

# Building better futures for all



“ Securing the best possible future for all children and young people in the Borough, including a clear focus on supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in our community ”





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## Welcome to our strategy for improving the lives of children and young people in Bromley...

**This is the first of our new-style Children's Strategy, which sets out how the key partner agencies involved in providing services to children and young people in Bromley will work together to improve the lives of all children, young people and their families in the borough.**

This Strategy is closely linked to our local community plan, *Building a Better Bromley: 2020 Vision*, and it builds on our solid footing as a children's service that has been rated by Ofsted as *performing well* for the past four years.

This Strategy does not include all the individual services that are currently provided by the different agencies within the partnership. Instead, it particularly focuses on the following three jointly agreed priorities where the Partnership feels that by working closely together and using the resources jointly available, that a real difference can be achieved in improving the lives of the children and young people involved:

- Improve the emotional health of all children and young people
- Improve the life chances of children in care
- Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services

Listening and acting on what children and young people, and parents and carers, tell us about the services we provide and the services they need is central to the planning and delivery of services in Bromley. We have worked closely with children and young people, and parents and carers, to further enhance our needs analysis to ensure that the priorities within this Strategy reflect their views.

We have developed this Children's Strategy during a time of considerable change and challenge as our partners seek to respond to and implement the Government's reform programme, which has included significant changes to the structure and finances of public sector agencies. These changes have enhanced the need for our partners to continue to work effectively together to address jointly agreed local priorities whilst ensuring the delivery of best value services.

We will undertake an annual review of progress on the delivery of the priorities and actions within the Strategy to illustrate our progress against our stated actions.

We welcome feedback on this Strategy, therefore if you have any comments or questions you can contact us on the details provided at the end of this document.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Noad'.

**Councillor Ernest Noad**

Chairman, The Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Board

Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, London Borough of Bromley

**our vision:**  
"To secure the best possible future for all children and young people in the Borough, including a clear focus on supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in our community"

# 1 about our partnership

**The Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Board includes representatives from the following organisations:**

- ➔ Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum
- ➔ Bromley College of Further and Higher Education
- ➔ Bromley Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- ➔ Bromley Healthcare
- ➔ Bromley Primary and Special Schools
- ➔ Bromley Safeguarding Children Board
- ➔ Bromley Secondary Schools
- ➔ Connexions South London Sub Regional Unit
- ➔ Jobcentre Plus
- ➔ London Borough of Bromley
- ➔ London Probation Trust
- ➔ Metropolitan Police Service (Bromley)
- ➔ Mytime Active
- ➔ NHS South East London
- ➔ Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
- ➔ South London Healthcare NHS Trust

**The Bromley Children and Young People Partnership is a partnership of key organisations in Bromley who are working together to improve the lives of all children, young people and their families in the Borough.**

This jointly agreed Children's Strategy provides the framework for the Partnership to work together to deliver the jointly agreed priorities between 2012 and 2015. It is owned, and will be implemented and monitored, by the Partnership's Board.

The Partnership Board:

- acts as the executive body of the Partnership and coordinates it's business
- contains senior representatives from across the partner agencies
- is responsible for monitoring the implementation and delivery of this Children's Strategy
- is supported by a range of partnership delivery groups which implement the actions required to deliver the priorities within this Children's Strategy
- uses the annual stakeholder Partnership Forum to engage with a wider number of representatives from partner agencies together with children, young people, and their parents and carers, to actively influence the priorities of the partnership

The Partnership Board works closely with a range of other key strategic partnerships across the Borough to ensure that the needs of children and young people are considered when developing services that will have a direct and indirect impact on their lives:

- Bromley Economic Partnership
- Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board
- Bromley Safeguarding Children Board
- Carers Partnership Group
- Health, Social Care and Housing Partnership Board
- Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group

**The Bromley Children and Young People Partnership's Children's Strategy outlines how the organisations within the Bromley Partnership will work together to improve the lives of children and young people in the Borough over the three year period from 2012 to 2015.**

It links closely to a number of other strategies and plans within the Borough, including our local community plan, *Building a Better Bromley: 2020 Vision*; the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2012 to 2017; and the Community Safety Strategy.

This Strategy will support the Partnership to achieve its vision:

“to secure the best possible future for all children and young people in the Borough, including a clear focus on supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in our community”

## Understanding the needs of the Borough

### Children and Young People's Needs Analysis

To aid the development of this Children's Strategy, the Partnership undertook a needs analysis during 2010/11 to inform and help direct service delivery and priority setting.

The Children and Young People's Needs Analysis is designed to accompany this Strategy and to act as a source of information to inform planning, commissioning and strategic developments.

To support the needs analysis, the results from surveys (such as the annual TellUs survey of school pupils in years 6, 8 and 10) and other direct engagement with children, young people and their families, have been used to identify their views, perceptions and concerns.

Key messages from the needs analysis, including the views of children and young people, are included within each of area of focus within this Strategy.

The Children and Young People's Needs Analysis can be accessed at:



[www.bromleypartnerships.org](http://www.bromleypartnerships.org) > Bromley Children and Young People Partnership > **Our Children's Strategy** > Needs Analysis

### Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

This Strategy also closely links to the needs identified within the Borough's annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA).

The 2011 JSNA identified 3 key areas where the Borough is experiencing significant increases in both the number of young people requiring services and also the complexity of their needs:

- Increasing volumes and complexity of need children referred to children's social care
- Increasing volumes & complexity of need children with mental & emotional health problems
- Increasing volumes and complexity of need children with complex needs and disabilities

Alongside the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy, this Strategy is a vehicle for Bromley to tackle these areas.

The 2011 JSNA can be accessed at:



<http://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk> > Health and Wellbeing > **Health** > Public Health in Bromley

# 3 a profile of Bromley



Bromley is the largest of the 32 London Boroughs, and is located to the south-east of the capital. It shares borders with the London Boroughs of Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark; as well as the counties of Kent and Surrey.

Geographically the borough covers more than 58 square miles; including areas that are highly urbanised in the north, as well as areas that are substantially rural in the south.

## The Borough's population

The Borough's population in the 2001 Census was 295,600, and the latest estimate by the Greater London Authority suggests that this had grown to 314,600 in 2011. It is expected that the population will continue to rise to 322,700 by 2015, to 330,600 by 2020, and then to 339,100 by 2031.

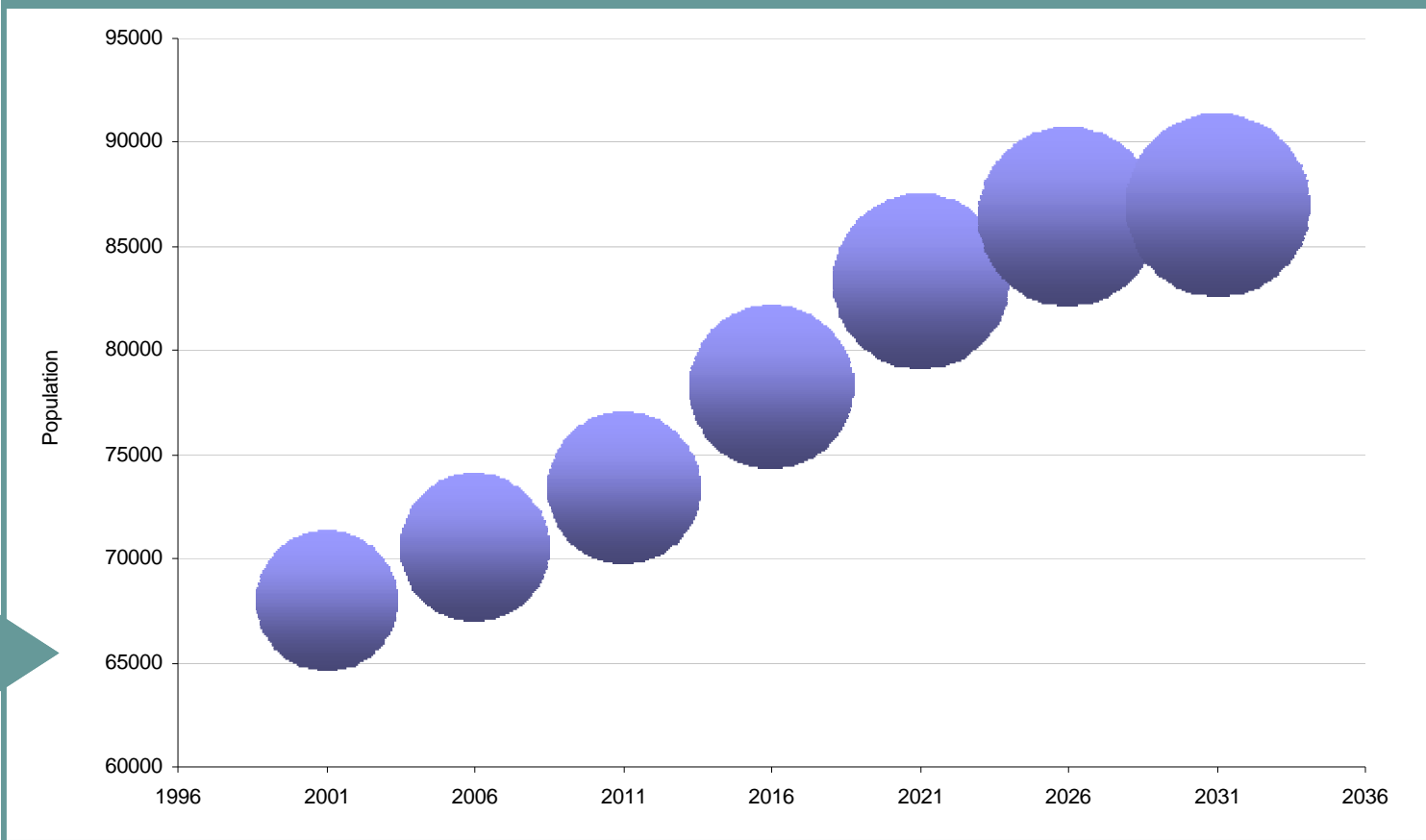
The 2001 Census identified that 23% of the population (68,100) were aged between 0-18, and that there are 64,102 parents within the Borough.

