	<p style="text-align: center;">Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29 April 2009</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Children and Families</p>
<p>For Information Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>Progress of Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) 2008-09</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the progress made by the Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) now in its second year.
- 1.2 The report includes the progress made against the Terms of Reference (TOR) agreed by the currently elected BYP, issues raised by the current MYPs (members of youth parliament) within their portfolio groups and future activities planned by BYP around their chosen campaign for the year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the good progress made by the BYP and of the issues raised by the five portfolio groups.
- 2.2 Members are requested to endorse the campaign chosen by the MYP's for their term in office, outlined in paragraph 3.17.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 The BYP was established with the aim of creating a robust youth participation structure that would:
- be representative of the borough's children and young people and

- encourage the young people in Brent to have a voice and influence policy and decision making.

The work of BYP is based on the framework of good practice as advocated by the Hear by Right Standards¹.

3.2 Elections were held in October 2008 during Local Democracy Week to elect new members onto BYP for the year 2008-2009. There are 63 seats on BYP and these are comprised of representatives aged 10 to 19 from local schools including special schools and local youth groups. The structure chart of BYP and the profile of current MYPs for the year 2008-2009 are shown in Appendix 1.

3.3 The MYP's were inducted in November 2008 and started their formal monthly sessions from December where they elected their chair, vice chair, secretary and UKYP representatives. Together these five MYP's form what is known as the BYP Executive. The role of the Executive is to set the agenda for the monthly parliament sessions, facilitate the sessions and steer the BYP forward supported by participation officers.

Terms of Reference (TOR)

3.4 At the induction the elected MYP's agreed their TOR for their term in office. These are outlined below along with the progress made to date against each area.

A) To be the voice of young people in Brent

Progress to date

3.5 BYP have held monthly parliament sessions with an attendance of over 75% per session. The sessions are planned and facilitated by the young people. The aim of the monthly parliament sessions is to provide a space where young people can talk about and raise issues that are of importance to the young people of Brent and to also act as a consultative forum for policy makers. Some of the agenda items at the parliament sessions to date have included:

- review of the council's complaints procedures in order to make them young people friendly,
- debate on whether the age of voting should be lowered to 16 years,
- direct input into the development of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), ensuring that the identification of the priorities in the plan is based on the views of young people,
- Identification of issues of importance to young people in Brent based in line with Member Portfolios,
- collective agreement on a campaign that BYP will focus on for the year 'breaking the stereotypes of young people'

3.6 In addition to attending the monthly parliament sessions, MYPs also take part in meetings outside of the sessions that require young people's perspective. They also attend forums to listen to the views of other young people. For instance

¹ These are set of good practice guidelines written by the National Youth Agency on how best to engage young people in decision making.

- MYPs regularly meet with the team of professionals responsible for the design of the Ark Academy in Wembley to ensure that the design takes into consideration the needs and desires of young people,
- MYPs contributed to the submission of the My Place bid² which was subsequently successful and now the MYPs will get involved with the design of the new youth centre in Roundwood,
- MYPs attend the Brent Youth Matters 2 surgery meetings every month to give an update on the work of BYP and to listen to any issues raised by other young people. MYPs have also created a BYP account on Facebook³ in order to communicate with non members.

The full list of meetings and events attended by BYP to date along with the impact made is shown in Appendix 2.

3.7 In order for the young members to fulfil their duties as MYPs, robust support structures are put in place that allow the young MYPs to develop their skills and knowledge whilst being a member of youth parliament. All the newly elected MYPs attend an all day induction where they take part in team building activities, learn about the role of the youth parliament and decision making in the council. At every parliament session there is an ice breaker that helps the MYPs develop more skills e.g. taking part in a debate to improve public speaking skills. Ten of the MYPs this year are amongst the group of young people that have trained as grant makers to support the distribution of the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF).

B) To have a say in decisions that are usually made by adults and to influence policy

Progress to date

3.8 BYP act as the borough's youth consultative forum. The raised profile of BYP since its establishment in 2007 has led to a vast number of colleagues requesting consultation with BYP before initiating new projects and/or when reviewing their services. This has included consultation on sports facilities, play equipment in local parks, survey seeking views of young people about improvements needed in their neighbourhoods, the quality of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) in schools and development of the Wembley Master Plan.

