

Childrens' Services Achievements and Priorities Update

In conjunction with the council's business and community partners, Ealing has developed and committed to an ambitious, long-term vision for the future:

'In 2016 Ealing will be a successful borough at the heart of west London, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper and live fulfilling lives in communities which are safe, cohesive and engaged.' Our vision for children and young people in Ealing is to create a great place for every child and young person to grow up.

As a school leader in Ealing, you have a crucial role to play in helping to achieve these goals.

In 2010 the Ofsted Children's Service Annual rating for Ealing was that its Children's Service 'Performs well' and that it is an organisation that exceeds minimum requirements.

In May 2011 the Council was subject to an announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services, which identified no areas for priority action. Of the 22 judgements made, 14 are "Good", and 8 are "Outstanding". This is a very strong result, and places Ealing in the top ten per cent nationally. An action plan is in place that incorporates areas identified for development; this will deliver the improvements identified by the end of September 2011.

Following the change in political administration in May 2010 to Labour, the corporate strategy was refreshed and published in September 2010. The Corporate Plan sets out how the Council will respond to residents' commitment to improve and secure local public services, jobs and homes, rising to the challenge of protecting and improving frontline services, particularly for the most vulnerable. The plan feeds into the revised the Community Strategy. The administration has identified 5 key priorities:

- Making Ealing Safer
- Secure our Public Services
- Secure Jobs and Homes
- Making Ealing Cleaner
- Deliver Value for money

The 2006/16 10 year strategic plan for the Authority – 'Success through Diversity', has been developed with all partners through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), including strong voluntary and community sector input. The existing strategy has 5 key priority areas, which integrate with priorities in the Children and Young People (CYP) Plan. Two of the priorities directly reflect Children's Services, namely the Children's block – 'Creating a great place for every child and young person to grow up' and the Community Safety block – 'Making Ealing the Safest Place in London'. Key targets have been set to achieve these goals by 2016.

Our key achievements in the last year (2010-11) and into the next (2011-12)

- In the last 12 months services to children and young people have improved across the board and there have been a number of successes to be proud about. These include:
- Significant progress continues to be made in embedding multi-agency integrated working over the past 12 months. SAFE 0-12 (Supportive Action for Families in Ealing) Early Intervention service. During 2010/2011 the service dealt with 1,153 referrals relating to 2,272 children. 51% of referrals were from social care and 17% from schools. There is an increasing number of self referrals at 18%.
- In the year 2010/2011, Adolescent SAFE received 824 referrals. 35% of which came from social care and 26% from schools. Self referrals now account for 15% of the total.
- Ealing's Early Years Strategy has achieved all its targets and is viewed as a national model of good practice. 27 children's centres have been established across the borough, including the final 4 buildings nearing completion.
- The Extended Schools Strategy has continued to be successfully implemented on a geographical, locality basis and the service was successful in securing ongoing funding from the Schools Forum for the academic year starting September 2011.
- Following a review in 2010, in light of the Baby P case, the authority allocated approx £1m additional resource to improve quality and response.
- Education outcomes are strong at secondary stage. KS4 Attainment of 5A*-C including English and maths is above the national average for all students. Students in Ealing make very good progress at KS2-4 compared to similar students nationally. Improvement at primary stage, particularly KS1 and KS2 has been maintained.

- Three of Ealing's special schools are rated as outstanding by Ofsted and one is rated as good.
- 2010 Mainstream school attendance levels continue to be good in Ealing, Autumn 2010 returns demonstrate attendance rates of 93.7% in High School and 94.7% in primary Schools.
- There is an effective and dynamic Play Strategy in place, which is currently being updated and £1.1m Play Builder funding to transform 22 play areas by April 2011
- Following the close down of the national BSF programme, the council was successful in securing funding for the 2 sample school rebuilding programmes. The primary expansion programme is moving forward at pace to match demand. Cabinet in Jan 2011 approved expansion in respect of a further 6 schools.
- Ealing has a very successful Youth and Connexions Service and an effective Youth Offending Service. The number of youth service contacts increased from 28% in 2007/8 to 39% in 2010/11, significantly above the national benchmark of 25%.
- Numbers of CYP 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEETs) dropped further this year to 4.4%, a 1% point reduction from the 2008 levels.

For 2011-12 we are planning to:

- Improve attainment at KS1 continues to be a key priority, although some improvement noted this year e.g. writing by 2% point, but this is still below national and comparator averages.
- Respond effectively to new national DfE agenda including development of Free Schools and Academies.
- Embed the new School Effectiveness Service which is designed to support continuous improvement in schools.
- Narrow the achievement and attainment gaps between historically underachieving groups of pupils at all ages, within a context of improved overall attainment and progress.
- Continue to improve EAL provision - the proportion for whom English is not the first language has risen to 58% and over 140 different languages being spoken in schools.
- Improve black Caribbean heritage pupils' results at KS 1 and 2 (currently below the borough average).
- There has been improvement of 15% points in black Caribbean attainment at KS4 5A*-Cs including English and Maths, but this is still below borough average.
- White FSM boys progress remained the same, whilst girls progress deteriorated. The gap has widened for WFSM boys. Progress has significantly improved in English for both boys and girls but not in Maths.
- Develop a 3-year strategy for supporting families and children with additional needs.
- Implement the recommendations of the review of the SEN transport policy and implement the SEN Transport action plan.
- Improve performance on reintegration rates for excluded pupils
- Deliver on Playbuilder programme of enhancement of 22 sites.