The increases in our children and young people population from 2001 to 2031 are illustrated in the graphs on the right of this page.

The graphs shows that the children and young people population (aged 0 to 18) will increase by 28% (18,900) between 2001 (68,100) and 2031 (87,000).

The Increasing Population of Children and Young People in Bromley: 2001 to 2031

[Source: Greater London Authority, 2011]



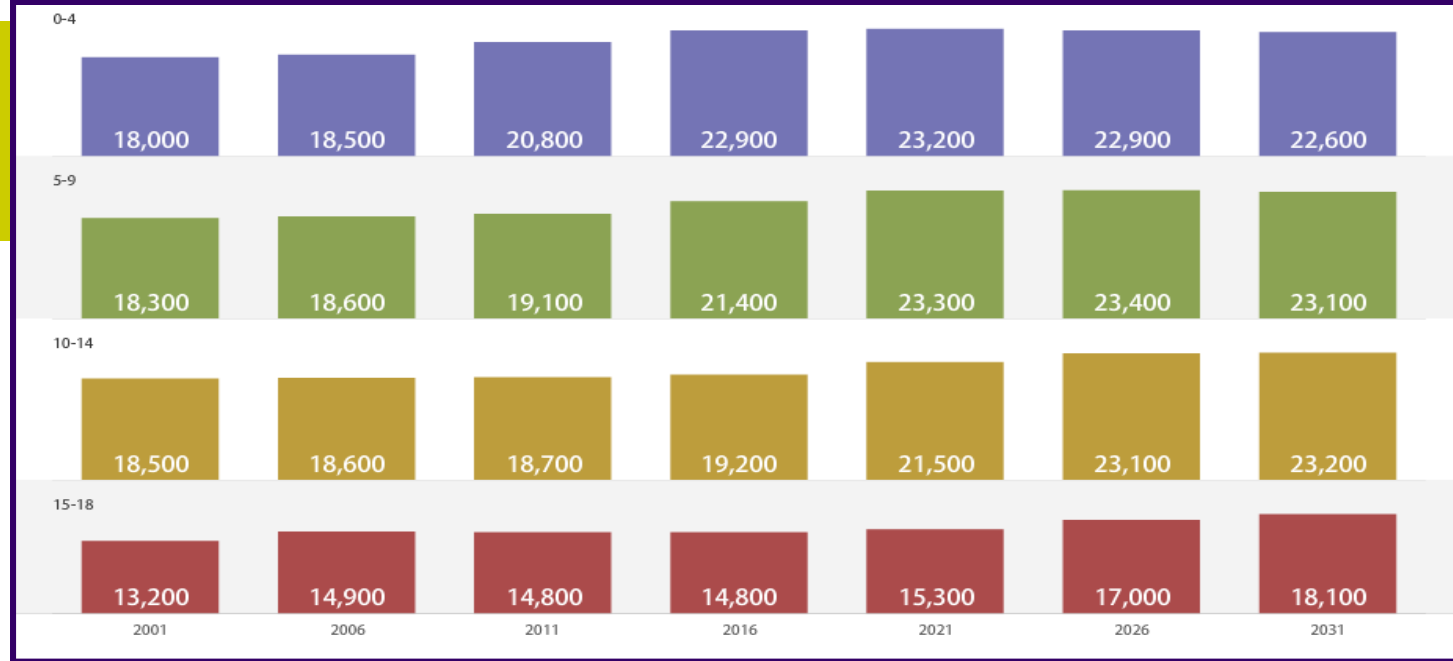
## Changing Age Profiles

In the 30 years between 2001 and 2031 the age profiles of the Borough's resident children and young people are due to have significant changes as illustrated in the following table.

- The **0-4 age range** has seen an increase since 2001 and will continue to do so until 2021, after which it will start to decline
- This has led to an increase in the **5-9 age range** particularly from 2006 and 2011, and it will continue to increase until 2026, after which it will start to decline
- The **10-14 age range** had a small increase between 2001 and 2011; however, it will begin to experience a significant increase from 2011
- The **15-18 age range** had a significant increase between 2001 and 2006, and has steadied since 2006; however, the age range will begin to experience a significant increase from 2016

## Children and Young People in Bromley (2001 to 2031): Changing Age Profiles

[Source: Greater London Authority, 2011]



## **Lone parent households within the Borough**

7.6% of families within the borough are lone parent households. The 2001 Census shows lone parent families are predominately located in the Crystal Palace, Penge and Cator, Mottingham and Chislehurst North wards, and also in Clock House, Plaistow and Sundridge, Bromley Common and Keston, Cray Valley East and Cray Valley West.

## **Ethnicity within the Borough**

Over 85% of all residents within the borough consider themselves to be White British and approximately 13% identify themselves as having an ethnicity as other than White British.

Almost 18% of children and young people aged between 0-19 identified as having an ethnicity as other than White British. This contrasts across the borough where almost 35% of all residents in the Crystal Palace ward and 29% of all residents in the Penge and Cator ward consider themselves as not White British; compared to compared to only 3% in Biggin Hill and Darwin wards.

A distinctive group within the Borough is the settled Gypsy and Traveller community, which is estimated to be in the region of 1,000 - 1,500 families (an estimation based on data and local knowledge provided by the Bromley Gypsy Traveller Project and others working with the community). If accurate these figures would represent one of the largest settled Gypsy and Traveller populations in the UK. However, it is difficult to obtain accurate data on the exact numbers of the Gypsy and Traveller community.

## **Ethnicity within the school population**

The ethnic composition of the school population does vary from the resident young people population due to the influx of children from out of the Borough attending Bromley's schools.

Bromley schools have an average Black and Minority Ethnic population of 26.5% compared to the 18% resident Black and Minority Ethnic population.

This contrasts across the different wards within the borough, where almost 51% of Primary aged pupils in schools in Crystal Palace,

Penge and Cator, and Clock House wards consider themselves as not White British; compared to only 9% in Biggin Hill and Darwin wards.

## **Deprivation within the Borough**

Bromley is a Borough of contrasting features. Although it is a prosperous Borough overall, which ranks at 228 out of 354 Councils for the level of disadvantage (where 1 is the most deprived and 354 the least deprived), this average figure hides some stark differences between areas within the borough.

Six of Bromley's 22 wards contain areas ranked among the 20% most deprived in England. These wards include: Cray Valley East, Crystal Palace, Mottingham and Chislehurst North, and Penge and Cator.

