



Executive
11th December 2006

**Report from the Director of
Children and Families**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Outcome of the 2006 Annual Performance Assessment
(APA) of Services For Children and Young People in The
London Borough of Brent**

Forward Plan Ref: C&F06/07-017

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The judgements of the Office For Standards in Education (Ofsted) and The Commission For Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on the 2006 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of services for children and young people in Brent are attached to this report.
- 1.2 The judgements reflect the outcomes of the Joint Area Review (JAR) published in April 2006, the progress that has been made on the JAR action plan and the updated self assessment provided by the council.
- 1.3 The inspectors found that the updated self- assessment, the JAR action plan and the finalised Children and Young Peoples Plan all confirm Brent's capacity to make further improvements. Inspectors concluded that the council has made good progress in the time available in meeting the joint area review recommendations and has good capacity to further improve services for children and young people.
- 1.4 It is a requirement of the APA process that the APA judgement letter is submitted to the Executive for consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the outcome of the 2006 Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in Brent.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Annual performance assessment (APA) is undertaken every year in children's services authorities by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).
- 3.2 The current APA cycle requires children's services authorities to produce a self assessment document for inspectors in May each year. The self assessment is the local process for analysing priorities and demonstrating the contribution to outcomes of the action taken. Inspectors use the evidence in the self assessment to reach judgements about impact and progress. A judgement letter is sent to councils in the autumn and is followed by a formal priority meeting with inspectors. The APA letter for 2006 is attached in Appendix 1. The children's services priority meeting with inspectors is scheduled for 24th November 2006.
- 3.3 The APA assessed the council's specific contribution to improving outcomes for children and young people in Brent. There was specific focus on the Council's contribution through education and social care functions.
- 3.4 The APA focussed on the extent to which children and young people are healthy, safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and are well prepared to secure economic well-being. Particular attention was given to the quality of services provided for children and young people looked after by the Council and for those with disabilities.
- 3.5 The judgements of the APA reflect the outcomes of the joint area review (JAR) published in April 2006, the progress that has been made on the JAR action plan and the updated self assessment the council was required to provide in May 2006.
- 3.6 The APA letter describes :
- The JAR assessment of the councils contribution to the achievement of each of the five outcomes
 - The recommended action of the JAR for each outcome
 - The progress made on the JAR recommendations for each outcome.
- 3.7 The inspectors have noted in the APA letter that the council has demonstrated good progress in the time available in meeting the JAR recommendations. In addition it is recognised that the council has good capacity to further improve services for children and young people. Inspection judgements in the APA letter reflect those made in the JAR inspection report published in April 2006.

- 3.8 Judgements have been made according to grades on a scale of 1 to 4. Grade 1 is inadequate, 2 is adequate, 3 is good and 4 is excellent / outstanding.

2006 APA Judgements For Brent	Grade awarded
The contribution of the local authority's children's services in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people.	3
The Councils overall capacity to improve its services for children and young people	3
The contribution of the local authority's social care services in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people.	2

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications contained within this report. However the department has submitted growth bids for 2007/08 to take forward the recommendations from the JAR. These will be considered as part of the overall budget process. A final decision will be made by Full Council on 5th March 2007.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The JAR action plan and the updated Self Assessment are reflective of our diverse community. The needs of vulnerable excluded and under represented groups such as children with disabilities looked after children and excluded young people are incorporated. Monitoring arrangements help ensure the active promotion of the equalities agenda.
- 6.2 The children and families department has developed high level equalities Action Plan set against the six priorities identified in the children and young peoples plan. The APA letter has made a judgement on our progress on these priorities and made recommendations for further improvement.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None

8.0 Background Papers (essential)

- i) APA letter published 1st November 2006
- ii) JAR Action Plan

Contact Officers

Dr Krutika Pau, Assistant Director (Strategy and Partnerships) ,
Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley Middlesex HA9 7RW.
Tel: 020 8 937 3126. Fax: 020 8 937 3023
Email: Krutika.pau@brent.gov.uk

Or

Rose Kearns, Principal Strategy and Planning Officer
Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley Middlesex HA9 7RW.
Tel: 020 8 937 4113. Fax: 020 8 937 4113
Email: roseleen.kearns@brent.gov.uk

John Christie
Director of Children and Families