3.9 The BYP has been involved from the start, with the development of Brent's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2009-2011. This is the overarching strategic plan for services for children and families and covers the work of statutory and community sectors across the borough. MYPs were asked at the formative stages of the plan's development to identify key issues facing young people in Brent. This was to ensure that recent views of young people formed the basis of the plan, making it current, relevant and directly responsive to the needs of young people, as identified by them. BYP's views about what they would like to see changed/improved based on the five Every Child Matters outcomes have also directly informed the selection of the priorities and objectives in the CYPP.

² Bid to build a state of the art youth centre in Roundwood

³ A social networking site that is hugely popular amongst young people and adults.

- 3.10 The chair and vice chair of BYP are both members of the Children's Partnership Board⁴ thereby ensuring the views of young people are taken into consideration during strategic decision making. Plans are also in place to develop closer links between the work of BYP and Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.11 The involvement of young people in the recruitment of staff that work with young people was identified by last years BYP as an area for development. It was felt by young people that these decisions were often made solely by adults yet they have a significant impact on young people (the service users). Based on that feedback, this year 12 MYP's received certified two day training on recruitment and selection from CIPD⁵ and are being involved in the recruitment and selection of staff⁶.
- 3.12 This year the BYP selected five portfolios from the list of Member Portfolios that they felt were relevant to young people. They subsequently identified one single issue per portfolio which they feel needs to be addressed in order to improve services for young people in Brent. The list of the portfolios and the issues identified are stated further on in the report.

C) To promote the work of BYP and celebrate the achievements of young people

Progress to date

- 3.13 Since the elections in October 2008, the BYP has featured in six out of the seven issues of the monthly Brent Magazine. The Brent community website BRAIN has pages dedicated to BYP and articles on BYP have also featured regularly in the local press. MYPs attend the monthly Brent Youth Matters 2 forum, attended by young people from across the borough to give an update on the work of BYP and to listen to any issues raised by other young people.
- 3.14 In February this year BYP in collaboration with Brent Youth Matters 2 and Brent Youth Volunteers organised two celebration events:
- The achievements of young people were recognised at an Oscar style awards ceremony attended by 400 guests. The red carpet event attended by the Mayor of Brent and the Leader of the Council amongst other distinguished guests; and it included educational attainment, triumph over adversity and champion for young people amongst the 14 award categories in total.
 - The second event recognised Brent's musical talents across both generations. The Generation X-Factor brought together a variety of performances showcasing the tremendous talent residing in Brent. Trophies were handed out to the winner and the runner up. This event was also used to undertake a short survey gathering young people's views on service provision. Results from the survey were sent to relevant service areas and will feed into the developments of the CYPP.
- Both events attracted extensively positive publicity and were very well attended⁷ by young people, parent and carer, council staff and local Cllrs. The events were made

⁴ Formerly known as the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board

⁵ The *Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development* is the United Kingdom's leading professional body for those involved in the management and development.

⁶ One young person is currently involved in the recruitment of a participation worker for the establishment of Children in Care Council.

⁷ Brent Youth Oscars was attended by 400 guests and the Generation X-Factor was attended by 300 guests.

possible due to a successful bid to the Department of Children, Schools and Families, to pilot local celebration events fostering positive perceptions of young people.

D) To work with UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) and influence national policy

Progress to date

3.15 Brent currently has four seats on UKYP where Brent’s young people have the opportunity to directly influence national policy. Brent MYP’s are active members of UKYP attending regular meetings and events. Brent representatives have attended every annual sitting of the UKYP in the last two years. The chair of BYP is currently a member of the national UKYP youth advisory board that was recently successful in winning the debate about UKYP having access to the House of Commons for their annual debate.

Portfolios

3.16 The current BYP have selected five portfolios from the list of Member Portfolios and have chosen to focus on a single issue within each area. Letters from the chair of BYP have been sent to the respective Lead Members and directors of departments requesting responses to the issues highlighted by BYP.

