

	<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 Action Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Consultation on Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011</p>	

1.0 Summary

1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) describes the ambitions and objectives for children and young people's services in Brent over the next two years (2009-11). The CYPP represents the collective vision and aspirations of the local Children's Trust, Brent Children's Partnership (BCP)¹ who are committed to providing the services and resources needed to improve the well-being of children and young people in the borough. The term well-being encompasses a range of aspects and is defined in the Children Act, 2004 as the promotion of:

- physical and mental health
- emotional well-being
- social and economic well-being
- education, training and recreation
- recognition of the contribution made by children to society
- protection from harm and neglect.

1.2 The Brent Children's Partnership vision is for **Brent to be a great place for children and young people to grow up in**. The content and context of both the Plan and the functioning of our Children's Partnership is governed by a range of legislative requirements stated within the Children Act 2004 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

¹ The Partnership is comprised of senior leaders from local statutory and voluntary agencies in the borough as well as elected members and representatives from Brent Youth Parliament (BYP).

- 1.3 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill which was recently published (5th February 2009) is currently being debated in the House of Commons. The Bill proposes to establish statutory responsibilities for a wide range of matters including Children's Trusts, apprenticeships, Children's Centres, learning and skills as well as educational provision by 2011. Although Brent Children's Partnership (BCP) has attempted to incorporate key aspects of the Bill into this plan, a new plan will be developed in 2011 that responds fully to any new legislative requirements following the passage of the Bill into law.
- 1.4 The CYPP is consistent with, and aligned to, a number of local partnership plans in order to achieve the full scope of the ambitions set out. The plan builds on Brent's Community Strategy (2006-10), developed by Partners for Brent (Brent's Local Strategic Partnership) to ensure that Brent is a great place, a borough of opportunity and an inclusive community.
- 1.5 As well as taking account of this legal and strategic context, the plan has been developed by analysing the needs of the Brent population using the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and locality profiles of children and families. The views of children and young people have also informed this plan, through ongoing consultation with Brent Youth Parliament. The intelligence gained from these sources, coupled with an annual review of progress against the five ECM outcomes has enabled us to identify both our strengths and those areas where further improvements are needed.
- 1.6 The CYPP has been made available for public and partner consultation with the formal consultation period ending on 24 April 2009. The Plan is to be effective from May 2009.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to review the plan and endorse the priorities it sets out to achieve.
- 2.2 Members are requested to recommend the approval of Brent's CYPP (2009-2011) to Full Council.

3.0 Detail

Introduction & Background

- 3.1 Brent Children's Partnership is responsible for the preparation of the plan and its implementation. The development of the plan has been led by a steering group of senior managers from both the council and partner agencies ensuring that the priorities identified are inclusive of all agencies and accurately reflects the needs of Brent's young people. Members of the BYP have also had a vital role in ensuring that the views of young people have been considered throughout the development of the plan.

- 3.2 The scope of the plan aligns with section 10 (9) of the Children's Act (2004) which states that the CYPP must cover services for all children and young people in the area aged 0 to 19, young people aged 20 and over leaving care and young people up to the age of 25 with learning difficulties. This CYPP is a two year plan (2009-2011) and will be reviewed annually as part of our Annual Performance Assessment (APA) programme.
- 3.3 The Plan considers the context in which children and young people are growing up in Brent. The CYPP provides a brief assessment of our progress, identifying areas where we have made good progress and areas requiring further development. This assessment has informed the future priorities.

CYPP Priorities

- 3.4 Based on our annual review against performance; dialogue with staff that work with young people; as well as direct consultation with members of BYP, we have identified key priorities which require collective focus to achieve sustainable improvements in outcomes for all children and young people in Brent.
- 3.5 The Partnership has identified four broad priorities which are considered central to the well-being of children and young people in Brent and reflect the government's agenda in The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures. These priorities encapsulate what the Plan is setting out to achieve over the next two years. The priorities include:
- *ensure that children and young people remain safe and protected*
 - *ensure that excellent education and training is available to all our children and young people*
 - *ensure access to the very best opportunities in and out of school*
 - *support the development of strong families to improve outcomes for children.*
- 3.6 Brent Children's Partnership recognises the importance of ensuring that all children and young people are able to access the opportunities available to them. For some, this may mean that they will need additional support to allow them to have the same chance to succeed. To this end, they commit to ensuring that these additional needs are identified in a timely manner and that there is a continuum of support to address all levels of need: universal, targeted and specialist.
- 3.7 Universal services such as early years' settings, schools, youth clubs and primary healthcare provision have an essential role to play in a preventative system and good quality services at this level are the foundation of the partnership's strategy for improving outcomes. It is at this level that the needs of most children and young people in Brent can be met. Children and young people with additional needs will require additional targeted responses from services for varying periods of time. Such needs may be met by one agency (Level One) or, where there are multiple additional needs, a multi-agency approach may be required (Level Two). A small number of children have more complex or severe needs (at Level 3) and the lead responsibility for working with them is likely to be taken by specialist statutory services.

