



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20 October 2010

Report from the Director of Children and Families

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Report Title: Update on the work of Early Intervention Teams & Social Care Team working in Localities (3)

1. Background Information – Early Intervention Locality Team (EILT)

- 1.1. The EILT's purpose is to work in partnership to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families who are likely to experience difficulties and to break the intergenerational cycle of problems in the long term. The aim is to enable the best start in life for children and young people to empower families to provide strong parenting, resilience and ambition. We work to identify, at the earliest possible opportunity, those children, young people and families who are likely to experience difficulty and to intervene and empower families to transform their lives and the future of their children's lives. We support children and young people aged from 0-19 years old.
- 1.2. The EILT has a focus on early intervention/prevention and is funded primarily through the Delegated Schools Grant (with some posts funded from core budgets). The team is non statutory and therefore relies on parental engagement and willingness to work within the framework. The investment in early intervention/prevention is intended to reduce the demand on specialist statutory services, reducing costs in the long-term. The number of children, young people, adults and families in Brent with high and complex needs is significant.
- 1.3. The EILT focuses on:
 - early identification of families likely to experience difficulty
 - tackling intergenerational issues through robust assessments
 - activities that, if delivered, can reduce the number of specialist interventions
 - bringing agencies together to help and support families
 - targeting work with individuals or families
 - children, young people and families and supporting in an outcomes and meaningful manner

2. Background Information – EILT and Social Care Locality Team Co-Location

- 2.1. The EILT and the Social Care Locality teams have been working alongside each other in a co-located manner for up to a year. The process of co-location was finalised in April 2010 when four out of the five locality teams were co-located and primarily based in their locality across Brent.

3. Principle Aims of Co-location

- 3.1 The key principle of the co-location of the EILT and Social Care Locality teams is to ensure that gaps in the net that help keep children and young people safe are minimised.

Both teams strive to ensure that no one child will fall through the gap and that families will receive seamless support at times of difficulty.

3.2 It is recognised that when families experience difficulty this can often be extremely stressful. The teams work together to minimise these stresses to ensure families have one point of contact (Lead Professional) who will advocate and support them during their times of greatest need. Co-location will allow seamless and efficient information sharing which will be advantageous to the lead professional.

3.3 In summary, the principle aims for co-locating the EILT and the Social Care Locality teams are to provide our children, young people and their families:

- Ease of access to professionals and seamless and timely support
- Improved and sustainable outcomes
- Financial savings; both in location and coordinated services

4. Benefits of and Opportunities for Co-located Teams

4.1 The co-location of the teams has resulted in better integrated working, more effective, efficient and economic service provision which has had knock on effects in terms of quality of service and volume of support to be provided to families.

4.2 Some specific features and benefits of co-located services teams include:

- Services intervene earlier and provide a joined up approach and tailored support for the holistic needs of the family
- Better linkages between local authority and health led services in the early years of life
- Greater sharing of information and a more integrated approach through closer working relationships between staff
- Sharing of administrative costs and greater staffing operational efficiencies
- Financial benefits including reduced building overhead costs through sharing of space and facility running costs
- Sharing of best practise across the team utilising multi-disciplinary skills, capacity and capability
- More joined up and better informed strategic planning of services
- Motivated staff who feel good about the difference they can make
- Sharing of training opportunities and their costs
- A better understanding of local needs and the ethos and objectives of local services.

5. Current Challenges within the EILT and Social Care Locality Team Co-Location

5.1 There are challenges and developments within each of the five localities. These are detailed below:

Locality	Social Care Locality Team Location	EILT Location	Current Challenges/Implications	Future Developments
Wembley	Level 2 Chesterfield House, Wembley	Level 2 Chesterfield House, Wembley		Planned move from Chesterfield House into Civic Centre (July 2013)
Kilburn	Dyne Road, Kilburn	Dyne Road, Kilburn	Budget restraints and high cost building. Limited space for additional staff.	Lease to expire 2013. No plans to move Kilburn into the Civic Centre – therefore accommodation will need to be sought for locality working after 2013.

Willesden	Dyne Road, Kilburn	Level 2 Chesterfield House, Wembley	Not co-located as Willesden locality does not have suitable building for locality based working. Dyne Road has limited space and resources, therefore, co-location is not possible at this time	Proposal to move into Willesden Library in 2014.
Kingsbury	Cottrell House, Wembley	Cottrell House, Wembley	Based in Wembley as Kingsbury locality does not have suitable building for locality based working. Building is not suitable for families to visit.	Lease expires March 2011. Plans to move to Kingsbury Intergenerational Centre by June 2011.
Harlesden	Cottrell House, Wembley	Cottrell House, Wembley	Based in Wembley as Harlesden locality does not have suitable building for locality based working. Building is not suitable for families to visit.	Lease expires March 2011. Plans to move to Challenge House by April 2011.

6. Future Developments of the EILT and Social Care Locality Team and Co-Location

- 6.1 One of the key challenges in moving ahead with the co-location programme will be the commitment and engagement of key partners. Mechanisms are in place to ensure this, however, in the current economic climate we are dependent on continued recognition of the benefits of the model to move forward successfully.
- 6.2 Due to the current economic climate, much of the work to intervene early and prevent the need for more intensive services is not statutory. Therefore, further financial and budget restraints may put the EILT under considerable pressure as resources start to reduce. Funding streams will need to be identified to ensure that early intervention/prevention remains at the fundamental to Brent's commitment to support children, young people and their families.
- 6.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the co-location to ensure that the teams remain focused on the outcomes for the children, young people and their families. This would include and highlight child and family voice to ensure policies and visions reflect family expectations
- 6.4 We predict that there is likely to be a significant increase in supporting families through an early intervention/prevention approach. Currently, the number of children who are subject to Child Protection plans is at its highest level. Therefore, consideration will need to be given both on the financial pressures on the existing resources and also how to expand the resource if needed. The early intervention/prevention model would certainly provide better value for money and support to families at an early stage.

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