children and young people are placed within their community and will still be able to attend their school and local links. This keeps them in contact with birth family and siblings. There will be a financially saving with less reliance on Independent Fostering Placements. This has also assisted in diverting complex children/young people away from high cost residential units to foster care. Further work is identified with a next cohort of children/young people placed in residential.

12.0 Child Poverty Implications

Looked after children tend to come from the most economically and socially deprived groups in society. Good corporate parenting aims to address this disadvantage. This is especially the case in relation to educational outcomes, which are a primary focus for the department. Research indicates that whilst looked after children generally suffer from worse educational outcomes than the general population, this disadvantage tends to be offset the longer the children/young people remain in care.

13.0 Priorities for development 2013/14

- **NEETS** – Young people are suffering disproportionately in the current economic climate. A good education is in many cases the best unemployment insurance. Therefore, tighter tracking via the Economic Well-being Strategy Group and Virtual School post 16 teacher should ensure that no young person is dropping out of studies without a robust support plan in place. There are good partnerships with providers addressing youth unemployment through, Bang (Harlesden based community project) Connexions, and College of North West London. The service will continue to work with Fixed 4 the Future to improve prospects for young care leavers as outlined earlier in this report.
- **Brent's Apprenticeship programme** – the programme is currently being reviewed corporately and by the LAC Service. This is due to the various departmental changes/structures within the council. There is still commitment by the council to take this initiative forward. The programme is only targeted for 16 to 19 years old and this LAC /Care Leavers group are mainly in education or higher education. Therefore, the cohort is small to target onto this programme.

- **Children at risk of sexual exploitation/gang involvement** – Brent Local Safeguarding Board, are taking the lead on this topic. Social workers and partners are expected to be aware of the risk factors for children being sexually exploited. The service has conducted an initial review focusing on the risks posed to those children in residential care. Some children have been identified as potentially at risk and these are being carefully tracked. A more detailed risk assessment is currently being conducted. Further training/collection, analysis and use of data and intelligence will assist in this process.
- **Health** – many post 16 year olds are ambivalent and will often dis engage with formal health assessment as they move into transitions into adulthood. We know that CLA are more at risk of suffering a number of health problems, especially mental health, substance misuse and early pregnancy. This service needs to look creatively at how best to ensure health is available and accessible to all children and to improve its interface with children and young people. We are looking at “in formal drop in sessions” for these young people to have a Health MOT (pre leaving care) around these health topics and healthy lifestyles/sexual awareness. The joint appointment of a Participation Officer (based in the Looked after Service) will support engagement for LAC and provide health information in a user-friendly way as advised by this group. A Care In Action meeting identified that it would be helpful to have a ‘health credit’ card with health information on the card directing LAC to services (telephone numbers and e-mail addresses).
- **Mental health and emotional needs**
Further analysis with the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire scores to be undertaken and use this to identify and assess the mental health needs of high scoring children looked after and offer them targeted interventions.
- **Responding to the Family Justice Review**
The service has put the FAIR and FAST teams into place to both respond to the requirements of the FJR and to ensure that only those children who really need to be, are accommodated by the authority. Ensuring that these teams deliver on these objectives is a key priority for the coming year.


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 Brent	<p style="text-align: center;">Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10 October 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Children and Families</p>
<p>For Information Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Careers Advice for Young People in Brent</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on careers advice for young people in Brent, as requested by the Brent Youth Parliament. The report outlines the significant legislative changes from 2012 which impact the arrangements for the delivery of careers guidance services.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the changes to the responsibilities for the delivery of careers information, advice and guidance for young people and to consider the report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Careers guidance refers to services and activities, intended to assist individuals of any age and at any point throughout their lives, to make education, training and occupational choices and to manage their careers. The activities may take place on an individual or group basis and may be face-to-face or at a distance (including help lines or web based services). They include careers information provision, assessment and self-assessment tools, counselling interviews, careers education programmes, taster programmes, work search programmes and transition services¹.