15.7% of children within the Borough live in "all out-of-work benefit claimant households" (May 2010) - compared to the national average of 23%.

## **Employment within the Borough**

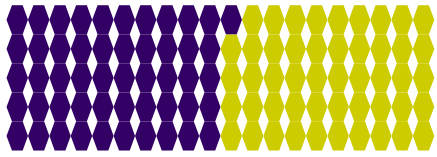
The major employment sector within the borough is the financial and business sector. As at January 2012, 3.1% of the Borough's residents claimed Job Seekers Allowance, compared to the London average of 4.4% and the national average of 4%.

4.9% of the Borough's 16-18 year olds are not in education, employment or training (October 2011), which compares to an average of 6.4% for England.

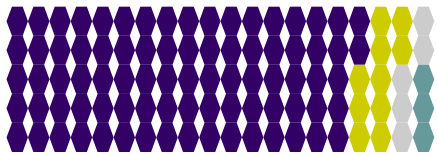


# A profile of our Children and Young People

If Bromley consisted of just 100 children and young people, our data (2010) shows the following profile for the Borough...



= Boys = Girls



= White = Asian  
 = Black = Mixed Race

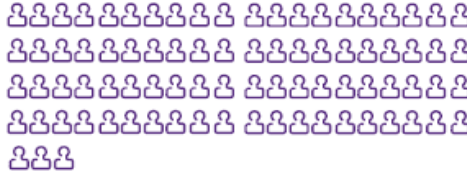


= Aged 0-4 = Aged 10-14  
 = Aged 5-9 = Aged 15-19

**3**  
will be a victim  
of crime over  
the year



**83**  
will get 5 A\*-C  
GCSEs



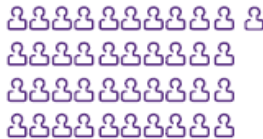
**14**  
will live in  
income  
deprived  
families



**3**  
will be  
persistently  
absent from  
school



**41**  
will have been  
bullied



**2**  
girls will be  
teenage  
mothers



**0.5**  
will be a  
Looked After  
Child



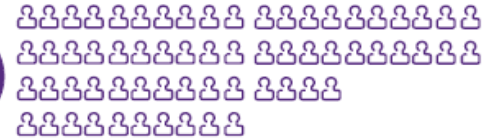
**23**  
will worry  
about being  
a victim of  
crime



**1**  
will be a  
young carer



**64**  
will want to go  
onto higher  
education



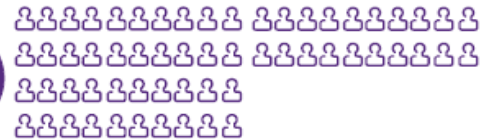
**3**  
will be known  
to the Youth  
Justice  
System



**21**  
will worry  
about being  
bullied



**60**  
will think that  
Bromley's  
parks are  
good



**6**  
will have a  
Statement or in  
School Action  
Plus



# 4 context and challenges

This Children's Strategy has been developed at a time of considerable change and challenge as the separate organisations within the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Board seek to assist and underpin the implementation of the Government's reform programme across the Borough, which has included significant changes to the structure and finances of public sector agencies.

Within the context of reduced resources available to the public sector, these changes have enhanced the need for agencies within the Partnership to review and reform the services that they provide to ensure that they achieve value for money for the residents of the Borough.

The Government is currently in the process of implementing a number of major policy and legislative changes, which relate to education, schools and the wider children's services, which will impact on resources and services at local level.

## Educational reform agenda

The Government have implemented two Acts of Parliament to implement educational reforms: **The Academies Act 2010** (received Royal Assent July 2010) and **The Education Act 2011** (received Royal Assent November 2011). It is expected that a **Higher Education Bill** will be introduced in the Houses of Parliament in 2012 to implement the changes set out in the Higher Education White Paper.

The Government have also published two White Papers setting out policy changes in schools and higher education: *The Importance of Teaching*, the **Schools White Paper** (published November 2010) and *Students at the Heart of the System*, the **Higher Education White Paper** (published June 2011).

A number of additional reviews and policy announcements have been focused on the following areas of educational reform: the **Admissions Framework** (published November 2011); the **National Curriculum** (started January 2011); **School Funding** - including the introduction of the **Pupil Premium** (published December 2011); **Testing, Assessment and Accountability at Key Stage 2** (published June 2011); and **Vocational Education for 14- to 19-year olds** (published March 2011).

## Child protection and safeguarding reform agenda

The Government introduced the **Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill** in the Houses of Parliament in June 2011 and it is expected that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in 2012. It is expected that an **Adoption Bill** will be introduced in the Houses of Parliament in 2012 to implement the changes set in the adoption framework.

## Glossary

<b>Act of Parliament</b>	An Act of Parliament is a Bill which has received Royal Assent and has become law
<b>Bill</b>	A Bill is a proposal for new legislation that is debated by the Houses of Parliament
<b>White Paper</b>	<p>A White Paper is issued by the Government to lay out its policy, or proposed policy, on a topic of current concern</p> <p>Although a White Paper may be issued for consultation as to the details of new legislation, it does signify a clear intention on the part of the Government to pass new law</p>
<b>Green Paper</b>	<p>A Green Paper is a tentative report of the Government's proposals without any commitment to action</p> <p>Green papers may result in the production of a White Paper</p>

The Government have also published a Green Paper on changes in offending behaviour: *Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offending*, the **Offending Green Paper** (published December 2010).

A number of additional reviews and policy announcements have been focused on the following areas of educational reform: the **adoption process** (published March 2012), the **child protection and safeguarding system** (published May 2011), the **family justice system** (published November 2011), and **tackling child sexual exploitation** (published November 2011).

## Early years reform

The Government have implemented a number of additional reviews and policy announcements focused on the following areas of early years: **early years foundation stage** (published March 2012), **foundation years qualifications** (interim report published March 2012), **free entitlement to early years education** (published November 2011), and **support for families with children aged 0-5 years old** (published July 2011).

## Health reform programme

The Government have implemented an Act of Parliament to implement health reforms: the **Health and Social Care Act 2012** (received Royal Assent March 2012).

The Government have also published two White Papers setting out policy changes in health services: *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*, the **NHS White Paper** (published July 2010) and *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England*, the **Public Health White Paper** (published November 2010).

The Government have implemented a number of additional reviews and policy announcements focused on the following areas of health reform: the **health visitor implementation plan** (published October 2010) and the **Obesity Strategy** (published October 2011).

It is expected that a **Children's and Young People's Outcomes Strategy** will be published by the Government in 2012 to focus the

health service on improving health results for children, including those needing primary, hospital and urgent care, and children with long-term conditions.

## Support for the most vulnerable

The Government have implemented an Act of Parliament to implement welfare reforms: the **Welfare Reform Act 2012** (received Royal Assent March 2012).

The Government have also published a White Paper setting out policy changes in services for support for the most vulnerable: *Universal Credit: Welfare that Works*, the **Welfare Reform White Paper** (published November 2010).

The Government have also published a Green Paper setting out proposed policy changes in services for support for the most vulnerable: *Support and Aspiration: A New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability*, the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Green Paper** (published March 2011).

The Government have implemented a number of additional reviews and policy announcements focused on the following areas of services for support for the most vulnerable: the **child poverty strategy** (published April 2011), **early intervention** (published January 2011), **poverty and life chances** (December 2010), the **social justice strategy** (published March 2012), **social mobility strategy** (published April 2011), and the **tackling troubled families** programme (published December 2011).

Further information on the following major policy and legislative changes are available at the website link below:



[www.bromleypartnerships.org](http://www.bromleypartnerships.org) >  
Bromley Children and Young People Partnership >  
Children's Partnership News

# 5 our partnership priorities

**Members of the Partnership Board have worked together to develop the priorities which form the core of this Children's Strategy to underpin the future working relationship of the Partnership during 2012 to 2015.**

The Partnership Board have agreed that, whilst retaining support for all children and young people, the Partnership would have a clear focus on supporting the most vulnerable children and young people within the Borough.

## Principles underpinning our work

The Partnership Board has adopted the following principles to underpin the delivery of this Strategy:

- To work with the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board to keep children safe from harm
- To maintain the balance of universal services and targeted support for the vulnerable
- To raise standards of service performance and improve outcomes for all children and young people
- To improve efficiency and value for money
- To provide appropriate, accessible early intervention and prevention
- To listen to service users
- To work with parents and carers to support them in taking parental responsibility

## Who are our vulnerable groups?

Within this Children's Strategy, we focus on providing support to our most vulnerable groups as they often experience additional challenges within their lives and so require additional support.