Portfolio	Issue raised by BYP
Crime Prevention and Public Safety	BYP would like to see an increase in street lighting in places where young people gather such as parks, youth centres as well as other open spaces in Brent. Young people have expressed the view that this will help them to feel safe and reduce their likelihood of becoming victims of crime.
Health and Social Care	BYP would like to see an improvement in the provision of health education and health facilities available for young people in schools. Their main concern is around the quality Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), lack of fitness facilities and the availability of unhealthy food options/poor dining environment within schools.
Environment and Culture	BYP would like to see an increase in the primary pupil’s awareness on the impact that litter dropping, fly tipping, spitting and chewing gum have on the environment. BYP believe that education on the above issues should start at primary age, thereby increasing the chances of young people adapting their behaviours to be more environmentally friendly as they grow up.
Regeneration and Economic Development	BYP would like to see more open spaces and/or buildings in Brent that can be used by young people particularly in Cricklewood, Kensal Rise, Preston Road and Kingsbury. BYP would further like to influence new developments in Brent e.g. in the Wembley area and the Civic Centre to ensure that all new developments take young people’s needs into consideration.

Children and Families	BYP would like to see more information and advice given to young people on CV writing and equipping young people with life skills that will make them ready for employment.
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Campaign of the year ‘breaking the stereotypes of young people’

- 3.17 MYP’s voted for ‘breaking the stereotypes of young people’ as their campaign for the year. The main focus of the campaign is to combat negative perceptions of young people in society by publicising the good work that young people get involved in locally and by challenging the media about the negative stories published in the local press. There are plans to organise a youth conference in October 2009 that will bring together young people from across the borough, local and national decision makers and media representatives to find ways of breaking down the negative stereotypes of young people and fostering positive images of young people.

Monitoring and evaluation

- 3.18 Feedback is sought from MYPs at the end of each parliament session on the quality and content of the session. To date the overwhelming majority of the feedback has consistently been positive. This is further supported by the voluntary attendance of young people at the monthly parliament sessions which has been maintained at 75% and above per session.
- 3.19 There is a sense of positive contribution from the young members and a genuine desire to make Brent a great place to live for all young people. Progress against the TOR is indicative of the impact that BYP has made so far into its second year.
- 3.20 BYP activities are monitored on a regular basis both by council officers and by the MYPs themselves. BYP members currently range from age 10-19. This includes ten year 6 pupils from local primary schools. There is a concern that the very youngest children may not be benefitting fully from their participation in the BYP. This may be for the following reasons:
- small number that are represented (ten) on the BYP,
 - the vast difference between the age range (10 to 19) with the majority aged between 14-19 years,
 - the level of discussion at sessions is aimed predominantly at teenagers and
 - the lack of participation in activities in-between sessions by the primary age pupils.
- 3.21 Consultation with primary pupils, their parents and local primary schools is planned to discuss the involvement of primary pupils in youth parliament activities in order to improve their engagement.

Background Papers

- a) Annual report of Brent Youth Parliament 2007-2008
- b) Brent Children & Young People’s Plan (Draft) 2009-2011

