

APA 2008 – Action Plan to address Areas for Development as noted by Ofsted

ECM Outcome	Areas for Development	Action to be Taken	Lead Officer
Be Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health assessments and dental checks for looked after children have fallen below similar councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated efforts are being made to target health checks to ensure all LAC whose health checks are outstanding are completed within timescales. An SLA with the PCT is being developed to address performance issues. This will enable us to routinely monitor performance on a quarterly basis. Work is ongoing to increase the number of YP who take advantage of the weekly surgery provided by the LAC nurse. 	Janet Palmer/Graham Genoni
Stay Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of looked after children having had three or more placement moves in one year has risen above similar councils and national averages. The number of core assessments completed within timescale has risen slightly but remains below similar councils and the national average. In the following key areas of social care provision the council's performance has fallen and is below that of similar councils and the national average: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reviews of children subject to a child protection plan the number of looked after children adopted within 12 months of the decision of best interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is some tension between the priority to achieve cost effective placements and this indicator. The detail of children's moves has been regularly examined and steps taken to ensure that where a child has to move this is to the best match placement available. A new social care structure (five locality teams) has been in place from 19 January. There is additional resource and a different allocation system, both of which will increase the number of CAs completed within timescales. This is being closely monitored and the amount of time available for chairing case conferences has been increased. Efforts to family find are being targeted at those who have waited longest. 	Janet Palmer/Graham Genoni
Enjoy & Achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards at the end of the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 remain below similar councils and national figures. Despite a rising trend in results, the attainment of Black Caribbean, Black African and looked after children remains below that of other groups of children and young people in Brent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation stage results in 2008 rose sharply to bring the LA in line with the rest of the region. Programmes of action to raise attainment at the foundation stage and key stage 1 are being implemented with support from the National Strategies The attainment of Black Caribbean and Somali 	Rik Boxer

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		children continued to rise in 2008 and progress is being made in narrowing the gap. There is a major cross-Council initiative in place to improve outcomes for underachieving groups. Specific projects and targeted initiatives in schools to support the achievements of different groups of children are continuing.	
Make a Positive Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-offending rates are above similar councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are revising our PPO/PYO offer in line with the recently announced changes to these schemes allowing us to place renewed emphasis on work with these young offenders. We have also recently appointed officer with specific responsibility for 'value added' work with this client group Our Resettlement and Aftercare Programme is being extended to work with those young people on community penalties whose additional needs (particularly substance misuse and mental health) make them more likely to re-offend. We are working more closely with Housing – particularly via the Supporting People strand with an officer located in the YOS for part of the week– to address the accommodation needs of clients – a noted risk factor in re-offending. 	Janet Palmer
Achieve Economic Well Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The breadth of work-based learning opportunities remains too narrow and the availability of apprenticeships is limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An apprenticeship scheme is being developed within the Council to offer apprenticeships to 16-19 year olds across a range of Council service areas. Discussions have taken place with potential training providers to deliver the qualification element of the apprenticeships. The Brent In 2 work employment programme continues to deliver its services to unemployed residents in the Borough, targeting specific hard to reach groups including young people. 	Rik Boxer/Krutika Pau