¹ Statutory Guidance The duty to secure independent and impartial careers guidance for young people in schools March 2013

- 3.2 The provision of careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) for young people in Brent and nationally has changed significantly under the terms of the Education Act 2011. From September 2012, the Education Act 2011 placed a duty on schools to secure and fund through the Designated Schools Grant access to independent, impartial careers guidance for their students in years 9-11. The duty to secure independent and impartial careers guidance for students in schools has since been extended down to year 8 and up to years 12 and 13 with effect from September 2013. The Department for Education (DfE) intends to extend an equivalent requirement to Further Education Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges through their funding agreements. There will be separate guidance to colleges.
- 3.3 Statutory Guidance from the Department for Education, updated in March 2013, sets out the duties for schools to secure independent and impartial careers guidance for young people. Academies and Free Schools are subject to the same requirements through their Funding Agreements. Apart from the elements identified in the statutory guidance, it is for schools to decide the careers guidance provision to be made available based on the needs of pupils and the opportunities available.
- 3.4 The statutory duty for Local Authorities to provide careers information, advice and guidance for young people in schools ceased on 31 March 2012. From September 2012, there is no longer an expectation that local authorities should continue to provide a universal careers guidance service for young people. The National Careers Service provides a website, telephone helpline, e-mail and webchat advice services but does not offer face to face Information Advice and Guidance services for young people under 19.
- 3.5 Under the Education Act 2011, Local Authorities have retained a number of statutory duties:-
- The duty under Section 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 to make available to young people below the age of 19 and relevant young adults (i.e. those aged 20 and over but under 25 with learning difficulties) support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education and training, including young people at risk of disengagement. Support for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and who are in special schools or out of borough education provision, includes completion of statutory reports on the support they need to succeed in post-16 education or training or higher education (known as learning difficulty assessments). It is under this duty that the local authority provides Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for young people in the NEET group or at risk of becoming NEET.
 - To track and record young people's participation post-16 on the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS) database in order to ensure there is reliable data available centrally on young people at risk of being NEET.
 - To continue the process of ensuring that all 16 and 17 year olds receive suitable offers to continue in education or training (the September Guarantee). Achieving the delivery of the September Guarantee involves

extensive contact and follow-up of young people, as well as the recording of their offer status on the (CCIS) database.

- To maintain close links with Jobcentre Plus to ensure that 16-17 year olds eligible for benefits are given appropriate support.

In addition, the Education and Skills Act 2008 places two new duties on local authorities from June 2013 in respect of 16-18 year olds in relation to the raising of the participation age:

- To promote the effective participation in education and training of young people covered by the duty to participate
- To have in place arrangements to identify those who are not participating.

The Council's Strategic Lead School Improvement (Secondary) is working in partnership with education providers and the Youth and Connexions Service to put in place arrangements in relation to the raising of the participation age.

3.6 The local authority meets the responsibilities outlined above through three main provisions:

- An in-house team of eight Connexions Advisers (Intensive support) who work in educational settings, in targeted areas such as working with young people who have offended, care leavers, young people newly arrived in the UK and teenage parents and with young people in the NEET group and by contracting additional delivery.
- A Connexions Services contract, which is currently out to tender for the period 2014 to 2017 in the first instance with the option to extend for periods up to a further two years.
- Maintenance of the Integrated Youth Support database, including CCIS, maintained by Ealing Council on behalf of the West London Boroughs and the Pan-London database maintained by Central London Connexions.

3.7 On 10 September 2013 Ofsted published a report 'Going in the right direction? Careers guidance in schools from September 2012'. Ofsted looked at the extent to which young people in the 14-16 age-range in the 60 schools that inspectors visited were receiving impartial careers advice in order to make informed decisions about their future. Ofsted concluded that the new arrangements for careers guidance in schools were not working well enough and that in three quarters of the secondary schools and academies visited were not implementing their duty to provide impartial careers advice effectively. The survey also found that the guidance for schools on careers advice is not explicit, the National Careers Service is not promoted well enough and there is a lack of employer engagement in schools. Further, very few of the schools visited knew how to provide a service effectively or had the

skills and expertise needed to provide a comprehensive service. Few schools had bought in adequate service from external sources.

