

# Children and Young People's Plan 2008 - 11

Consultation Summary August 2008

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## **1. Introduction**

In developing the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), authorities are required to consult with a wide range of partner agencies, including those covered under the duty to cooperate (see section 10 of the Children Act, 2004), and also with children, young people, parents and carers.

The purpose of this document outlines the process and results of the consultation process for the development of the CYPP 2008-11. Consultations with various groups took place over a six month period beginning November 2007. This summary sets out common themes arising from consultations with key stakeholders.

## **2. Process**

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board agreed the process for the plan's development in February 2008. The work was initially led by a group of officers from Children's Services and the Primary Care Trust with links to the voluntary sector. The group undertook a detailed gap analysis (a formal study of what a business is doing currently and where it wants to go in the future) and drafted a new set of priorities in January, which has been reviewed by a wide range of stakeholders.

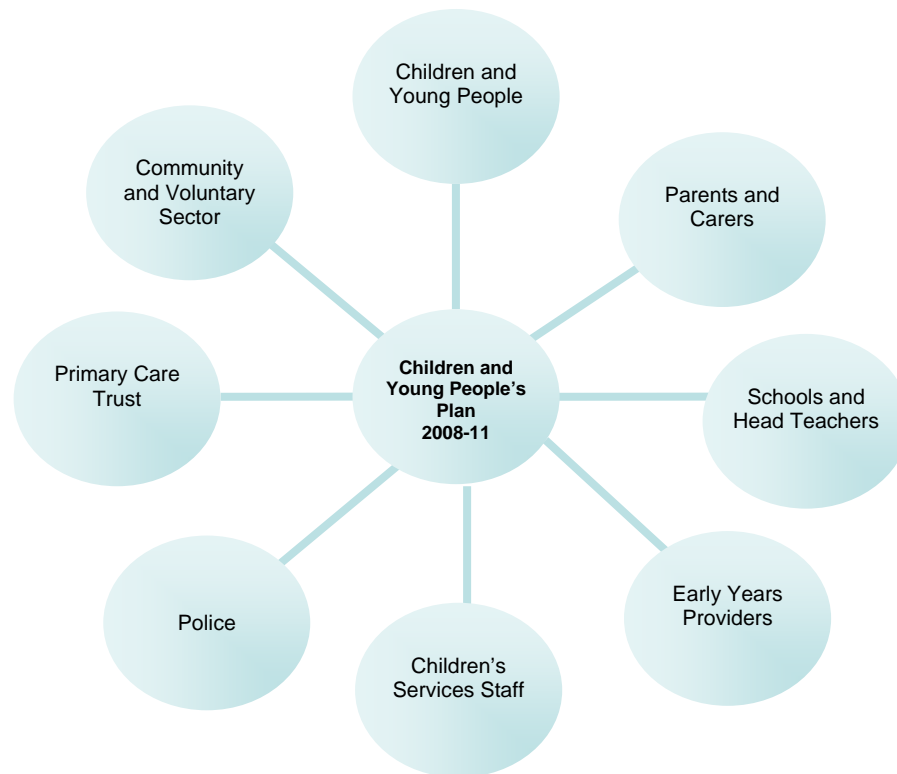
The vision and content of the plan was shaped by national and local agendas. It reflects the government's Children's Plan; the Local Area Agreement; Children's Services business plan and the Primary Care Trust's strategy for children and young people and maternity services.

Local need was analysed using demographic information from the Government Office of London and Ofsted; local research from the Planning and Performance team; feedback from the Joint Area Review (May 2007) as well as existing consultation with children and new consultation with the voluntary sector.

Consultation on the priorities and objectives took place in spring 2008 and details of how this was conducted is outlined below. Figure 1 demonstrates the groups involved in the consultation process.

Key messages from the consultation were then used to amend the objectives to better meet the needs of the local community. Full details of the resulting objectives and actions can be found in the new Children and Young People's Plan.

Figure 1.



### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Background

The Children and Young People's Plan states a simple aim, **'to create a ladder of opportunity which enables young people to pursue happy and full lives, achieving economic wellbeing'**. This aim can only be achieved in partnership. Eight priorities were developed prior to consultation, following the gap analysis and the initial work undertaken on establishing local need. The priorities are demonstrative of the many needs and factors affecting children and young people's lives:

1. Improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people
2. Protecting children and providing a safe environment
3. Improving the quality of nurseries and schools for local children
4. Ensuring every child has the chance to reach their full potential
5. Identifying need early, working with families as problems arise
6. Encouraging young people to lead active and purposeful lives
7. Maximising the opportunities open to young people as they move on from school or college
8. Achieving best use of resources

These eight priorities are aligned with the government's five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes: Be Healthy, Enjoy and Achieve, Stay Safe, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Wellbeing, which form the basis of the CYPP 2008-11. Discussions with key stakeholders concerned the eight priorities and the five ECM outcomes. Consultees were requested to provide their thoughts on what the Council and its partners should set as objectives and outcomes for 2008-11 and areas in which the council could improve.

The summary below outlines the process of how each stakeholder group was engaged and consulted.

### **3.2 Children and Young People**

A working group comprising Children's Services staff and leading on consultation was set up to manage the involvement of children and young people. This took place in two stages:

#### **Stage One**

Existing consultation was used to inform the gap analysis in December 2007. This included information drawn from existing consultation such as:

- mystery shopping and corporate parenting events around sexual health services;
- consultations on children and young people's perceptions of emotional and mental health;
- surveys of parents' and carers' views on secondary school choice in the borough;
- consultations for the CYPP 2006-08;
- surveys of young people's views on post-16 provisions in the borough.

#### **Stage Two**

Consultation with twenty eight groups of local children began in January 2008. The children and young people ranged from early years to primary and secondary ages. Consultation sessions at Connexions also took place. These groups of children were in statutory and voluntary settings and included children's centres, after school clubs, youth groups, supplementary schools and organisations supporting disabled children.

The working group ensured that children and young people were only consulted on factors that they could influence.

### **3.3 Children's Services and Other Council Staff**

Children's Services staff were provided with a number of opportunities for consultation on the plan, for example divisional meetings, focus groups and an online consultation space on the intranet. Other colleagues were informed and provided with the opportunity to comment on the plan via the Workforce Strategy Group and the Multi-agency Disabilities Group. Specific meetings have been set up with Housing and Environment colleagues to ensure common themes and aims in respective plans.

### **3.4 Voluntary and Community Sector and Parents**

Consultation with organisations from the voluntary and community sector took place at the following forums:

- Children's Fund Voluntary Sector Conference
- Children's Fund Partnership Board and Service Provider Forum
- Community and Voluntary Sector Network Youth Forum
- Young People's Forum
- Pre-school Learning Alliance

The Community and Voluntary Sector Association published information on the plan in its January newsletter. The Children's Fund Partnership Board (CFPB), a largely voluntary sector partnership, was consulted on the process and informed of feedback. Additionally, the CFPB was provided with the opportunity to comment on the new priorities at the Partnership meeting in March 2008.

The draft vision and aims were taken to the newly established Parent's Forum in January and local parents and carers were encouraged to participate in the online consultation in the March edition of Hammersmith and Fulham News. There are also parent representative members on the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and parent governor co-opted members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, who were all provided with the opportunity comment on the plan.

Contact was made with community organisations and asked if they would like to participate in the consultation process. A consultation pack was collated by a group of officers experienced in participation work. Participating organisations include the children's centres, the Play Service, after school clubs, youth groups, a number of voluntary organisations and a school council.

### **3.5 Schools and Early Years Providers**

Discussions were held with a range of schools - primary, secondary and special schools. This included involvement at the Heads' liaison meeting, a meeting of four head teachers representing with the Director of Children's Services. Consultations

were also conducted at the Heads' Forum which is a quarterly meeting of all head teachers in the borough. Consultation with schools was arranged through the Extended Services cluster meetings; one session took place in the autumn term 2007 and a series of sessions in the spring term 2008 in order to gain views on the emerging priorities. Extended Services based at schools have also facilitated consultation with children and young people. Conversations on priorities for the CYPP 2008-11 were also carried out with early years providers at CFPB in November 2007.