3.8 Brent Children's Partnership recognises that socio-economic disadvantage is a key factor which makes children and young people experience poor outcomes. The Partnership will work across traditional agency boundaries to achieve the priorities identified and is aware that without this, it will not be possible to improve children and young people's prospects across all the five ECM outcomes.

3.9 The CYPP sets out under each priority what the Partnership aims to achieve and how they will address this for each level of need. The outcomes for each priority are listed below. Further detail about the process for achieving these outcomes is available in section six of the CYPP, appended to this report. Additionally, national indicators that will be used to measure performance against each outcome are shown next to each outcome.

3.10 **Priority One - Children and young people remain safe and protected**

What BCP will achieve:

1. More children and young people will feel safe and are protected from abuse, crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school. [NI 17, 22, 48, 198. Tellus Survey]
2. The number of children and young people, including those identified as vulnerable, will have the knowledge and understanding to live healthy, safe and active lifestyles. [NI 58, 62, 63, 66]
3. More children and young people, including those in care and those with disabilities, live in safe environments and be protected from harm, exploitation, abuse and neglect. [NI 63, 64, 65]
4. The number of children and young people in care will be reduced. [NI 62, 63]
5. The number children and young people involved in crime as either victims or perpetrators will decrease. [NI 43, 44, 111, PAF CF/C18]

3.11 **Priority Two - Excellent education and training is available to all our children and young people**

What BCP will achieve:

1. Attainment and progress at all Key Stages will match or exceed national averages. [NI 72]
2. More children and young people will have access to 21st century high quality learning environments. [BSF/PCP/CC Capital Developments]
3. All children and young people will have access to the information, knowledge and skills required to make informed choices and effective transitions to adulthood and working life [NI 91, 117]
4. All young people, aged 14-19, will have access to a broad range of high quality learning opportunities and experiences including Diplomas and Apprenticeships. [NI 90, 91]
5. All schools and settings will enable children and young people to develop economic and financial capability. [NI 90, 91, 117, 148]

3.12 Priority Three - Access to the very best opportunities in and out of school

What BCP will achieve:

- 1.** More children and young people will develop the knowledge and confidence to take advantage of the opportunities available to them.
- 2.** The number of children and young people involved in positive activities in and out of school will increase. [NI 2, 3, 5, 88, 110, 199, TellUs Survey]
- 3.** A greater proportion of children and young people will be given opportunities to influence local decisions. [Brent Youth Parliament, Brent Youth Matters 2 and Brent Youth Volunteers]
- 4.** More children and young people will engage with their communities and demonstrate positive behaviour in and out of school. [NI 2, 3, 5, 199]
- 5.** A culture of achievement for children and young people will be established and community cohesion among and within Brent's diverse communities will be promoted. [NI 2, 3, 5, 199]

3.13 Priority Four - Developing strong families to improve outcomes for children

What BCP will achieve:

- 1.** The living conditions of children, young people and families will be improved. [NI 45, 88, 90, 91, 117, 148]
- 2.** More children and young people, including those who are vulnerable will be resilient and lead healthy lifestyles. [NI 52, 53, 55, 56, 112, 113]
- 3.** All families will be able to access help at any stage of their child's development
- 4.** All families will be empowered to initiate and implement change in their communities
- 5.** More families will be supported in making the most of opportunities available to them and their children and in making more informed choices.

3.14 The Plan places an emphasis on strengthening the capacity of universal services to be the front end of a preventative system while prioritising the need for more targeted or sustained support to avoid poor outcomes. Over time, it is hoped that early intervention and preventative support services will reduce the demand for more specialist and complex services. It is unlikely that the full impact of this will be felt in the lifetime of this Plan, which means that the Partnership will need to balance the allocation of resources to early intervention and prevention services whilst maintaining its capacity to provide specialist or statutory services where these are needed.

3.15 To ensure that the priorities and objectives of the CYPP become a reality for Brent's children and young people, the Partnership sets out a focus on three key areas of work:

- ensuring robust safeguarding systems, processes and structures across the Partnership
- narrowing the gap in outcomes for the most vulnerable while improving outcomes for all children and young people
- delivering integrated locally based services that are child and family focused.

Governance and accountability

3.16 The processes that will be employed to measure our progress is set out in section nine of the plan and arrangements for governance and accountability are detailed in section ten. BCP is clear about the importance of a strong inter-agency governance model to deliver the priorities. This will be achieved through systematic and regular monitoring of progress against the priorities taking into account the various partnerships that exist within the structure as well as the children, young people and their families from a service user point of view.

Background Papers

- a) Draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009-2011 (appended)
- b) Children and Young People's Plan Guidance 2009, DCSF, January 2009
- c) Statutory guidance on inter-agency, cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families, DCSF, November 2008

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