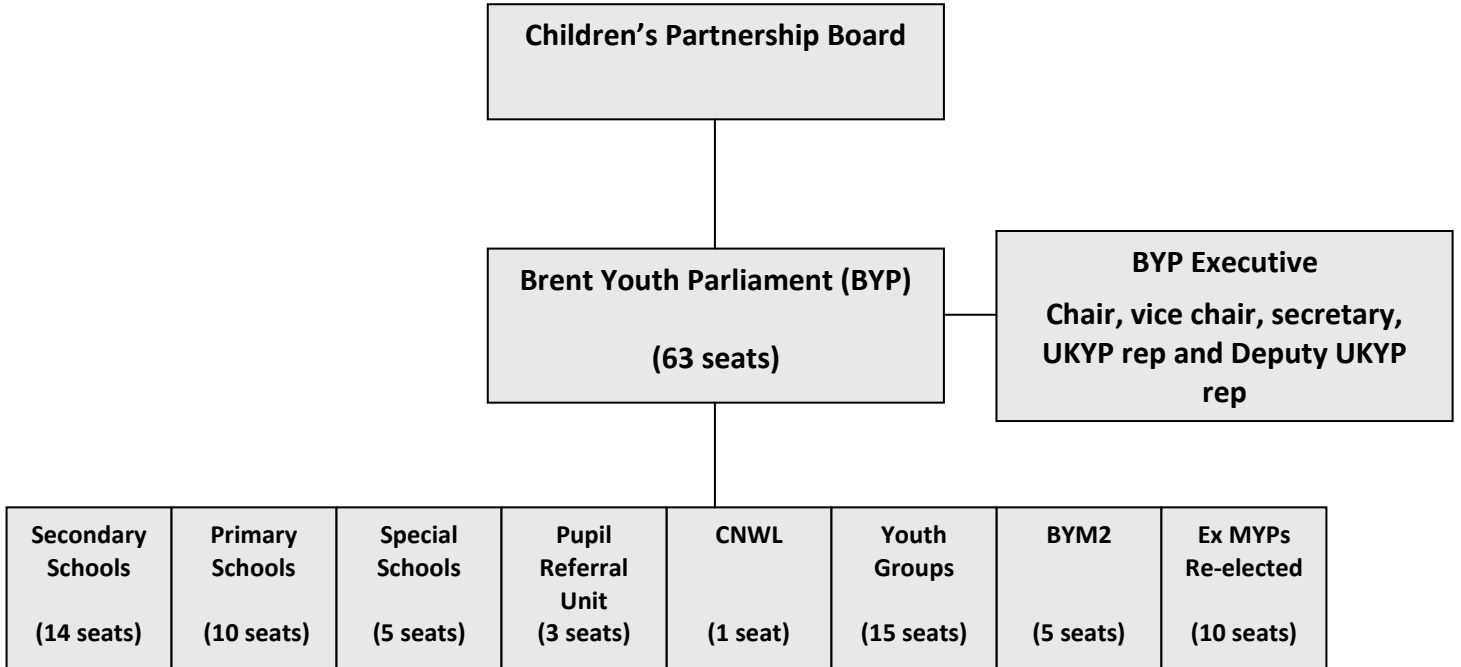
Contact Officers

Sarah Mansuralli, Head of Joint Strategy & Commissioning, Children and Families department. Email sarah.mansuralli@brent.gov.uk , Telephone 020 8937 3128
Or