Within Bromley our vulnerable children are:

- Children and young people growing up in deprived communities and those receiving Free School Meals
- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs, learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- Children and young people from some minority ethnic communities, including Travellers and Gypsies
- Children and young people who are young carers
- Children and young people in the care of the London Borough of Bromley and care leavers, including unaccompanied asylum seeking young people and privately fostered children
- Children and young people with mental health or substance misuse problems
- Children and young people living in inappropriate, inadequate or temporary accommodation
- Children and young people living in households where there is domestic abuse, adult mental ill health or adults who have substance misuse issues and where children suffer neglect
- Teenage parents or children of teenage parents
- Young people who are at risk of offending or in the youth justice system
- Young people who are not in education, training and employment, or missing school because of persistent absence or exclusion

## Outcomes underpinning our work

To ensure that the Partnership Board continues to remain outcome focused within the current changing landscape, the following five outcomes have been identified and agreed by the partner agencies, through the review of our needs analysis, as essential outcomes which underpin our partnership working:

- Children and young people enjoy learning and achieve their full potential
- Ensuring the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and their families
- Children and young people are safe where they live, go to school, play and work
- Children and young people behave positively, take responsibility for their actions and feel safe within the Borough, and parents and carers take responsibility for the behaviour of their children
- Young people get the best possible start in adult life

The Business Plan for each partner agency includes details of how these outcomes are being addressed, either by the partners individually or through working jointly with one or more partner agencies.



# 6 our three areas of focus

**Within the five outcomes, the Partnership Board has agreed that there are three particular areas that as a partnership it would like to focus on over the next three years.**

These are areas where the Partnership feels that by working closely together and using the resources jointly available, that a real difference can be achieved in improving the lives of the children and young people involved.

The three areas of priority focus are:



**Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people**



**Improve the life chances of children in care**



**Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services**

The following pages of the Strategy set out the three areas of focus by detailing:

- **What we are trying to achieve?**

This will set out what outcomes the Partnership hope to achieve when delivering this this priority. This will ensure that the

Partnership continues to be outcome focused in the delivery of services

- **Why is this a priority?**

This will set out why the Partnership believe this is a key area of focus for the next three years by referring to the needs analysis, the key messages from our consultation and engagement activities, and by identifying the impact on services

- **Our partnership actions to be delivered between 2012 to 2015**

This will set out the high-level actions that will be delivered by 2015. As all the three proposed priority areas share some elements of crossover, actions and tasks have been included within the most relevant priority area, and have not been duplicated

The Strategy will develop and evolve during it's three year period; as a consequence, the Partnership Board will regularly review and update the action plan supporting the Strategy and the three areas of focus.

Detailed reports on progress in these areas will be presented to the Partnership Board annually.



It is important to note that this Strategy and the supporting action plans have been developed at a time of considerable change; therefore, the tasks and actions will be regularly reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant and achievable

## What are we trying to achieve?

- Children and young people feel happy about their lives and have opportunities to take part in positive activities that help them thrive
- Children and young people develop positive relationships with their peers and their parents and carers, and other important adults; and feel able to talk about their worries
- Children and young people do not experience or worry about experiencing bullying
- Children and young people feel safe when travelling to and from school, and do not worry about being a victim of crime
- Parents feel supported when developing bonds with their children



## area of focus:

Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

**The development of emotional health starts before a child is born, and the first two years of life are critical for laying the foundations for emotional health throughout childhood and into adult life, in particular through the parent/child relationship.**

The achievement of progress in this priority will reflect preventative work to promote positive emotional health (for example, improving support during pregnancy and the first two years of life and schools-based work to promote well-being) as well as improving support for those who have emotional health problems.

Emotional wellbeing has been defined as:

“A positive state of mind and body, feeling safe and able to cope, with a sense of connection with people, communities and the wider environment”

Mental health has been defined as:

“A state of wellbeing in which the individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community”

Emotional and mental health problems cover a range of different and complex medical conditions and social concerns, including: behavioural, emotional and social difficulties; depression; bipolar disorder (manic depression); schizophrenia; self harm; anxiety; and drugs and alcohol misuse.

Many of the services for improving the emotional and mental health of children and young people in Bromley are provided within the **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) framework**.

CAMHS services are a “four-tiered framework” which consists of: primary or direct contact services, for example general practitioners (GPs), health visitors or school nurses (Tier 1); services offered by individual specialist child and adolescent professionals (Tiers 2 and 3);

and highly specialised services, for example inpatient psychiatric care (Tier 4).

It is important that everyone who has responsibility for children values their role in promoting positive emotional health and recognising emerging emotional health problems at an early stage. Specialised mental health services for children see only a small proportion of those children who need some extra support. The vast majority of children are supported at Tier 1 level.

A number of other aspects can also impact on emotional health and wellbeing, and in some cases the onset of persistent mental health disorders, in children and young people including:

- Experiencing three or more **stressful life events**, such as family bereavement, divorce or serious illness physical illness
- **Family structure** - with national research showing that those living in single-parent households more likely to develop disorders
- The **mental health of the mother**
- **Household tenure and homelessness**
- Having a high level and persistent fear of being the victim of **bullying** and fear of being the **victim of crime**
- Persistent **substance misuse** (including alcohol and drug)
- Not being involved in **education, employment or training** or having opportunities to participate in positive activities
- Having **caring responsibilities**



### Why is this a priority?

**The Borough has experienced increases in the number and complexity of children and young people referred to services due to emotional health and wellbeing problems, which is leading to significant pressures on services and budgets for all agencies within the Partnership.**

#### General emotional wellbeing

National research has shown that:

- most young people are satisfied with their lives; however, a significant minority are not <sup>(1)</sup>
- children and young people in the UK suffer from higher incidences of emotional ill-health than their European contemporaries <sup>(2)</sup>
- 57% of 200 young people who were convicted of 'grave crimes' [a very serious crime for which a person will normally be sent to the Crown Court for trial - e.g., robbery, murder or indecent assault] in 1997 had suffered loss (either through bereavement or separation) of a parent, grandparent or other relative or carer <sup>(3)</sup>
- not being in education, employment or training can have a significant impact on the emotional wellbeing of young people, including:
  - 48% of young people not in work claim that unemployment has caused problems including self harm and insomnia <sup>(4)</sup>
  - 37% of young people not in education, employment or training also lack a sense of identity - this rises to 47% of those out of work a year or longer <sup>(4)</sup>
  - 63% of young people in work believe that their job is an important part of their identity <sup>(4)</sup>

Within Bromley:

- of the pupils surveyed in 2010 (through the TellUs 4 Survey), the number of children who feel that:
  - they have positive relationships (55%) was lower than the national average (56%), which indicates that emotional health may be less good in Bromley than in other similar areas
  - they do not have an adult to talk to about their worries (33%) is higher than the national average (30%)
  - their school listens to their ideas on what is important to them (7%) was below the national average (10%)
- a survey of new mothers within the borough showed that a large proportion would have liked more support by a midwife or health visitor with feeding while on the postnatal ward and at home
- a significant proportion of children and young people surveyed as part of the 2007 CAMHS Review were unhappy with their lives in the previous week before the survey was undertaken
- the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training is below the national average (4.9% in Bromley compared to 6.4% for England - as at October 2011); however, although this is in line with the England average, the number is increasing

#### Behaviour, emotional or social difficulties

National research has shown that:

- 23% (158,015) of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) have Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) as their primary need [as at January 2011], with 26% (127,795) at School Action Plus and 14% (30,220) with Statements of SEN <sup>(4)</sup>

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

- overall children of mothers with mental ill-health are 5 times more likely to have mental health problems themselves, resulting in both emotional and behavioural difficulties <sup>(6)</sup>

### Within Bromley:

- there are 1,042 children and young people [as at September 2011] with SEN and Disabilities whose primary need is BESD
- there has been a 28% increase in the number of children in Bromley schools identified as having SEN with Statements or School Action Plus for BESD since 2006 - from 316 in 2006 to 405 in 2011

## Mental health

National research has shown that:

