



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

APPENDIX 2

Early Years Service

3rd floor Chesterfield House
9 Park Lane, Wembley
Middlesex HA9 7RW

TEL 020 8937 3355

FAX 020 89373125

EMAIL Lesley.Fox-Lee@brent.gov.uk

WEB www.brent.gov.uk

St Raphael's Children's Centre Consultation Overview

This consultation was a valuable exercise in assessing the level of public engagement with the Council on issues affecting the community, in bringing forward locally held perceptions of past events, and in gauging the effectiveness of current management arrangements for the building.

3,000 invitations were posted to residents in December 2006. Two sessions were offered on the afternoon and evening of January 9th, a crèche was provided for each event, and assistance with access and translation was offered. Invitations included a tear off slip with post paid envelope to enable those who could not attend to make their views known to the Council. Of the 3,000 invitations sent, 5 reply slips were received, 15 residents attended session 1 and 30 attended session 2 (of these, 5 attended both sessions, in the evening 1 attendee was related to the Centre's lead tenant and was not a local resident, evening attendees also included Trustees of the African Caribbean People's Organisation and current service deliverers from the centre, such as a religious groups).

Most of the suggestions for physical improvements to the centre are those currently being considered by the architects. Suggestions on management of the centre were helpful, and questions of representativeness and accountability can be further explored within the context of the Council's chosen way forward.

The 2 groups were not representative of potential users of the centre, and future work to develop the design brief will take account of this need. The current management arrangements appear to suit the needs of the lead tenant (ACPO) but not the needs of the local community, future management arrangements will be developed by taking account of the wider community's views. The locally held views of Centre ownership and political direction can be addressed through existing forums and communication mechanisms in place. Future work to develop the design brief and new management arrangements will be undertaken ensuring that the wider community are represented.

Lesley Fox-Lee
Head of Early Years Service



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Brent – building a better borough