### **3.6 Key Partner Agencies**

#### **Police**

The council has ongoing involvement with the Police, in particular through the Youth Offending Service (YOS). The YOS are actively involved in a 'Gold Panel' convened by the borough commander in response to the death of a young person. They have contributed to the activities in order to prevent additional attacks in the community and supporting the wider youth population. Members of the borough police are also members of CYPPB, which was provided with the opportunity to scrutinise the plan.

#### **Primary Care Trust (PCT)**

The PCT is a key partner in the development of the plan and has shaped the priorities to support children and young people to lead healthy lives. Colleagues from commissioning and public health have contributed heavily to the consultation process. The PCT Board has discussed and contributed to the development of the draft objectives of the plan.

## **4. Consultation Results**

To complete a robust consultation process, the council endeavoured to engage a wide variety of stakeholders as possible, in particular, children and young people. A lot of feedback was received. The intention of this document is not to record all views but to give a summary of the most frequently expressed comments. This document will be available for all Children's services staff and partners via the internet as an ongoing resource.

The most widely held themes and comments from consultations have been integrated into the CYPP 2008-11 and will inform the ongoing development of areas of focus for Children's services. The key messages are outlined in the tables below according to each Every Child Matters outcome and key group. The tables do not attempt to list the themes in any particular order of importance but give an understanding of the key issues raised.

#### **4.1 General Comments**

Common themes arose relating to the general format of the plan. Such things include:

- Wording needs to be in plain English avoiding jargon
- Priorities should have measurable actions and targets
- Priorities need to relate in terms of the impact on children and their families
- The needs of disabled children should be prevalent throughout the plan

*Young people involved in the consultation process who then produced of the children's version of the Children and Young People's Plan - July 2008*



# Be Healthy

Group	Issues raised
<b>Children and Young People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affordable play centres both in the week and weekends.</li> <li>- More access to physical activities for disabled children, especially in swimming pools.</li> <li>- More sport, trips and activities within school</li> <li>- Improving access to services (sexual health &amp; emotional, wellbeing, housing, drugs, alcohol education, employment and training)</li> <li>- A central contact point for services such as sexual health, drug and alcohol and counselling services to avoid stigmas.</li> <li>- Increased choice of food at school e.g. even more healthy options</li> </ul>
<b>Children's Services and Primary Care Trust Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on parental and community responsibility to encourage children to do exercise and eat well.</li> <li>- Allocating more time to physical activity in schools</li> <li>- Increase access to resources such as the gym</li> <li>- Good information services and linking with agencies to inform young people about sexual health and behaviour</li> <li>- Addressing teenage pregnancy and the prevalence of Chlamydia in young people</li> <li>- Improving maternity services as well as identifying more vulnerable pregnant women at an early stage</li> <li>- Develop school based services</li> <li>- Need to develop mental health services to better meet needs of different cultures/community, develop outreach services and increase accessibility, especially for unaccompanied minors.</li> <li>- Preventative work to improve sexual, physical and mental health outcomes of young people</li> <li>- Broadening ownership of health issues by more services</li> </ul>
<b>Voluntary and Community Sector and Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated services for disabled children</li> <li>- An outreach mental health service to avoid care in hospitals</li> <li>- Comprehensive child health services</li> <li>- A single specialised mental health service for 0-18ys</li> <li>- Focus on sports and physical activities</li> <li>- More sexual health education needs to be made available to young people from black and minority ethnic communities</li> </ul>
<b>Schools and Early Years Providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on early intervention for addressing obesity</li> <li>- Providing programmes for parents covering growing, cooking, budgeting or family learning sessions covering nutrition</li> <li>- Address smoking amongst young people and ways of prevention</li> </ul>

Stay safe!!!