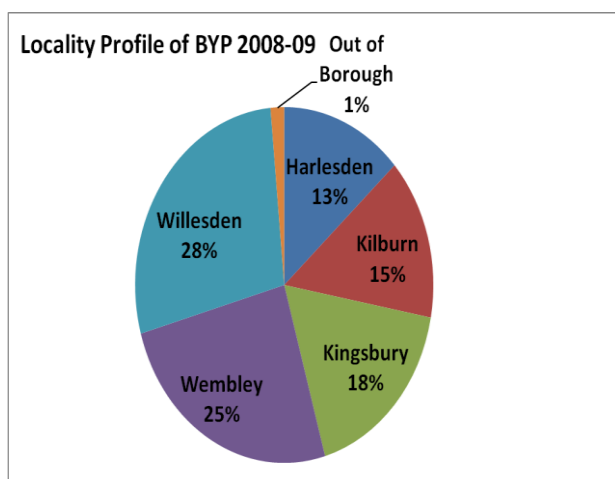
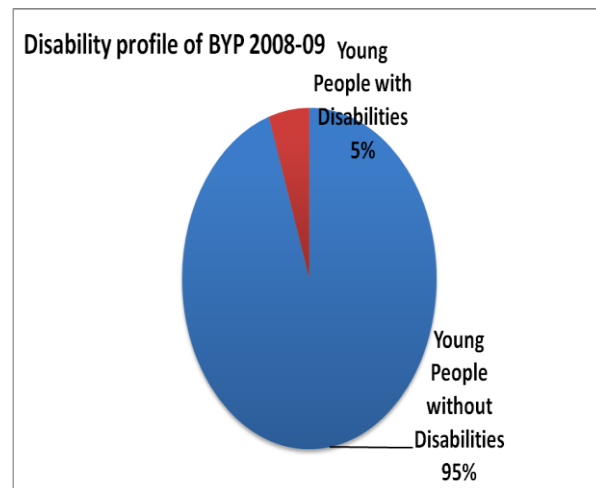
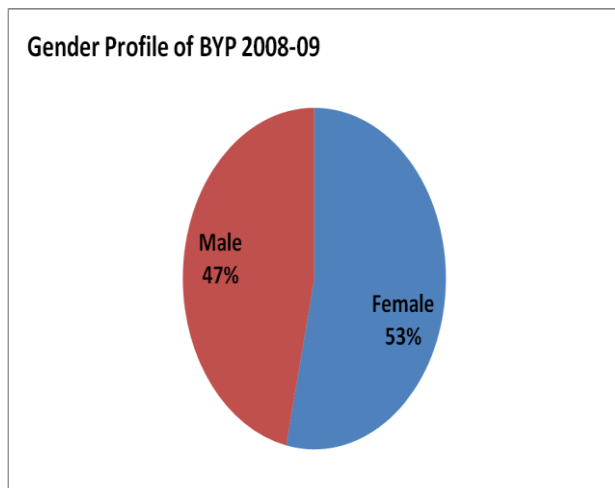
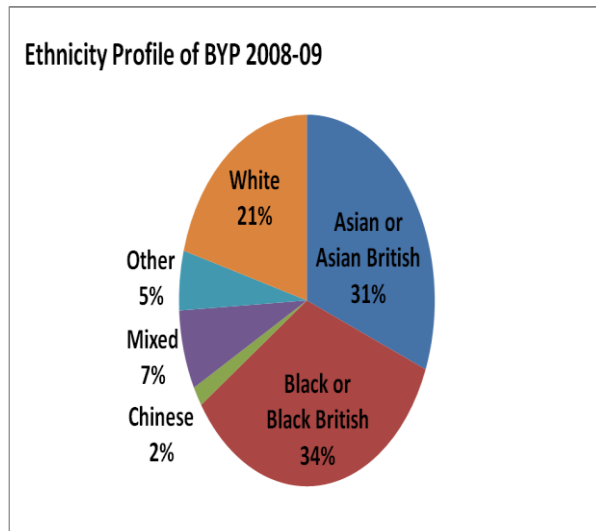
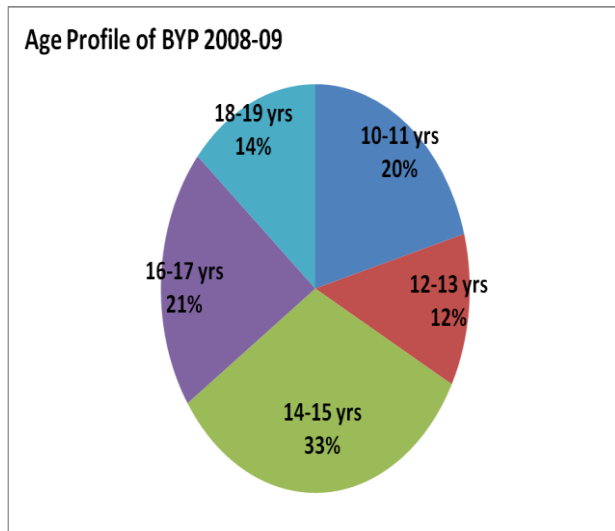
Krutika Pau, Assistant Director, Strategy & Partnerships, Children and Families department. Email krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk , Telephone 020 8937 3126

John Christie: Director of Children and Families

Brent Youth Parliament (BYP) Structure



Profile of BYP members elected for 2008-2009



Note: In order to be a member Of BYP, young people have to either be a resident in the borough or go to school in the borough. The locality profile is based on where young people live. Therefore, the 1% out of borough members as shown above are the ones that live out of borough but go to school in Brent.

Appendix 2

Details of events/meetings attended by BYP in its second year to date

Event /activity	Impact / difference made
October 2008	
BYP activities during Local Democracy Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual BYP elections - A group of young people trained in poll clerk duties (in partnership with electoral services) - Workshop on how to get involved with local democracy facilitated by BYP members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BYP elections give a large number of young people in the borough an opportunity to get elected to become a member of the youth parliament (MYP), thereby giving them the access to directly influence policy. It further advocates the participation of young people in local democracy. - Training of young people on poll clerk duties not only increases the chance of them registering to vote at 17 but it also allows young people employment opportunities in future elections.
November 2008	
BYP Induction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The newly elected members took part in team building activities and were given information on how decisions are made within local government, in order to equip them to be able to fully participate in discussions at future BYP sessions.
11 Million Takeover Day	<p>For this years Takeover Day activities included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shadowing the Leader of the council, - being the editor of The Brent Magazine for one day, - interviewing the Chief Executive of Brent Council and - pupils at Park Lane Primary took over their school for one day acting as staff. <p>These activities not only give young people taking part opportunities to meet decision makers but also help reinforce the importance of young people in society.</p>
UKYP Circles of Influence event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 MYPs attended this annual event to take part in discussions and debates that contribute towards changing national policy. This year's focus was on young people and leadership and the notion of encouraging more young people to get involved in leadership roles within society.
December 2008	
BYP session in December 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MYPs had direct experience of democratic process by taking part in elections to elect members of the BYP Executive. - MYPs learnt about campaigning and voted on their

