



**Executive**  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2007

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

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Review of Brent Children and Young People's Plan (2007)**

Forward Plan Ref: C&F06/07-029

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 Brent's first Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) was published in April 2006, with support from partner agencies represented on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB). The plan is a strategic document setting out the vision and priorities for the delivery of services to children and young people in Brent.
- 1.2 An updated needs analysis and the views of children and young people in Brent have informed the review of the CYPP. The corporate priorities for 2006 to 2010 that specifically relate to children and families have been incorporated into the CYPP review. The vision of services for children and families in Brent outlined in the CYPP has been updated to sharpen the focus on safeguarding children and young people in Brent.
- 1.3 The CYPP for 2006 -2009 has been reviewed in terms of progress made in 2006-2007 on the following aspects identified in the CYPP:
- The six priorities and 32 objectives
  - The action plan for the building blocks
  - The Joint Area Review ( JAR ) Action Plan
- 1.4 To date steady progress has been made on all the areas identified in paragraph 1.3.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Executive approve the draft revised CYPP at Appendix 1 and authorise the Director of Children and Families to make such amendments as are appropriate upon receiving feedback from consultation.
- 2.2 That the final revised CYPP be submitted to full Council for adoption.
- 2.3 That the Executive note the progress on the CYPP made to date.

## **3.0 Detail**

### **Legislation**

- 3.1 The Children Act 2004 places a duty on each local authority to prepare a single strategic, overarching plan for all services for children and young people in the area called a "Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP)". The CYPP applies to all statutory and voluntary agencies whose work impacts on Brent's children and young people. The first plan (2006-9) for Brent was approved by full council in March 2006. The CYPP is monitored by the Brent Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board.
  - 3.2 There is a duty under the Children Act 2004 to review the CYPP annually as part of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) programme. Local Authorities and schools are placed under new duties in the CYPP (England) Amendment Regulations 2007; The Education and Inspections Act 2006; and the Childcare Act 2006. All these have implications for the review of the CYPP
  - 3.3 There are two specific requirements when undertaking a review of the CYPP :
    - The vision statement needs to make specific reference to integration of services, how local organisations will work together through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to safeguard, promote the welfare of children and arrangements for early intervention and prevention action.
    - Local Authorities are now required to consult schools, school forums and the school admissions forum in preparation of the plan.
  - 3.4 Other new duties which need to be referenced in the review of the plan include:
    - Secure diversity in the provision of schools, and increase opportunities for parental choice
    - Secure access to positive activities for young persons in the Authority's area
    - Improve outcomes for young children through integrated early childhood services that includes assessment of childcare provision and securing sufficient provision
    - To broaden the scope of information provided to parents.
- Brent Children and Young Peoples Plan (2006/2009)**
- 3.5 The first annual review of Brent's three year CYPP published in April 2006 is due to be submitted to Ofsted in June 2007. The CYPP is shaped by the views of local children and families. It is a strategic document setting out the vision and priorities for

the delivery of services to children and young people in Brent. The plan is based on an assessment of local community's needs.

- 3.6 The shared vision for children and young people in Brent has been developed to sharpen the focus on safeguarding in line with new CYPP regulations (2007). The proposed new vision is:

“To promote the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in Brent through the provision of services that are integrated and focus on early intervention and prevention but provide protection when needed. For all children and young people in Brent to be able to realise their dreams and live up to their true potential. “

- 3.7 The CYPP outlines six priority areas for children's services which continue to be the focus of service development .The six areas are :

1. Creating the conditions in which children and young people thrive
2. Early Years development
3. Education achievement and school improvement
4. Support for young people and teenagers
5. Focus on excluded and vulnerable groups
6. Safeguarding, health and well-being

- 3.8 The recommendations for improvement identified in the Joint Area Review (JAR) action plan have been incorporated into these priorities and this CYPP review. Each of these priority areas are broken down further into objectives to achieve the priority together with indicators, current performance and SMART targets for each year that the CYPP is active (2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09).

### **Monitoring Progress of the CYPP**

- 3.9 Progress of the CYPP is monitored on a regular basis by the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board. A multi-agency performance management group meets on a monthly basis and produces a quarterly report on progress which is presented at Board meetings. This information contributes to the Council's performance management process that assesses performance against the corporate priorities.

### **Progress of the CYPP Against Agreed Priorities and Targets**

- 3.10 Overall, progress against the agreed 32 objectives this year has been good and detailed information is attached in Appendix 1. The progress outlined in this report is based on quarterly monitoring information up to December 2006. Data for some key performance indicators is only available annually and an analysis of this data will be available in May 2007. It is not possible to delay this review of the CYPP until the annual data is available as the review has to be submitted to Ofsted in June 2007. Significant changes to progress indicated by an analysis of the annual indicators will be reported at the Executive meeting.