- approximately 1 in 10 children aged 5 to 16 have a clinically diagnosable mental health disorder <sup>(7)</sup>
- nearly 50% of Children in Care have a clinically diagnosed mental health disorder, compared to 10% of the general population <sup>(8)</sup>
- over 1/3 of children and young people with an identified learning disability also have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder <sup>(8)</sup>
- approximately 40% of children and young people in contact with the Youth Justice System, and 90% of those in custody, have a mental health problem <sup>(8)</sup>
- teenage mothers are 3 times more likely than older mothers to suffer from post-natal depression and mental health problems in the first three years of their baby's life <sup>(8)</sup>
- 1/2 of those with lifetime mental health problems first experience symptoms by the age of 14 <sup>(9)</sup>

### Within Bromley:

- there were 1,900 referrals to CAMHS (excluding Bromley Y) during 2010-11 from a wide range of agencies including GPs, hospital services, education, social care and non-statutory services. This represents an increase of 87% in referrals since 2006
- the number of referrals accepted by CAMHS (excluding Bromley Y) increased by 221% between 2006 [349] and 2010 [1,222]
- waiting times for access to CAMHS are continuing to improve and are currently better than national policy levels, with: emergency/crisis referrals usually seen within 1 working day; urgent cases usually seen within 1 – 4 weeks; and routine referrals usually seen within 8 weeks
- there were 1,225 referrals to Bromley Y in 2010-11 - a 86% increase since 2006-07 (658)
- Bromley Y offered 10,183 sessions in 2010-11 - a 134% increase since 2006-07 (4,343)

## Bullying and fear of crime

National research has shown that:

- approximately 50% of children surveyed in 2010 (through the TellUs 4 Survey) said that they have been bullied at school at some point in their lives and about one in five say that they have been bullied at some point when not in school <sup>(10)</sup>
- 38% of young people have been affected by cyber-bullying, with 26% receiving abusive emails and 24% receiving abusive text messages <sup>(11)</sup>
- disabled children and those with visible medical conditions are

## Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

twice as likely as their peers to become targets for bullying behaviour <sup>(12)</sup>

- nearly 90% of people with a learning disability experience some form of bullying, with over 2/3 experiencing it on a regular basis <sup>(12)</sup>
- 65% of young lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils have experienced direct bullying <sup>(13)</sup>
- 9% of children in care who were surveyed are either bullied often or always, and a further 18% are bullied sometimes <sup>(14)</sup>

Within Bromley:

- of the pupils surveyed in 2010 (through the TellUs 4 Survey):
  - 37% felt “very safe” going to and from school, compared to 44% nationally
  - 31% felt “a bit unsafe” when using public transport, compared to 23% nationally
  - 23% were worried about being bullied, compared to 16% nationally
- emerging research from Bromley Primary School Council’s (conducted in November 2011) indicates:
  - bullying is being successfully challenged in schools
  - bullying is mostly a concern when ‘out and about’ in the Borough

### Emotional wellbeing of young carers

National research has shown that:

- young carers can experience substantial physical, emotional or social problems, and encounter difficulties in school and elsewhere <sup>(15)</sup>
- 30% of young carers support parents with mental health problems <sup>(15)</sup>
- being a young carer, especially where personal and practical support is lacking, can affect elements of a child’s transition to adulthood <sup>(15)</sup>

Within Bromley:

- 802 (as at February 2012) children and young people have been identified by the Young Carers Service (Carers Bromley) as a young carer in Bromley - this represents a 49% increase since 2009

### Substance misuse

National research has shown that:

- there is a clear association between mental illness, and drug and alcohol dependency, including: <sup>(16)</sup>
  - young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties are associated with an increased risk of experimentation, misuse and dependency <sup>(16)</sup>
  - dual diagnosis of substance misuse and mental health problems is high among young people who have substance misuse problems <sup>(17)</sup>
- around 30% of children under-16 years are estimated to be living with at least one binge drinking adult; 8% with an illicit drug using adult; and 4% with an adult defined as a problem drinker with a dual diagnosis of substance misuse and mental health problem <sup>(18)</sup>

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

Within Bromley:

- the number of young people who have received treatment for drug and alcohol misuse during any year fluctuates quite widely:
  - in 2008-09 144 young people received treatment compared to 221 in 2009-10, 176 in 2010-11
  - it is forecasted that 170 young people will receive treatment in 2011-12

### Impact of homelessness on mental health

National research has shown that:

- having a safe, affordable and stable home helps to maintain health and wellbeing as poor housing or homelessness can contribute to the development of mental health problems or can make existing mental health problems more difficult to manage <sup>(19)</sup>
- although homelessness is something that can happen to any young person, there are certain groups that are more likely to experience homelessness. The 2011 study of homeless young people supported by Centrepoin shows that:
  - 33% present with symptoms of a mental health problem
  - 28% are known or suspected to use illegal drugs
  - 20% are care leavers
  - 20% are ex-offenders <sup>(20)</sup>

Within Bromley:

- there has been a year on year reduction in homeless acceptances and temporary accommodation use since 2005; however, like all

local authorities, Bromley is witnessing high and increasing levels of housing need

- the London Borough of Bromley has successfully achieved zero use of shared nightly paid accommodation for under 18s



### Sources:

- (1) The Children's Society, 2011
- (2) The Children's Society, 2006
- (3) Children's Commissioner, 2011
- (4) The Prince's Trust, 2010
- (5) Department for Education, 2011a
- (6) Department for Education, 2011b
- (7) Office for National Statistics, 2004
- (8) Department for Children, Schools and Families, and Department of Health, 2008
- (9) Department of Health, 2011
- (10) National Foundation for Educational Research, 2010
- (11) NSPCC, 2011
- (12) National Children's Bureau, 2007
- (13) Stonewall, 2007
- (14) Ofsted, 2012
- (15) Social Care Institute for Excellence, 2005
- (16) HM Government, 2010
- (17) The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, 2008
- (18) NSPCC, 2011
- (19) Mind, 2012
- (20) Centrepoin, 2011

### Our partnership actions to be delivered between 2012 to 2015

ACTION	TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	LEAD AGENCY
1.1	<b>Improve provision of emotional wellbeing, mental health services and counselling services for children and young people</b>	Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Board
	Work with the Health and Wellbeing Board to implement the section of the Borough's <i>Health and Wellbeing Strategy</i> focused on tackling the increasing volumes and complexity of need of children with mental and emotional health problems	NHS South East London and London Borough of Bromley
	Ensure services are effectively targeted to early intervention, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Family Support	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
	Continue the development of robust, evidence-based care pathways to ensure high quality and consistent care using cross-borough working groups	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
	Implement the <i>Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Community Strategy</i> to raise awareness and increase the profile of BME issues within the Child Adolescent Mental Health Service and to become more responsive to the needs of specific communities	NHS South East London
	Review the care pathway for eating disorders to consider the feasibility of establishing a specialist Tier 3 Eating Disorders team to work in partnership with existing Tier 4 provision	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
	Use the service reconfiguration of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service to seek opportunities to promote early identification and response to mental health problems. These will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Establishment of an under 5s service as part of service re-configuration</li> <li>– Engagement with education partners with a view to commissioning responsive, school-based mental health services</li> <li>– Involvement with the national Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies initiative (IAPT)</li> </ul>	Bromley Safeguarding Children Board

