

**Full Council
25th June 2007**

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman,
Leader of the Conservative Group**

Violence ‘a problem for children’

This Council expresses its deep concern at the report in the National Newspapers recently which said that England is one of the world’s worst places for children’s safety and security. The Children’s Commissioner launched a five year plan recently because of the crisis facing young people which included key issues such as youth justice, anti social behaviour, asylum and trafficking, mental health and education.

This Council believes that so many children’s lives are deplorable and that this Council needs to help champion the rights of children, particularly after the tragic and sad disappearance of Madeleine McCann in Portugal. This Council affirms our hope that Madeleine will shortly be reunited with her parents.

This Council’s work should be firmly grounded to be aware of children’s health and happiness and that there is a crisis in society where children and young people have been failed for some time.

This Council is also aware that one of the biggest fears of children is violence and bullying in schools and records its concerns and hopes for serious improvements in the future. The NSPCC recently said that “children should not have to accept violence as part of growing up and that a survey had shown that children themselves feel that violence invades their lives at school, at home and on the streets”. The NSPCC also said recently that one in three children who call Childline say they are suffering from violence and abuse and that bullying has been the main a reason for calling the helpline for the past 10 years.

This Council welcomes new initiatives in Children and Families to improve the fostering and adoption services. This Council calls on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a review of the extent of the problems in Brent and to propose suitable suggestions for improvements.