



## Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4<sup>th</sup> February 2009

### Report from the Director of Children and Families

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## Local Area Agreement – Priorities for Children and Young People

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report is to inform and update members on the progress and performance of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011 with regard to the priorities for children and young people.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the contents of this report.

### 3.0 Detail

#### **Background**

- 3.1 This report builds on the report to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2008 when proposals for children and young people's priorities were being considered for inclusion in Brent's LAA 2008-2011.
- 3.2 Brent's LAA 2008-2011 was agreed with Government Office for London (GOL) in June 2008. Since then priority leads have worked with the corporate LAA team to develop a performance framework to monitor progress against LAA priorities. Sub indicators or proxy quarterly indicators are being used as supporting data to monitor progress against national indicators.

## **Children and Young People's Priorities**

### **3.3 Improving sexual health N1 112 Under 18 Conception Rate**

The annual target for 2008/09 is a 32.7% reduction in the number of under 18 pregnancies. The main risk to achieving this target is the reconfiguration of the teenage pregnancy and sexual health service. The focus will be placed on prevention of risk taking behaviour among young people rather than support to teen parents, as currently exists. The risks to the service are being minimised by ensuring that there will be no impact or change to the current services commissioned during the reconfiguration. No data has been made available as this is an annual indicator; however the target is expected to be achieved.

### **3.4 Improving Outcomes for BME Groups NI108 Key Stage 4 Attainment for Black Minority Ethnic (Black Caribbean/Somali) Boys**

This Key Stage 4 achievement is an essential measure of pupil attainment at the end of statutory education. The indicator has been split into two sections for Black Caribbean boys and Somali boys and involves giving extra educational support to pupils who have been identified as having difficulties. The annual target is to increase attainment from 30% to 34% for Caribbean Boys and 16% to 19% for Somali boys. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) measure this indicator annually; therefore there is a focus on monitoring the project milestones.

### **3.5 Youth Crime Prevention NI 111 Reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System**

This indicator measures the performance around the prevention of youth offending including truancy, low attainment, employability and substance abuse, for youths aged 10 to 17 years old. The annual target is to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system to 239 entrants. During Quarter 2, there were 69 first time entrants. This figure corresponds with the school holidays where young people have increased free time. A reduction is anticipated in Quarter 3. There are a number of risk factors to achieving the targets including a reduction in the provision and funding of school based youth crime prevention education and the end of regeneration programmes in areas of high deprivation which are associated with high levels of youth crime. . To manage these risks, the team will regularly scrutinise the Youth Offending database and identify opportunities for joint working and funding sources.

### **3.6 Child Obesity NI 56 (a) Proportion of Pupils in Year 6 with Height and Weight Measured (b) Obesity among Primary School Age Children in Year 6**

As part of the National Child Management Programme, PCTs weigh and measure all children at Reception Year and Year 6. The measure has two parts, the proportion of pupils with their height and weight measured and obesity amongst pupils in year 6. This project aims to halt the rise in child obesity and targets are expected to be met. The potential risk is the recruitment of families to the MEND programme, which is a successful healthy lifestyle programme for children that centres on nutrition and weight control. A full cohort for the January programme has been achieved indicating that the project milestones are being fully met.

**3.7 Improving Outcomes for LAC**  
**NI 63 Stability of Placements of Looked After Children, Length of Placement**

This project aims to increase the long term stability of children who remain in care for significant periods of time (continuously for a minimum of 2.5 years or in the same placement for 2 years). The annual target is 78%; a 1% increase on the baseline of 77%, Current performance is 64%. As the service becomes more successful at diverting some young people from being looked after, there is the potential risk that those who do become looked after will have more complex needs which will place greater demands on their placements. This is proving to be an additional challenge as there is the need to recruit foster carers who have the capacity and level of skill to care for young people with complex needs. However, the risk can be minimised by increasing the local recruitment of foster placements.

**3.8 Healthy Schools**  
**The Number of Schools Achieving National Healthy Schools Standard**

This priority is a current stretch target. The latest figure of schools which have achieved the National Healthy Schools Standard is 45, although the annual target of 53 is expected to be met by July 2009.

**3.9 Extended Schools**  
**The Proportion of Primary and Secondary Schools Offering the Core Offer of Extended Services**

This priority is a current stretch target, and monitors both Primary and Secondary Schools. The annual target for Primary Schools is 80% and 100% for Secondary Schools. The potential risk is loss of funding or schools deciding not to engage in extended school services.

**3.10 Improving Educational Outcomes for LAC**  
**NI 101 (a) The Proportion of Looked After Children (LAC) Achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-G**  
**(b) The Proportion of Looked After Children Achieving 1 or more GCSEs A\*-G**

Currently at GCSE level, children in care have a significantly lower levels of educational attainment compared with all children. This indicator is about narrowing the gap between looked after children and all children. For the proportion of LAC achieving more than 5 GCSEs A-G grades the annual target is 31% (an increase from the 2006/2007 baseline of 21%). For the proportion of LAC achieving 1 or more GCSE A-G grade the target is 80% (an increase from 2006/2007 baseline of 54%). Looked After Children often have complex needs which can impact on their ability to sit exams and this is a risk to achieving the target. However, with support from the LAC education team we are well on the way to achieving this target.

**3.11 Children's Sport Participation**  
**The Number of Visits by Children and Young People to Council Owned Leisure Facilities not as part of a Club or School Visit**

This is a current stretch target, due to end in March 2009, which has already achieved its final target and continues to do well.

3.12 **CAMHS Service Effectiveness**  
**NI 51 Effectiveness of CAMHS Services**

The aim of this measure is to develop and improve the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The performance is scored annually against a set of criteria for having specific services in place:

- i. 24 hour provision of emergency mental health services
- ii. Age appropriate services for 16 and 17 year olds
- iii. A specific mental health service for children and young people with learning disabilities.
- iv. Early intervention services available in universal settings such as schools and children's Centres

The annual target of 14 out of 16 is expected to be met as the first three services are established and operational across the borough.

3.13 **Disabled Children's Services**  
**NI 54 Services for Disabled Children**

This aim of this indicator is to improve quality of service for disabled children. The project is due to start in March 2009. Any data collected this year will be used to establish a baseline. Although recent consultation on this indicator suggests that it may be further deferred or revised.

**Summary**

- 3.14 Children and young people's priorities in the LAA 2008-2011 appear to be on track towards meeting their respective targets. However ongoing quarterly monitoring will be essential to identify early potential issues and difficulties with a view to implementing remedial measures to ensure performance remains on track.
- 3.15 The Council as part of its 2009/10 budget setting process is reviewing the allocation of the growth element of Area Based Grants (ABG), which are grants the Government provides to support the Council's performance against its LAA targets. There is therefore an element of risk to the overall level of ABG that will be available to Children and Families to support its achievement of LAA targets. This issue will become clearer as the budget process proceeds through to March when the Council sets the final budget.

**Background Papers**

- a) Partners for Brent (Local Strategic Partnership) Quarterly Performance Report for the LAA 2008-2011
- b) Report to Children and Families, Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Local Area Agreement Proposals 2008-2011, Children & Young People, April 23 2008.

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