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

ACTION	TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	LEAD AGENCY
<b>1.2 Improve support to families through pregnancy, the postnatal period, and the first two years of life to promote bonding between parents and baby, and to support parenting</b>	Implement a Health Visiting Commissioning Action Plan for the period 2011 to 2016	NHS South East London
	Continue to support parents with feeding to develop bonds between parents and baby	NHS South East London
	Maximise the use of Children and Family Centres to continue to provide support to parents with children aged 0 to 5 to further improve parenting by improving bonds between parents or carers (including fathers), and their children	London Borough of Bromley
	Continue to roll out HENRY (Health Exercise Nutrition for the Really Young) in Bromley	NHS South East London
<b>1.3 Use the Healthy Schools and Healthy Further Education Programmes to work with providers to improve the health and wellbeing of all pupils and students within Bromley's schools and Bromley College</b>	Support every school within the Borough to maintain its Healthy School status by undertaking the required annual reviews	NHS South East London
	Provide support within schools to promote health and emotional wellbeing through the Healthy Schools and Healthy Further Education Programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Offer the 'Your Choice Your Voice' programme to all secondary school</li> <li>– Ensure all Secondary Schools have a named School Nurse and to ensure that they offer a confidential drop-in for all pupils</li> <li>– Offer an agreed programme of Health Promotion to all schools</li> <li>– Ensure all pupils have access to the recommended Immunisation Programme</li> </ul>	London Borough of Bromley, Bromley Healthcare, and Bromley College
	Provide ongoing Mental Health wellbeing training for staff and students at Bromley College by a Mental Health Promotion Advisor	Bromley Healthcare
	Ensure all students at Bromley College have access to healthy living activities and information via the enrichment curriculum	Bromley College
<b>1.4 Provide positive activities which make children and young people feel good about themselves</b>	Provide a range of sports, arts and physical activity programmes and services for children and young people	Mytime Active
	Support all young people in the transition from education to employment, further/higher education or training, particularly the most vulnerable	All partners
	Support schools and families to improve school attendance and therefore improve the life chances of all children in Bromley	London Borough of Bromley

## Improve the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

ACTION	TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	LEAD AGENCY
<b>1.5 Continue to work across the Borough to reduce bullying, including cyber bullying, and the fear of crime, particularly when outside of school</b>	Education Welfare Service and Behaviour Service to provide support to schools on a regular basis	London Borough of Bromley
	Review and revise the Borough's Bullying Strategy to tackle cyber bullying	London Borough of Bromley
	Maximise the use of school councils to undertake surveys to identify key concerns of children and young people regarding their experiences of bullying	London Borough of Bromley
	Promote the Positive Behaviours Strategy through the Safer Schools and Colleges Partnership	Metropolitan Police Service (Bromley)
	Develop an agreement with Schools and Colleges to share information to ensure consistency when supporting young people	Metropolitan Police Service (Bromley)
	Implementation of safe travel measures under the Bromley College travel plan	Bromley College
	Identify and train a Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre Ambassador to advise College students and staff about online issues and risks	Bromley College
<b>1.6 Continue to increase and enhance in-borough provision and support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</b>	Implement Phase V of the Special Educational Needs Development Plan to increase in-borough capacity for children with Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties	London Borough of Bromley
	Reposition the London Borough of Bromley's policy for Foster Carer Allowances to increase the overall foster carer capacity providing support to the placement of children with complex needs or challenging behaviour	London Borough of Bromley
	Maintain the increase in provision short-breaks for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to avoid residential placements	London Borough of Bromley
<b>1.7 Continue to strengthen the support provided to young carers</b>	Review, consult on and update the Young Carers Strategy and Project Plan	London Borough of Bromley
	Raise awareness about young carers and arrange training for staff across the partner agencies	London Borough of Bromley
<b>1.8 Provide support to young people who are affected by homelessness</b>	Implement the revised Homelessness Strategy for Bromley to include supporting young people who are made homeless	London Borough of Bromley
	Continue zero use of shared facility nightly paid accommodation for young people and aim for the same for families	London Borough of Bromley



## area of focus:

Improve the life chances of children in care

## What are we trying to achieve?

- Children and young people in care are safeguarded and protected from harm
- Children and young people in care are encouraged to have high aspirations for their future and are supported to achieve their maximum potential
- Children and young people in care achieve their full educational attainment
- Children and young people in care are encouraged to be actively involved in their own care and influence service delivery
- Young people leaving care are ready and able to live independently, and are supported into further/higher education, employment or training



### **Children in the care of local authorities are one of the most vulnerable groups in society.**

The majority of children are in care because they have suffered abuse or neglect, with at any one time around 60,000 children being “looked after” in England, and approximately, 90,000 children being looked after at some point in any one year.

The term “looked after children” includes children and young people who are:

- in care through a care order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989
- accommodated on a voluntary basis through an agreement with their parents under section 20 of that Act, or agreement of the child if they are over 16
- placed away from home under an emergency protection order
- on police protection/remand/detention (section 21 of the Children Act)

In this Children’s Strategy the term children in care is used in preference to the term “looked after children” as children and young people themselves most often speak about being ‘in care’, rather than ‘looked after’. <sup>(1)</sup>

A great majority of children who become looked after do so because of abuse, neglect or family dysfunction that causes acute stress among family members.

Entry into care is usually a traumatic experience and brings with it a significant sense of loss that can be insufficiently recognised in care planning.

Older children in care may also experience significant problems at school. For those children and young people who remain in long-term

care creating a sense of belonging and emotional security is vital to their health and wellbeing.

“it’s important to tell my friends [that I am in care] as its an experience for them as well as me

Member of the Bromley Living in Care Council

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the life chances of children in care

### Why is this a priority?

**The Borough has experienced an increase in the number and complexity of need in children requiring support from Children's Social Care Services over the last 4-5 years.**

The cost of children's social care placements to the London Borough of Bromley – one measure of increasing volumes and complexity of needs – has increased from £8.8m in 2007-08 to £10.5m in 2011-12 - which represents a 19% increase.

### Increasing volumes of referrals, assessments and children subject to Child Protection Plans

Since 2007, Bromley experienced a significant increase within the children's safeguarding and social care services as follows:

- 193% (6,616) increase in the number of initial contacts in 2011-12 [year end prediction] (10,041) compared to 2007-08 (3,425)
- 56% (803) increase in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care services in 2011-12 [year end prediction - January 2012] (2,244) compared to 2007-08 (1,441)
- 96% (584) increase in the number of core assessments completed by children's social care services in 2011-12 [year end prediction] (1,194) compared to 2007-08 (610)
- 47% (63) increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan in 2011-12 [between April 2011 and January 2012] (196) compared to 2007-08 (133)

### Increasing numbers of children in care

National research has shown that:

- there were 65,520 children in care in March 2011, which represents a rate of 59 per 10,000 children under 18 years <sup>(2)</sup>
- this represents a 10% (6,020) increase in the number of children in care in 2011 compared to 2007-08 (59,500 at 31 March 2008) <sup>(3)</sup>

Within Bromley:

- there were 277 children in care (as at January 2012), which represents a rate of 39 per 10,000 children under 18 years
- this represents a 9% (22) increase in the number of children in care in 2011-12 compared to 2007-08 (255 at 31 March 2008)
- there was a 57% (49) increase in the number of new admissions into care in 2011-12 [year end prediction - January 2012] (135) compared to 2007-08 (86)

### A profile of our children in care

Within Bromley:

- Of the 277 children in care [as 31 January 2012]:
  - 27% (76) are from Black and Minority Ethnic communities - compared to 18% for the general Bromley children and young people resident population
  - 62% (171) are in care due to abuse or neglect
  - 18% (50) are aged 0-4, 16% (44) are aged 5-9, 38% (105) are aged 10-15, and 28% (78) are aged over 16

- 9% (3) of children in care achieved 5 A\*-C grades at GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths) - compared to 67% of the general Bromley population
- 50% (5) of children in care reached level 4 in English at Key Stage 2, and 40% (4) reached level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2 - compared to 79% of the general Bromley population who achieved level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2
- 52% of care leavers are in education, employment or training - compared to 95% of the general Bromley population
- 69% (192) of the children in care (as at January 2012) are in a fostering placement, with approximately 40 being currently placed within independent fostering agencies
- additionally, approximately 30 children in care are currently placed within independent children's homes (as at January 2012)
- 7% (18) of children in care (as at March 2011) were identified as having substance misuse problems during the past 12 months

### Supporting young people leaving care

National research has shown that:

- 49% of care leavers surveyed believe that they had been badly or very badly prepared for leaving care <sup>(7)</sup>
- care leavers have identified that the following elements that help them during the process of leaving care:
  - getting help with learning budgeting and management money
  - domestic skills, and semi-independent living skills training
  - being given important documents and someone to talk to <sup>(7)</sup>

- 46% of care leavers believe that they left care too early <sup>(7)</sup>

### Supporting children in care

National research has shown that:

- about 60% of those looked after in England have been reported to have emotional and mental health problems and a high proportion experience poor health, educational and social outcomes after leaving care <sup>(4)</sup>
- 1/3 of all children and young people in contact with the criminal justice system have been looked after <sup>(5)</sup>
- a far higher proportion of children in care are identified as having special educational needs when compared with all children <sup>(6)</sup>
- a far higher proportion of children in care have been subject to permanent exclusion from school when compared with all children <sup>(6)</sup>
- young children in care state that the three most important things to them are family, friends and their education <sup>(7)</sup>