3.8 However, in Brent, the majority of secondary schools, including Special Schools and alternative education providers, have agreed to commission careers information, advice and guidance through Brent Council's Youth and Connexions Service, as a discrete service linked to the Council's provision of Connexions Services through the contracted provider, Prospects Services Ltd. This arrangement provides a cohesive independent and impartial advice service for schools and pupils that is also linked to on-going support through the post-school elements of Youth and Connexions Service careers provision. In two of the schools who have not joined this arrangement there is provision either via an externally commissioned provider or by an adviser employed directly by the school. Arrangements for pupils in the third school are not currently known.

3.9 Performance

3.9.1 The level of service contacts provided by the Connexions Service in Brent is good, with a total of 30,503 personal contacts delivered in 2012-2013. In addition there were 15,965 other contacts including contact via group sessions and telephone follow-up work.

3.9.2 The Youth and Connexions service achieves consistently the key performance target for the number of 16-18 year olds in the NEET group. Over the three key months of November 2012 to January 2013 when the target is measured the service achieved a performance of 2.4%. The London average was 4.7%. Brent's performance was the second best in England and an improvement on our 2011-2012 performance as joint 10th best in England. This performance reflects the work of Brent schools in preparing young people to participate in education and training, the Youth Support Services targeted work (including Youth and Connexions), the efforts made to keep in touch with young people, tracking outcomes and re-engagement, and the partnership work with all local post-16 education and training providers to keep young people engaged and achieving. Although this performance was strong, the 2013 performance still represents an average of 250 young people at that time who were yet to find and sustain places in education employment or training. The service continues to put in measures to support this group of young people to progress as shown in the examples given in 3.10 below.

3.9.3 Over the same period, the percentage of young people aged 16-18 (Academic Ages Year 12 to Year 14) whose situation was unknown was 3.2%. The London average was 11.6%. Again this performance is as a result of a wide range of organisations working together effectively to achieve the outcome required. The Connexions work with schools also forms a vital part of the approach, by providing young people with the opportunity to access the support they need to continue in learning and prevent them from moving into the NEET group.

3.9.4 In June 2012 the proportion of 16-17 year olds recorded in education and training in Brent was 93.6%. This exceeded the national average of 86.9%

and the London average of 89.6% and represented the joint sixth highest performance by a local authority for 16 year old participation and the fourth highest for 17 year old participation.

3.9.5 The September Offer is a government commitment to 16 and 17 year old young people to offer a place in education, employment or training after year 11 or year 12. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring this commitment is met. Brent has reported success year on year against this activity. For 2012 Brent exceeded the target achieving 97.8% for 16 year olds and 97.6% for 17 year olds.

3.10 The Youth and Connexions Service has responded to the new arrangements by developing the service delivery to reflect the changing role for the local authority.

3.10.1 Following the closure of the Connexions Centre in Willesden on 31 August 2012, the Youth and Connexions Service has developed a number of access points across Brent:

- Roundwood myplace Youth Centre, Monday to Friday 13.00 to 17.00
- Stonebridge Hillside Hub, Wednesday 10.00 to 16.00 and Thursday 13.30 to 16:30
- Willesden Library Wednesday 13.00 to 15.00
- Brent Civic Centre Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 13.00 to 17.00, with additional drop-in at the Civic Centre Library Tuesday, 10.00 to 12.00
- P3 Navigator Kilburn Tuesday 12.00 to 17.00

These are publicised via Bmyvoice and are becoming well established.

3.10.2 Some examples of careers advice delivery over the past year are given below:

3.10.3 In March 2013, an opportunities event was held at the Roundwood Youth Centre for year 11 and 12 students without a September offer of education, employment or training and young people in the NEET group. Twenty five organisations attended, including CNWL, local apprenticeship providers and employers. Two hundred and sixty six Brent young people attended with their parents and many decided to sign up for the opportunities on offer. This was significant in helping to reduce the numbers of young people reaching the end of the academic year without an offer of a place in education, training or employment for September.