Group	Issues raised
<p><b>Children and Young People</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concern was raised about safety on the streets and estates, especially after dark.</li> <li>- Improved safety in parks, on public transport and on the streets</li> <li>- Concerns voiced about anti-social behaviour and feeling scared to tell people</li> <li>- Gang culture</li> <li>- Bullying</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children's Services Staff</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure professionals and others are involved when a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is done, stay involved and make sure input is valued</li> <li>- Need to emphasise/work on improving relationships between young people and relevant professionals- police, housing estate wardens etc.</li> <li>- Empower parents and clarify roles and responsibilities</li> <li>- Think about housing issues</li> <li>- Focus on preventing gang culture and encouraging participation in positive activities</li> <li>- Support for children around emotional aspects- bullying within play and school</li> </ul> <p>Disabled Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing early support for disabled children and their families</li> <li>- Training for vulnerable parents: parenting skills, more support groups</li> <li>- Need for short-term foster-carers, especially for children with disabilities</li> <li>- Need to be clear what 'disabled child' matters. E.g. diabetic or chronically ill child</li> <li>- More support for parents in the home</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voluntary and Community Sector and Parents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring police and young people are working together</li> <li>- Development of training for police in how to handle young people</li> <li>- Tackling young black male gangs</li> <li>- Development of crime summit to provide community members with somewhere to have concerns addressed</li> <li>- Development of a forum for voluntary sector to raise issues with decision makers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Schools and Early Years Providers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure safety on the streets is a priority for all</li> <li>- Ensure that children and young people are safe whilst travelling to and from school</li> <li>- Focus on reducing bullying in schools and the social and emotional aspects of learning.</li> </ul>

# Enjoy and achieve!

Group	Issues raised
<b>Children and Young People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The best way to be informed of services would be through the internet, particularly through adverts posted on web sites used/viewed by young people</li> <li>- Children like to receive information about play services through school</li> <li>- It is important that play facilities are close to home and affordable</li> <li>- Means of transport for disabled children to access facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Children's Services Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on enjoy- how we make explicit there is enjoyment in curriculum.</li> <li>- Improve children's attitudes to learning through curriculum development, focussing on enjoyment, learning motivation and social emotional aspects</li> <li>- Early intervention to reduce number of exclusions</li> <li>- Creating educational opportunities for parents alongside child education</li> <li>- Early identification of learning difficulties/disabilities and supporting parent involvements</li> <li>- Increasing secondary mainstream capacities to meet the range of special needs and additional needs of all pupils, increasing educational and social inclusion</li> <li>- Need a uniform format for transition plans</li> <li>- Accessible and affordable nurseries for all parents</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<b>Voluntary and Community Sector and Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved the educational attainment of groups at risk of social exclusion</li> <li>- Help ethnic minorities to have better understanding about the matters concerning young people by providing information in their own languages</li> <li>- Opportunities for young people with high complex needs</li> <li>- Increase attendance</li> <li>- Parents need to work with schools</li> <li>- Work with partner agencies to identify and support families before problems escalate</li> </ul>
<b>Schools and Early Years Providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More focus on 'enjoyment'</li> <li>- Identifying problems early and dealing with preventative steps</li> <li>- Focus on Parent and Toddler groups – they provide safe, stimulating play opportunities for children 0-5 years</li> <li>- Provision of opportunities for children from birth</li> <li>- Play services- start early ages, play association funding for mobile play services in estates</li> </ul>