- 3.11 Examples of good progress include:

- Improved partnership working to support community safety, housing and safeguarding children and young people.

- Increase in the number of young people we are supporting into education, employment and training.
- Increase in the number of Children's Centres that are up and running and offering the core offer of services.
- Improved educational attainment, specifically results at key stage 4.

3.12 Areas that need particular attention over the coming year are:

- Parenting support to meet identified gaps in provision
- Targeted work with deprived and underachieving groups including the educational achievement of black and ethnic minority groups.
- Increase in the number of school places available
- To reduce the number of Looked After Children and increase placement choice and quality of placements
- To increase the number of Looked After Children under 10years old adopted
- To improve the educational outcomes for Looked After Children

### **Progress of the Building Blocks of the CYPP**

3.13 An updated action plan for the building blocks of the CYPP is included in this review. These are a key feature of the CYPP which enables a coordinated approach to the work of stakeholders to achieve the strategic priorities and objectives. The building blocks also support planning and commissioning to deliver integrated and needs led services for children and families in Brent.

3.14 Steady progress has been made on the building blocks including:

- The establishment of the Youth Parliament
- Establishing a fully operational Local Safeguarding Board
- Developing a locality based model for delivering integrated preventative services that is currently being rolled out across the borough
- Implementation of the Extended Services Strategy

### **Progress on the JAR Action Plan**

3.15 Progress has been made on the JAR action plan as outlined in the 2006 Annual Performance letter from Ofsted. Details of progress on each recommendation are described in the CYPP review attached. Examples of what has been achieved include:

- Providing full time provision for all pupils permanently excluded from schools a new key Stage 2 unit was established in October 2006
- Recruiting 15 social workers through an overseas recruitment drive
- To improve services for Looked after Children we have established a clear "Invest to save" strategy for children's Social Care Services.
- Implementing two pilot integrated working programmes offering early intervention and provision for children age 0-19 and their families who are identified with additional needs.

### **Consultation**

3.16 A copy of the draft review of the CYPP is attached as appendix 1 and is being consulted on widely as required by the CYPP (England) Amendment Regulations 2007. Consultation will be facilitated with the following groups:

- Children and Young People
- Schools
- School forum
- School Admissions Forum
- Diocesan authorities
- Parents and Carers
- Partners
- Children and Families Department Staff
- Voluntary and Community sector/ faith organisations.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The lack of capacity and increase in demand identified within the Social Care division of the Children and Families Department has been remedied by a £4m increase in base budget equivalent to 15 % growth on 2006/2007 budget. To sustain budget pressures and increased demand a 3 year “ Invest To Save “ transformation project aimed at investing in preventative services and developing more cost effective and higher quality children’s placements is underway. The project is underpinned by £9.4m amount of investment which will deliver £9.9m amount of savings within the life of the project. Net investment in 2007/08 is £809k (£2.074m growth less £1.285m in savings for the first year of the project)
- 4.2 A major priority of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board continues to be to progress a multi-agency approach to the management of resources. Over time the providers of children and young people’s services will increasingly work together to plan long term resource strategies and commission services. The Children and Young People’s Plan is a developmental tool which will be used to shape and drive partners’ business planning through establishing a shared assessment of need, and by reflecting a shared set of priorities that address these needs.
- 4.3 Enabling resources are being provided through the Local Area Agreements (LAA) to support a number of priorities in the CYPP including ; the Stonebridge Integrated Services Pilot , improving educational outcomes for Looked After Children , extended services and healthy schools.
- 4.4 The financial risks potentially inherent in such arrangements will need to be monitored and managed on an on-going basis across the life of the plan.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Children Act 2004 , and the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 as amended by the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2007 , set out that children's services authorities, such as Brent, must prepare, consult upon, publish and review a children and young people's plan. The plan must set out the arrangements which the authority intends to make during the plan period for the well-being of children and young persons so far as it relates to their physical and mental health and emotional well being; protection from harm and neglect; education, training and recreation; and their social and economic well-being. The plan must be reviewed every year.

## **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The Brent Children and Young People's Plan is reflective of Brent's diverse community and therefore ensures that the strategic priorities encapsulate these diverse needs. The Plan further seeks to redress issues of equality to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children and young people are equally considered. A diversity Impact assessment has been completed on the CYPP.
- 6.2 The Children & Families Department has developed an equalities action plan that directly links to the six strategic priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan and considers all six strands of the Equalities Standards for Local Government.

## **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

- 7.1 No staffing/accommodation implications arise as a result of this Plan.

### **Background Papers**

1. Children Act 2004
2. Brent Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006-09

### **Appendices**

1. Brent Children and Young Peoples Plan Review

### **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