3.10.4 In July 2013 a transition event for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities 'Branching Out' was held at the Roundwood myplace Youth Centre. The event was aimed at young people likely to be leaving school or college over the next few years and offered a range of activities including Yoga. Over 20 organisations attended and offered a range of opportunities such as summer work experience, employment, training, education and leisure activities. The event was a tremendous success with parents, young people and providers praising the quality of the event. Three hundred and sixty six young people and parents/carers attended the event. On the day, 45 young people signed up for work experience over the summer;

31 young people signed up with a youth contract provider, HAFAD, 25 young people signed up for employment opportunities and all local colleges made appointments for young people seeking college courses in September.

- 3.10.5 Brent Connexions have organised a series of apprenticeship events and master classes for young people in the NEET group which have been well attended. One of the events, held on 30 July featured opportunities in construction and motor vehicle mechanical apprenticeships offered by providers in Brent through CITB and MIT training. Ten young people attended who were either in the NEET group or leaving school this summer without an offer for of a place for September. All the young people who attended submitted applications and several have interviews arranged as a result.
- 3.10.6 From December 2012, Connexions Advisers have been running job search sessions from local Jobcentres (Kilburn, Willesden and Harlesden). The sessions cover job search skills such as CV preparation, how to find work and methods of job search. In line with the Local Authority's statutory duties, these sessions are intended to support young people in developing the skills needed to find employment from the moment they register for benefits, thus preventing long term unemployment. The Services has supported 47 young people to date from the Jobcentres.
- 3.10.7 In January 2013 the Connexions Service delivered a Careers Event in conjunction with P3 for Kilburn residents. Around 50 young people in the NEET group attended this event.
- 3.10.8 Since January 2013 Connexions has delivered two Going4Gold programmes aimed at teenage parents who are in the NEET group. Each programme was delivered from a Children's Centre and ran for eleven weeks with a group of eight to ten young parents. The young people attended regularly and engaged actively with the programme, with twelve young people achieving a Level 1 qualification in childcare and a further four achieving units towards the level 1.
- 3.10.9 The Youth and Connexions Service works closely with the School Improvement Service to promote high quality careers information, advice and guidance in schools. The School Improvement Service leads Brent 14-19 Partnership which includes all local education and training providers. A key priority of the partnership is to ensure access for all young people to high quality impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG). The delivery of IAG is therefore a regular item for discussion at meetings providing schools and other institutions with the opportunity to share best practice. As a consequence, one local education institution is setting up a forum for all school careers advisers to work together to improve practice and to ensure expertise in the advisers' knowledge and understanding of current and future labour markets. The 14-19 Partnership also works to ensure that Brent young people achieve the high quality qualifications they need to successfully progress to the further and higher education courses, which will meet their employment aspirations.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The council's Connexions team is funded through the General Fund, £1,278,375.15 in 2013 2014. The schools fulfil their obligations using their delegated budgets.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Child Poverty Implications (required by Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

8.1 Good quality impartial and independent information advice and guidance about learning and work options assists young people to reach their potential, make informed choices and successful transitions, improving life chances sustained into adulthood and parenthood.

Background Papers

Statutory Guidance The duty to secure independent and impartial careers guidance for young people in schools March 2013

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/careers%20guidance%20for%20schools%20-%20statutory%20guidance%20-%20march%202013.pdf>

Going in the right direction? Careers guidance in schools from September 2012 Ofsted 10 September 2013

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/going-right-direction-careers-guidance-schools-september-2012>

National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/Youngpeople.aspx>

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Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2013/14