# Make a positive contribution!!

Group	Issues raised
<b>Children and Young People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Felt it is important for young people to be consulted</li> <li>- Young people feel they could contribute to discussion &amp; planning for safety and crime as they are aware of what is going on around them.</li> <li>- Would like acknowledgement of achievements and positive activities</li> <li>- Very important for people to listen to each other.</li> <li>- Was important for families to know when they have done something good</li> </ul>
<b>Children's Services Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve parental involvement with children with Special Education Needs</li> <li>- Empowering vulnerable parents through support groups</li> <li>- Reduce number of first time entrants into Youth Justice System</li> <li>- To emphasise citizenship and volunteering and responsibility of all agencies and parents to promote a child's interests</li> <li>- Involvement of young persons in social groups e.g. cadets, St. John's Ambulance, musical groups, nature conservation, fire brigade</li> <li>- Supported employment opportunities for young people with significant learning difficulties</li> </ul>
<b>Voluntary and Community Sector and Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better information provision</li> <li>- Preventative work on the Youth Offending services, health service and children's services</li> <li>- More opportunities for parents and carers to influence the development of children's services</li> <li>- Improve transitions for children's transitions between services.</li> <li>- Borough Partnership- strategic overview on youth services</li> <li>- Pressure for Council to provide funding and genuine concern for youth services.</li> <li>- Timeliness of reviews</li> </ul>
<b>Schools and Early Years Providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acknowledgement that children and young people make positive contribution to the community</li> <li>- Young people to have a voice through school council</li> </ul>

# Achieve economic well being

Group	Issues raised
<p><b>Children and Young People</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anxiety shared about transition to new school               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Meeting new friends, bullying, concern that they might get in trouble for not following rules that they are not aware/unsure of i.e. being late to a lesson because they don't know their way around building.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Opportunities when moving on from school               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Would like more detailed information to give them a different perspective about what opportunities are available to them after they leave school.</li> <li>o Access to taster days at colleges, training providers and employers so they can understand what the opportunities involve.</li> <li>o Work experience opportunities both in and out of school</li> <li>o Financial incentives and personal and professional development.</li> <li>o Increase opportunities for disabled children post education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Children's Services Staff</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of independent career guidance to prevent young people making the wrong choices</li> <li>- Provision of support for the completion of diplomas</li> <li>- More interaction with local employers and develop local schemes.</li> <li>- Involving disabled children in work experience programmes</li> <li>- Development of transition plans</li> <li>- Support for working parents and parents trying to get back in to work or training</li> <li>- Recognise the needs and different starting points of children with special education needs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voluntary and Community Sector and Parents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase number of young people in education, training and employment</li> <li>- Delivering greater choice for children and young people aged 14-19 yrs</li> <li>- Increase number of 16-18 yr olds accessing high quality work based learning</li> <li>- The use of volunteering- a type of education and training; a contribution and meet other age groups in the community, a route of work and economic wellbeing, reducing isolation and socialising</li> </ul>
<p><b>Schools and Early Years Providers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase opportunities for work experiences</li> <li>- Increase learning options available</li> <li>- Increase options post education for children and young people with special needs</li> </ul>

## 5. Conclusion and Priorities

The results from the consultations outlined above were all carefully considered during the development of the CYPP 2008-11. Various business areas within the council worked closely together in order to identify key themes arising from consultations and in alignment with the council's priorities.

There will be two versions of the plan produced; one for adults and one for children and young people. The children's version of the plan was developed by a small group of local children who worked to identify what was most important to them and to illustrate the plan.



The plan recognises that particular emphasis needs to be placed on certain groups of children at different points and that it is necessary to be clear as to where the partners should concentrate their combined efforts.

Each priority has a series of associated actions, measurable targets and desired outcomes and are outlined as follows:

# Be Healthy

## 5.1 Be Healthy

### Priority 1: Improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people

This element of the plan is underpinned by the PCT's strategy for children and young people and maternity services, which is aligned to the National Service Framework for children. Colleagues within the PCT outlined the priorities within these strategies. Further consultation highlighted the importance of schools meals, improving access to services as well as ensuring a broad range of services, teenage pregnancy, mental health matters and access to potentially stigmatising services. A lot of attention was paid to dealing with obesity and the promotion of good nutrition.

Five objectives have been developed to reflect the key issues that the partnership wishes to concentrate on over the next few years. They cover healthy lifestyles; encouraging young people to take less risks their health; better health and social care services as well as high quality maternity care.

Targets relate to mental health, in particular emergency services and support for 16-17 year olds; physical health (obesity target for Local Area Agreement); guidance on substance misuse and teenage pregnancy; services for disabled children including a new hydrotherapy pool and maternity services which identify tailored support for more vulnerable women.