**'it's nice to wake up every morning and think that 'I've got it better than it could have been'**

Member of the Bromley Living in Care Council on being in care

In Bromley, members of Bromley's Living in Care Council have identified:

- the following aspects as contributing to making a good placement:
  - feeling safe, are looked after and cared for, and treated as part of the family
  - someone who is reliable, helpful, kind, respectful, and offers help and support when the young person needs it

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the life chances of children in care

- support and encourage them to achieve well in education
- support their emotional health
- the following aspects as the worse elements of going in to care:
  - confusion about coming into care - not having it fully explained and an assumption that the child has an understanding
  - having numerous placements - as it is difficult to form relationships and bond with the adults and fellow children
  - not being able to see their family
- that it is important to share their story of being in care with friends who they trust

**“its about loving someone in a way that they deserve to be loved**

Member of the Bromley Living in Care Council on what makes someone a good foster carer



### Sources:

- (1) Children's Rights Director for England, 2012
- (2) Department for Education, 2011
- (3) Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2008
- (4) Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2009
- (5) Department for Children, Schools and Families, and Department of Health, 2009
- (6) Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services, 2010
- (7) Children's Rights Director for England, 2011

### Our partnership actions to be delivered between 2012 to 2015

ACTION	TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	LEAD AGENCY
<b>2.1 Continue to improve the educational achievement and attainment for children and young people in care</b>	Work in partnership with all Bromley schools (including academies) to implement a comprehensive strategy of support for all looked after learners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Have an expectation that all children in care have high quality education provision, mainstream where possible, appropriate to their needs</li> <li>– Monitor and record progress</li> <li>– Offer a comprehensive training programme for designated teachers and Governors</li> <li>– Ensure that Personal Education Plans are timely and of high quality</li> <li>– Monitor and support full attendance and reduce exclusions</li> </ul>	London Borough of Bromley
	Continue to challenge and support private, voluntary and independent sector providers and schools to close the gap in attainment between children in care and their peers in the Early Years Foundation Stage, the Primary and Secondary phases, and in Further and Higher education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide the same service to looked after learners placed outside Bromley</li> <li>– Identify Designated Members of Staff in such provision</li> <li>– Model good practice in the use of data as a tool for planning and support for individuals</li> </ul>	London Borough of Bromley
<b>2.2 Enhance opportunities for positive activities for young people across the borough</b>	Implement and promote free three month leisure centre memberships for Children in Care in partnership with Bromley Mytime	London Borough of Bromley
	Continue to promote the range of leisure time opportunities available in Bromley, including provision by the Council, and provided by the private, voluntary and independent sectors	London Borough of Bromley
	Work with the Living in Care Council (LinCC) to implement the Bromley Pledge for Children in Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure that children are given adequate information at the point of becoming looked after</li> <li>– Support the launch of the Bromley Pledge and recruitment to LinCC</li> <li>– Develop and maintain clear lines of communication between LinCC and Elected Members of the Council and senior officers</li> </ul>	London Borough of Bromley

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the life chances of children in care

	ACTION	TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	LEAD AGENCY
2.3	<b>Support the transition of young people leaving care and moving into independent living, further/higher education, and employment</b>	Implement post -16 Personal Education Plans to support Pathway Planning for looked after young people in the transition into further education, training or employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Implement post-16 Personal Education Plans pilot</li> <li>– Pilot Career Planning tool for all 16+ young people in care and care leavers preparing for employment</li> </ul>	London Borough of Bromley
Continue to work with our providers of supported housing and floating support services to support young people in their transition to permanent accommodation		London Borough of Bromley	
Ensure young people continue to receive high quality advice and guidance in relation to education, training and employment through the Bromley Youth Support Programme		London Borough of Bromley	
Identification of a Designated Member of Staff for Children in Care and Care Leavers enrolled at Bromley College		Bromley College	
Make specific provision for Care Leavers and Children in Care through the College-based Information Advice and Guidance service		Bromley College	
2.4	<b>Continue to increase the number of foster carer placements within the borough for the most challenging children and young people</b>	Proactively recruit an additional 50 foster carers, to includes specifically targeting foster carers for adolescents and disabled children	London Borough of Bromley
Develop plans to implement an enhanced package of support for London Borough of Bromley foster carers to enable them to care for children with more challenging and complex needs		London Borough of Bromley	
Expedite adoption plans to increase the number of children who are successfully adopted		London Borough of Bromley	
Identify funding to create additional capacity in the Community Paediatric Service to offer medical advice for prospective adopters and foster carers as a result of the increased demand of cases being presented to Adoption panel		London Borough of Bromley	
2.5	<b>Continue to improve the health of children in care</b>	Ensure that all children in care receive good levels of support and access to health services (such as regular dental checks) through targeted support from the dedicated children in care nurse	Bromley Healthcare and London Borough of Bromley
Identify services that will meet the health needs of children in care through the children in care health forum		London Borough of Bromley	
Ensure that all children in care have early access to appropriate services to improve their emotional health		London Borough of Bromley	

## What are we trying to achieve?

- All young people achieve maximum independence before they leave school
- Young people are supported when making the transition from Children Services to Adult Services
- Young people achieve their maximum educational potential
- Young people take responsibility for their own health and make informed decisions regarding their lives
- Young people are supported into further and higher education, employment and/or training
- Young people are supported to live within appropriate and suitable accommodation



## area of focus:

Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services

### The context of need in which planning and provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within Bromley must take place has changed dramatically in recent years:

- during the last 10 years, the number of very pre-term babies surviving long enough to enter school has increased from approximately 5% to an estimated 85/90%, and of these, 64% have additional needs or are disabled
- nationally the total number of children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) in special schools has increased by 29.7% since 2004, and the population of pupils with complex learning difficulties and disabilities in Bromley schools and settings is also increasing

The year on year increases in the numbers of children with more complex needs and disabilities is making considerable demands on services.

Within n Bromley, referrals to:

- the Pre-school Specialist Support and Disability Service saw an increase in the number of children with the most severe, profound or very complex needs of 24% over three years from 2009 [270], 2010 [312] to 2011 [335]
- the Complex Communications Clinic (Health led) have risen by 15% from 2009 [155] to 2010 [179]
- the Bromley Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for children and young people with moderate to severe mental health problems have risen by 27% from 2009 [1,496] to 2010 [1,901]
- the Community Paediatricians Service have risen by 13% from April 2010 to September 2011

- the Community Physiotherapists have risen by 8% from April 2010 to July 2011
- the Children's Speech and Language Service have risen by 23% from April 2008 [1,958] to June 2011 [2,545] - despite the criteria for service entry and intervention becoming much higher

Transitions occur at various stages throughout life, from starting primary school and moving on to secondary school, to preparing for independence and leaving home.

This area of focus concentrates on the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities from childhood through to adulthood.

In Bromley we expect young disabled people to be able to maximise their potential, to live independently and be given the opportunity to have as many ordinary experiences as possible. This can include working, making and keeping friends, having relationships and taking part in leisure activities.

This area of focus sits alongside the Borough's *Integrated Transition Strategy for Young People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities*.

**transition has a huge impact on the lives of young people and their families... sometimes the 'small things' can be the 'tipping points'**

Parent of a Bromley disabled young person



## Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services

### Why is this a priority?

**The Borough has experienced an increase in the number and complexity of need in children requiring support from the Children's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services over the last few years.**

The cost of education and care placements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to the London Borough of Bromley – one measure of increasing volumes and complexity of needs – has increased from £11.2m in 2007-08 to £18.4m in 2011-12: a 64% increase.

