

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Education Portfolio Holder
12 June 2012

Briefing for Care Services Portfolio Holder
19 June 2012

CHILDREN'S STRATEGY 2012 TO 2015

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the final version of the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership's Children's Strategy for 2012 to 2015 (**Appendix 1**).

2. **THE BRIEFING**

- 2.1 Since 2006 the Borough has published a statutory Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) as required by the Children Act 2004. The CYPP was a local authority plan to be delivered in partnership with other local agencies providing services for children, young people and families, including those from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The Plan was based on locally identified priorities to improve the lives and opportunities of children and young people in the Borough. The last CYPP for Bromley covered the period April 2009 to March 2011, and was approved by Council on 5 December 2009 (report LDCS09144).
- 2.2 In July 2010 the Government announced that the duty on local authorities, with their partners, to develop a CYPP was to be removed from 31 October 2010. Following consideration of the future strategic partnership and planning arrangements by the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Board (the Partnership Board) in the autumn 2010, it was agreed that the Partnership Board would develop a joint *Children's Strategy* for the three year period from 2012 to 2015.

The priorities

- 2.3 The Partnership Board's joint *Children's Strategy* has been based around the following five priority outcomes which were identified through substantial consultation with key partners and by undertaking a robust needs analysis during 2010/11 which included the views of children and young people:
- Children and young people enjoy learning and achieve their full potential.

- Ensuring the health and well-being 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.

2.4 During the summer 2011, the Partnership Board agreed that whilst the Partnership would still commit within the joint *Children's Strategy* to work towards achieving the five jointly agreed outcomes (as could be demonstrated as appropriate through the separate Business Plans of each agency), **it particularly focuses on the following three more defined areas for action** where by working together they can make significant improvements to the lives of children, young people and their families:

- **Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people** – including issues such as: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and pre-CAMHS services; support to parents through pregnancy and early years to promote bonding; positive activities for young people and reducing bullying; emotional health issues caused by homelessness and caring responsibilities; and reducing the fear of crime.
- **Improving the life chances of children in care** – including attainment, health, employment and independent living.
- **Improving the transition of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to adult services** – including issues relating to education, employment and independent living as well as information and support.

Consultation details

2.5 The consultation on the draft Children's Strategy was undertaken for 12 weeks from Monday 31 October 2011 to Friday 20 January 2012. Consultation responses were received via:

- 22 completed questionnaires returned through Survey Monkey, the London Borough of Bromley's internal intranet, and from the Living in Care Council;
- Approximately 30 representatives from the voluntary and community sector attended a specific consultation event held by the Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum on 1 December 2011;
- Approximately 20 parents and carers attended a specific consultation event held by Burgess Autistic Trust on 10 January 2012;
- Comments were provided by Members of the London Borough of Bromley's Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 24 January 2012 (Report No. DCYP12001);
- Approximately 80 representatives from the statutory, private, and voluntary and community sectors, children and young people, and parents and carers attended the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Forum on 23 February 2012;
- Further responses were received from Bromley Parent Voice, the Bromley Community Engagement Forum, and the London Borough of Bromley's Education Welfare Service;

- During the consultation period the Living in Care Council also produced a DVD to illustrate their experiences of living in care, which was also shown at the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Forum.
- 2.6 The comments raised through the consultation period, including the outcomes from the Bromley Children and Young People Partnership Forum held on 23 February 2012 have been incorporated within the final version of the *Children's Strategy*.
- 2.7 Comments have also been shared with the relevant lead officers within the different organisations in the Partnership to ensure that they can influence future policy and service decisions, including the Borough's Integrated Transition Strategy for Young People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities.
- 2.8 The final version of the *Children's Strategy* was signed off by the Partnership Board at its meeting on 26 March 2012. The Portfolio Holders for Care Services and Education have added their endorsement to the Strategy and together with the Partnership Board will be reviewing and monitoring the strategy.

Links with other strategies

- 2.9 The priorities within the draft joint *Children's Strategy* closely mirror the identified priority areas within the emerging Education and Case Services Plan, the 2011 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Bromley. It contributes directly to the aspirations within *Building a Better Bromley: 2020 Vision*.