

Children's services departmental aims 2008-09

Our vision is to create a ladder of opportunity which enables young people to pursue happy and full lives achieving economic wellbeing.

We have set out the following aims:

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

We have set out the following divisional objectives to achieve these aims:

1. Improving the quality of schools for local children

- **To increase the numbers of black and minority ethnic young people attaining Key Stage 4 (NI 108)**
- Continue implementation of Early Years, Primary, Special and Secondary Strategies and wave 6 of BSF and the Primary Capital Programme (JL)
- Meet 2008 targets in relation to CLLD and PSE in Early Years, Key Stage 2 outcomes (% achieving Level 4 and reduction in 'below floor' schools) and GCSE performance of children in receipt of free school meals with a particular focus on identified underperforming groups (Black Caribbean boys, white boys in receipt of free school meals) (JL)
- All pupils at KS2-3 to receive an entitlement to effective transition and transfer support (JL)
- Develop and implement the Building Schools for the Future programme in partnership with local stakeholders (AR)

2. Ensuring every child has the chance to reach their full potential

- To increase family income by supporting lone parents back into employment (GS)
- Maintain and exceed improvements in attendance across all phases (JL)
- Reduce the number of fixed term exclusions (JL)
- Establish an integrated allegations systems leading to improved professional practice (CB)
- Continue the phase 2 development of Children's Centres and start phase 3 (GS)
- Development of departmental work on equalities (CB)

3. Protecting children and providing them with a safe environment

- Develop better working relationships with key partners to improve service delivery e.g. the routine feedback on referrals and the transition to adult services (AF) (JAR)
- Improve performance monitoring to reflect the recommendations of the JAR and APA e.g. improved quality in case management, improved quality assurance at a team level (AF)
- Maximise the effectiveness of looked after children reviews through improved timeliness, participation, and the contribution from allocated qualified social workers (AF) (JAR)
- Ensure appropriate support is provided to children when they are removed from the register to ensure an appropriate level of re-registration is achieved (AF) (JAR)
- Improve all aspects of working with Framework I (AF) (JAR)
- Lead practice improvement through the reviewing process to enable practice improvement and a focus on the needs of the child (CB)

4. Identifying need early, working with families before problems escalate

- **Monitor the number of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment (NI 68)**
- Commission and shape services to support early intervention supported by the Common Assessment Framework, Contact Point, in all settings, using all grants as effectively as possible (CB)

- Ensure a multi-agency approach to the delivery of services and safeguarding, using the work of the CYPP Board and the LSCB to make decisions and communicate policy (CB)
- Meet 2008 early year's outcome and implementation of the Early years foundation stage curriculum (JL)
- R&QA to work with operational partners in strengthening preventative practices (CB)

5. Encouraging young people to lead active and purposeful lives

- To develop and implement integrated youth support services (GS)
- Empower our young residents to have a greater voice & influence over local decisions (GS)
- Reduce the proportion of young offenders who re-offend (GS)
- **Reduce first time offending by children and young people aged 10-17 (NI 111) (GS)**
- Ensure that positive activities for young people funding is targeted to meet LAA targets and promoted through the Youth Offer (GS)

6. Improving the health and wellbeing of young people

- Implementing the CAMH service action plan (CB)
- Reduce rates of teenage pregnancy
- **Reduce substance misuse in teenagers (NI 115)**
- **Reduce prevalence of Chlamydia in under 21 year olds (NI 113)**
- **To work in partnership with the Primary Care Trust to reduce obesity among primary school age children in year 6 (NI 56)**

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

- Develop a 14-19 Education Plan and build effective partnership work between schools, the FE college and other providers (JL)
- **To increase the numbers of young people aged 19 having achieved Level 2 qualification (NI 79)**
- Develop an ICT Strategy for the borough (JL)
- Implementation of Diplomas from September 2008 across all borough post-14 provision as part of a broader 14-19 curriculum offer (JL)
- Further development of work based learning and apprentice opportunities especially via small and medium sized employers (JL)
- BSF and primary strategy: work with schools to develop a coherent primary strategy and to develop the Building schools for the further programme in Hammersmith and Fulham with input from a number of team within the division including Asset management, Finance and HR (GT)
- Continually improve the strategy to manage the NEETS population (CB)
- Increasing the number of those receiving accreditation through the youth Service (GS)

8. Achieving best use of resources

- Agree and embed the workforce development strategy at all levels of staff (GT)
- Develop a strategic approach to CPD building upon existing good practise and aligned to the workforce development strategy (GT)
- Produce the division's strategy on capital; IT; medium term finance and market testing (GT)
- Development of services: The extension and / or development of service delivered by all teams within the Resources Division to realise efficiencies and deliver value for money (GT)
- Meet Audit commission's requirements for data quality (GT)
- Meet JAR recommendation for dealing with schools and surplus requirements (GT)
- Meet Audit commission's requirements and fulfil statement on 'use of resources'(GT)

Objectives in **green** are proposed Local Area Agreement targets and those in **blue** are local priorities for the Council.

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