### Increasing volumes of referrals, assessments and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Within Bromley:

- it is estimated that there are 4,700 children and young people in the Borough who have a disability and/or significant special needs
- the percentage of pupils in Bromley schools with Special Educational Need (SEN) increased from 17.1% in 2009 to 17.8% in 2010 and to 18.3% in 2011
  - this represents an increase of 628 additional pupils
- there are currently (as at February 2012) 18.3% (8,515) of pupils (aged 5-16) in Bromley schools with some measure of SEN:
  - 9% (4,186) are identified as requiring School Action
  - 6.6% (3,079) are identified as requiring School Action Plus
  - 2.7% (1,250) have a full Statement

- the number of Statements of SEN maintained by the London Borough of Bromley increased from 1,797 in 2009, to 1,881 in 2010, to 1,942 in 2011, and to 1,975 in Jan 2012

– this represents an increase of 10% over 3 year period

- there has been a 15% increase in the most disabled children in Bromley schools those with profound and multiple learning difficulties since 2004
- there are currently (as at September 2011) 44 young people in Year 12, 18 in Year 13 and 26 in Year 14 who are supported by the Children's Disability Team
- approximately 65 young people are currently (as at September 2011) in Independent Specialist College provision on three year programmes with 29 moving on this year

**‘knowing there was a new flat for me but having to wait such a long time before I could move in...it was very stressful**

A Bromley disabled young person

### Transition to adulthood

National research has shown that:

- young people with Special Educational Needs are more than twice as likely not to be in education, employment or training at the age of 18 than the general population <sup>(1)</sup>
- associated problems with transition to adulthood for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities can include social isolation, a lack of daily-living skills, difficulties in finding work, and additional problems in family relationships, such as over-protectiveness by parents and low parental expectations <sup>(2)</sup>

# our three areas of focus

## Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services

- ineffective transition planning can lead young people to 'drop out' and not access adult services, whilst others experience a deterioration in their health after a move to adult services and/or poorer quality services (2)
- common themes identified in service transition as a young person moves into adulthood include: the failure of different agencies to work and plan together; and the need for both timescales and services to be tailored to the individual (2)
- there may be a lack of appropriate assessment of a young person's needs before and during transition, and a lack of appropriate services at the adult level for some physical disabilities (2)

### Within Bromley:

- an analysis of the future demand over the next ten years indicates an increase in both the number of young people with disabilities and an increase in their levels of need
- it is expected that 305 young people with complex and enduring needs who meet the threshold for support from adult care services will make the transition from Children's Services to Adult Services over the next 10 years
- in recognition of the importance of transition, Bromley has been improving its pathway services over recent years
- the local authority, in conjunction with NHS South East London and the London Borough of Bexley, have been awarded pathfinder status for the SEN and Disability Green Paper to test the following options: Personal budgets; Banded funding; and Support to parents and young people

- the primary focus over the coming years will be to reduce the Borough's usage of residential services and replace them with person centred and more cost effective supported living opportunities

**'the difference between success and failure is attitude of mind and those we meet along the way'**  
Parent of a Bromley disabled young person



### Sources:

- (1) Department for Education, 2011
- (2) Social Care Institute for Excellence, 2005

Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services

## Our partnership actions to be delivered between 2012 to 2015

	ACTION	TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	LEAD AGENCY
3.1	<b>Implement the Integrated Transition Strategy for Young People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities</b>	In conjunction with health partners, develop the Action Plan to support the implementation of the Transition Strategy following the period of consultation	London Borough of Bromley
Continue to implement the investment plan for services for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities		London Borough of Bromley	
Further develop the strategic planning and commissioning of Adult Services by using an analysis of the transition needs of the cohort of young people from 14 years onwards receiving support from Children's Services and who will be requiring services from adult health and social care services within 5 years		London Borough of Bromley	
Ensure that there is a person centred/support planning approach in place that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Person centred/support planning methods and processes to create integrated transition plans</li> <li>– The promotion of direct payments</li> <li>– A focus on achieving outcomes, improving and supporting independence, and reducing reliance on directly funded services</li> </ul>		London Borough of Bromley	
Further develop systems and processes that support the monitoring and management of transition planning and care across agencies at an individual, operational, managerial and strategic level		London Borough of Bromley	
Continue to roll out independent travel training programmes		London Borough of Bromley	
In partnership with schools and colleges, continue to develop strategies for identifying young people at risk of not progressing appropriately who would benefit from mentoring support		London Borough of Bromley	
Ensure that all young people are "signposted" to appropriate local and national sources of general Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)		London Borough of Bromley	

## Improve the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to Adult Services

	ACTION	TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	LEAD AGENCY
3.2	<b>Implement the joint Pathfinder Bid for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Green Paper with NHS South East London and the London Borough of Bexley</b>	Implement the Joint Pathfinder Project - as prescribed by the Department for Education and Department for Health Use Bromley's Specialist Support and Disability Panel to develop a single point of access to resources and test the transferability of the model with Bexley Develop a multi agency commissioning forum (including GP consortia) to ensure that sufficient resources are commissioned to fulfil plans and provide a local offer Develop a Banded Funding Model	All partners All partners All partners All partners
3.3	<b>Commission high quality education placements to support young people to gain skills to move into independent living and employment</b>	Investigate and develop new links for placement in "Learning for Living" provision Further improve the negotiation and commissioning of outcome based education in specialist placement settings to support independent living skills and employment (including supported) through improved multi-agency action planning, aligned to Learning Difficulty Assessments Through regular reviews, ensure that learner progression is evident throughout the duration of the placement and supports identified goals in preparation for adulthood	Bromley College London Borough of Bromley London Borough of Bromley

## Partners within the Partnership

### **Bromley Children and Young People Partnership**

[www.bromleypartnerships.org](http://www.bromleypartnerships.org)

### **Bromley College of Further and Higher Education**

[www.bromley.ac.uk](http://www.bromley.ac.uk)

### **Bromley Healthcare**

[www.bromleyhealthcare.org.uk](http://www.bromleyhealthcare.org.uk)

### **Bromley Safeguarding Children Board**

[www.bromleysafeguarding.org](http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org)

### **Children and Family Voluntary Sector Forum**

[www.cfforum.org.uk](http://www.cfforum.org.uk)

### **Connexions South London Sub Regional Unit**

[www.rbksru.org.uk](http://www.rbksru.org.uk)

### **Jobcentre Plus**

[www.dwp.gov.uk/jobcentreplus](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/jobcentreplus)

### **London Borough of Bromley**

[www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)

### **London Probation Trust**

[www.london-probation.org.uk](http://www.london-probation.org.uk)

### **Mytime Active**

[www.mytimeactive.co.uk](http://www.mytimeactive.co.uk)

### **Metropolitan Police Service: Bromley Borough**

<http://cms.met.police.uk/met/boroughs/bromley/index>

### **NHS South East London**

[www.selondon.nhs.uk](http://www.selondon.nhs.uk)

## appendix 1: website links for further information

This appendix provides links to a range of key websites, including:

- the partners within the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership
- national websites
- useful documents and sources of information



**URL**

**Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust**

[www.oxleas.nhs.uk](http://www.oxleas.nhs.uk)

**South London Healthcare NHS Trust**

[www.slh.nhs.uk](http://www.slh.nhs.uk)

## National websites

**10 Downing Street**

[www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk)

**Cabinet Office**

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**Department for Business, Innovation and Skills**

[www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)

**Department for Communities and Local Government**

[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

**Department for Education**

[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

**Department for Work and Pensions**

[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

**Department of Health**

[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

**Deputy Prime Minister**

[www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**HM Treasury**

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

**Home Office**

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

**Ministry of Justice**

[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)

**Ofsted**

[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

**Skills funding Agency**

<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/>

**Young People's Learning Agency**

[www.ypla.gov.uk](http://www.ypla.gov.uk)

## Useful documents and sources of information

**Children and Young People's Needs Analysis**

[www.bromleypartnerships.org](http://www.bromleypartnerships.org) > Bromley Children and Young People Partnership > **Our Children's Strategy** > Needs Analysis 2010

**Government Reform Agenda: Briefing Paper**

[www.bromleypartnerships.org](http://www.bromleypartnerships.org) > Bromley Children and Young People Partnership > **Children's Partnership news**



**This document was produced by:**

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Children and Young People Services

**London Borough of Bromley**

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**The Bromley Children and Young People Partnership is a partnership of the following organisations:**

Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum | Bromley College of Further and Higher Education  
Bromley Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership | Bromley Healthcare | Bromley Primary and Special Schools  
Bromley Safeguarding Children Board | Bromley Secondary Schools | Connexions South London Sub Regional Unit | Jobcentre Plus  
London Borough of Bromley | London Probation Trust | Metropolitan Police Service (Bromley) | Mytime Active | NHS South East London  
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust | South London Healthcare NHS Trust