# Stay Safe!!!

## 5.2 Stay Safe

### Priority 2: Protecting children and providing a safe environment

### Priority 3: Identifying need early, working with families as problems arise

This part of the plan is influenced by feedback from inspection on children's social care services. It is also informed by the government's Aim Higher agenda and the Children's Plan. Strong views came from children on safety in the streets and in parks. Others mentioned the importance of improving community relationships – between young people and professionals in general. Feedback from many parties concerned importance of early intervention and parental support. Colleagues also mentioned the importance of responsive and co-ordinated housing services for more vulnerable young people. The voluntary sector felt it was important to be able to raise issues with decision makers, which has been taken on board as an action under the 'making a positive contribution' outcome. Finally the needs of disabled children and their families were highlighted.

Objectives concern the resilience of young people in terms of their personal safety; social care; support for parents as problems arise and safeguarding and safeguarding to be part of everyone's business.

Targets relate to offending; bullying; improved children's social care services (referrals on to social services are a Local Area Agreement target); the Every Disabled Child Matters charter ; a joint protocol between housing and children's services; parenting support; improved and greater use of the common assessment as well as the information sharing database 'contact point'.

Enjoy and  
achieve!

## 5.4 Enjoy and Achieve

**Priority 4: Improving the quality of nurseries and schools for local children**

**Priority 5: Ensuring every child has the chance to reach their full potential**

Work on these priorities is reflected in the Building Schools for the Future programme; the Parks and open spaces strategy and the Play strategy. They are reflected in this plan. Consultation called for greater emphasis on 'enjoyment' and play; many people felt that young people needed help with transitions at key points in their lives as well as with their attitude to learning.

Objectives relate to opportunities to play in the borough; attainment especially of underperforming groups; attendance and early intervention work through extended services and more active use of the common assessment.

Targets relate to the seventeen statutory educational national indicators (including Local Area Agreement target on Key stage 4 attainment); improved access to parks, including changing facilities; the increase of the shared care services for disabled children and new play projects largely delivered by the voluntary sector. A key piece of work over the next 3 years will be the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Make a positive contribution!!

## 5.4 Make a Positive Contribution

**Priority 6: Encouraging young people to lead active and purposeful lives**

Consultation highlighted a number of matters. Professionals noted the importance of providing guidance to young people, especially as they move in to adulthood. Children and professionals thought it was important that young people have opportunities to make the most of their free time and express themselves in a positive way. The voluntary sector felt that it had a lot to offer in terms of young people using their time positively in volunteering.

Objectives cover opportunity; volunteering and offending. Targets relate to the provision of youth services ; the establishment of a volunteering scheme; the Borough Youth Forum; parental input in to service planning and youth offending services (including a Local Area Agreement Target on first time offending).

Achieve economic well being

## 5.5 Achieve Economic Well Being

**Priority 7: Maximising the opportunities open to young people as they move on from school or college**

The 14-19 strategy is the reference point for the broader work delivering this outcome for young people. Consultation feedback included the request to increase the choice and range of learning options available to young people, to increase volunteering, to offer more advice and guidance and to support young people through transitions.

The Children and Young People's Plan selects three key objectives relating to learning options, transitions into further education, training or employment and support to young parents.

Targets cover achievement of level 2 by age 19 (Local Area Agreement target); introduction of diplomas; more Children's Centres; continued childcare support for parents in training or returning to work and a further reduction in young people not in education, employment and training.

## 6. Acknowledgements

Hammersmith and Fulham Children's Services would like to thank everyone who took part in helping us produce the Children and Young People's Plan for 2008-11. We would particularly like to acknowledge the help of the children and young people of Hammersmith and Fulham who provided their invaluable opinions, ideas and hopes for the borough.

Thank you to the Children's Services Working Group who led on the production of the consultation and the workshop leaders themselves, their organisation and management was fundamental to the participation of all involved.

Many thanks also to all the community and voluntary sector participants, parents, carers and Children's Services staff who gave their valuable time in helping to shape our priorities and objectives for the borough in 2008-11.

Photo credits: Fergus Burnett, Justin Thomas and Yolanda Chiaramello.