	<p>campaign for the year 'breaking the stereotypes of young people'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MYPs contributed towards the development of the Children and Young People's Plan ensuring young people's views were taken into consideration right from the planning stages.
January 2009	
BYP session in January 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At this session MYPs tested their debating skills and had a debate on whether the age of voting should be lowered to 16. - They reviewed the council's complaints procedures in order to make them more young people friendly. - MYPs learnt how to identify various types of bullying and further how to tackle anti bullying.
Recruitment and Selection training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 MYPs received 2 day certified training from CIPD on recruitment and selection practices, so they can get involved in recruitment of staff that work with children and young people.
Holocaust Memorial Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 MYPs lit the memorial candles and 2 MYPs read poetry at this year's Holocaust Memorial Day. BYP has maintained annual presence at this day to mark young people's commitment and respect for such events.
Anti Bullying Council (ABC) half termly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ABC is represented on BYP and one of the participation workers regularly attends the ABC meetings to ensure robust links between the work of the two groups.
New Years Day Parade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nine MYPs took part in the Brent float at the New Years Parade, demonstrating young people's commitment to joining in with the wider celebrations across London. For their time and effort at the parade, the young attendees received medals from the Mayor of Brent Cllr Ralph Fox.
February 2009	
Brent Youth Oscars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BYP in collaboration with other groups (Brent Youth Matters 2 and Brent Youth Volunteers) organised Brent's first ever Oscar's style awards ceremony. - Young people were recognised for their achievements across 14 award categories that included educational attainment, triumph over adversity and best sports person amongst the other categories. - The event demonstrated the skills of the young planners as well as showcasing the talent of the young people across the borough.
Generation X Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The young planners organized a follow up event in the form of a talent show 'Generation X- Factor' that brought together different generations from across the borough. - This event demonstrated community cohesion across

	<p>cultures and generations. The event was also used to gather opinions of 100 young people using hand held voting system about service provision in Brent. Results from the survey were sent to respective departments and are feeding into the CYPP developments.</p>
NSPCC event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 MYPs from Brent attended and contributed to a consultation day organised by NSPCC. Aim of the day was to find out from young people their views on gun crime, knife crime and gang culture; their opinion on services for deaf and disabled young people and their views on best ways to engage young people. - Findings from the event will not only help develop policies at NSPCC but also contribute to service improvements within Brent.
YOF Grant Makers residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 MYPs attended and received training to become grant makers for the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund. This grant is for young people to spend on projects and is administered by the Brent Youth Service.
March 2009	
BYP session in March 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At this session the MYPs focused on identifying key issues affecting young people in Brent based on the five Member Portfolios. - The MYPs further discussed how they wanted to implement their campaign and publicise BYP to non members. - MYPs were consulted on the second draft of the CYPP following their input at the December BYP session.
UKYP residential and UKYP London region meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 MYPs attended the London UKYP regions residential where Brent MYPs had the opportunity to learn about the work of the UKYP and were able to represent the views of Brent's young people at UKYP level. - 2 MYPs attended the monthly London region meeting to talk about issues that affect London youth.
Brent Dragons' Den	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BYP in partnership with Brent police and Brent Community Safety Board organised a Dragons' Den style event where young people from across the borough were invited to bid for £6000 prize money for coming up with the winning idea to reduce youth crime. The winning group from Capital City Academy will be supported by the police and the Community Safety Board in the implementation of their project. - Initiatives like Dragons' Den demonstrate commitment from agencies to jointly work with young people in developing solutions to local problems.
Design consultation for Ark Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MYPs have held regular meetings with staff from Ark Academy along with staff from Willmott Dixon Construction company to discuss the design and build

	<p>of the Ark Academy in Wembley. The aim is for the design to take into consideration the needs and desires of young people.</p>
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