

Dr Arlene Baroda
Child Death Overview Panel
Barham House
Wembley Centre for Health & Care
116 Chaplin Road
Wembley
Middlesex
HA0 4UZ

11th December 2013

Dear Dr Baroda

Preventing Child Deaths – Linking Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board (Child Death Overview Panel) and Brent Health and Wellbeing Board

I am responding to your letter dated 3rd December on the findings from the Child Death Overview Panel Meeting on the 6th November.

As chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board I am concerned that suicide prevention for young people is taken forward by the council and its partners in the health and voluntary sectors in Brent. One of the objectives in the borough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to focus on early identification and intervention for children with mental health problems. It is within this work stream that I would expect partners to be addressing suicide prevention for teenagers

With regards to the CDOP's second concern, that we prioritise accident prevention work in school age children, especially in children with special needs, I am reassured that the rate of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents is significantly better in Brent than the England average as measured by analysis of road traffic collision statistics for Greater London and the UK. Brent remains one of the top performing boroughs with respect to reductions in total road casualties. Our Greater London target for reducing numbers of people killed or seriously injured by 50% was met some years ago and we are now revisiting our target to project a more challenging goal.

The council has a Safety and Travel Planning team who are responsible for road safety in Brent. The team aims to visit every school at least once a year to carry out a road safety presentation for pupils and to discuss road safety with school staff representatives. The team encourages schools to develop a school travel plan and works with them to continually improve their plan. If there are any concerns about safety outside the school the council can apply for funding from TfL to take action.

With regards to education the team promote many initiatives including children's traffic club with nurseries and some schools have Junior Road Safety Officers who carry out many activities throughout the year. They also run a programme of free cycle training for school children and adults and work towards ensuring that as many pupils as possible receive cycle training each year.

Despite Brent's strong record on accident prevention, I would like to draw your Panel's conclusions to the wider attention of the Health and Wellbeing Board (not least because they deal with two very important issues). Therefore I propose putting the letter on the Board agenda when it meets on the 26th February 2014. Officers will be in touch separately to confirm the arrangements for this.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Ruth Moher
Deputy Leader of the Council
Labour Councillor for Fryent