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Meeting Date	Item	Issue for committee to consider	Outcome	Recommendations
18 June 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.	BYP has focused on bullying, aiming for a clear and consistent policy across schools. They have been campaigning for the Curriculum For Life, and aim for pupils from each school to join this. Are working to raise awareness of the 16-19 bursary amongst young people. 20 th annual Brent Eton Summer School takes place in first week of July.	
	School place strategy report	To consider progress on school place planning and expansion	Report was noted, and that Cheryl Painting would provide further information on detail of works planned at Copland School, and the Equalities Impact Assessment for the School Places Strategy.	
	Inspection of Fostering Service	Members will receive an update on the recent inspection.	Report was noted, and Nigel Chapman would provide further information on the numbers of children placed outside Brent.	
17 July 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	BYP has been supporting the Curriculum For Life campaign, holding an event for pupils from six schools. Mosaic and Brent Anti-bullying Council have been	

	<p>Local Safeguarding Children's board annual report</p> <p>SEN update report</p> <p>School places update</p>	<p>would like the committee to consider.</p> <p>To receive a report on the work of the local authority and its partners to ensure safeguarding of children in Brent</p> <p>To consider progress on transformation of special educational needs provision in the borough</p> <p>Standing item to update committee</p>	<p>asked to provide training for young people which can be further cascaded. Councillors are also requested to speak in schools about their work. BYP is concerned about the effect of personnel changes on its support, however while the vacant support post will be filled, it is unlikely to be added to.</p> <p>Since the new chair took office in May 2012, the structure and constitution of the LSCB has been reformed. A report on the Board's audit work will be submitted at a later meeting of the committee, and Child Poverty implications will be submitted for the current paper before the next meeting of the committee.</p> <p>The One Council Project had supported the service to achieve a number of significant improvements regarding issuing of statements, in-borough provision and financial performance. However, demand is projected to increase over the next seven years at least, and the new regime coming into force from 2014 must be planned for.</p> <p>At 12 July 2013 there were 24</p>	
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	<p>Dental health presentation</p>	<p>members of the current situation regarding school places in the borough</p> <p>Overview from the Director of Public Health on dental health issues of children and young people in Brent</p>	<p>children who had not yet been offered a school place (very recent arrivals), with places available for all. There were 205 children without school places but for whom offers had been made. There would be sufficient secondary school places for the 2014/15 academic year due to free schools opening. October's update will include detail on numbers of children not taking up a school place after more than six months.</p> <p>Oral health of under-5s is a key issue for Brent and was the worst in England in 2007-08, causing school absences and acting as a poor indicator for adulthood. An oral health plan is in development focusing on earlier regular brushing with fluoride toothpastes, working with the dental community and training frontline staff. The committee would propose to the relevant NHS body that dental staff be allowed to go into schools to offer checks to pupils.</p>	
<p>10 October 2013</p>	<p>Corporate parenting – annual report</p> <p>Careers Advice</p>	<p>To receive a report on the council's progress and approach to acting as corporate parent of looked after children</p> <p>Report on services on careers</p>		

	<p>Working with families - update</p> <p>Brent Youth Parliament</p> <p>School Places update</p>	<p>advice requested by BYP</p> <p>Update on the council and its partners' work to intervene early to turn round the lives of families with complex needs and to improve our overall approach to improving families' lives</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Standing item to update committee members of the current situation regarding school places in the borough</p>		
<p>10 December 2013</p>	<p>Brent Youth Parliament</p> <p>Short Breaks Provision update</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Members to receive an update on how the project has developed and what it has achieved.</p>		

	<p>School standards</p> <p>School places update</p> <p>Expenditure of Pupil Premium</p>	<p>A report on standards in the borough's schools</p> <p>Requested by members at June meeting</p>		
<p>05 February 2014</p>	<p>Brent Youth Parliament</p> <p>Update on financial management in schools</p> <p>Progress on borough plan – children and young people</p> <p>School places update</p> <p>Alternative education, behaviour and attendance</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Members have requested for an annual update. The report will provide information on the auditing procedures and findings from audits for Brent schools.</p> <p>Report on progress against CYP pledges in revised borough plan</p> <p>Standing item to update committee members of the current situation regarding school places in the borough</p> <p>Update on plans to transform the approach in the borough to supporting pupils at risk of exclusion and non-attendance</p>		

