

## Executive summary CYPP review 2008/09

Barnet Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) Review is a detailed review of progress and performance from April 2008 to March 2009 against the targets and objectives set out in the CYPP 2008/09 – 2010/11. The London Borough of Barnet and partners including Barnet Borough Police, NHS Barnet and the local voluntary sector have set out six key priorities:

- Every school a good school for every child
- Improving employability
- Safe at home, safe at school, safe in the community
- Personalising services for children and young people in vulnerable groups
- Building resilience, supporting independence
- Healthy choices for a healthy life

This executive summary provides an overview of progress against each of these priorities during the first year of the plan. More detail on progress against each of the sub-objectives and an appendix containing a complete performance table can be found in the full report. To request a copy of the full report please contact [alice.bolton@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:alice.bolton@barnet.gov.uk) or [elaine.tuck@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.tuck@barnet.gov.uk)

### Every school a good school for every child

This year we have successfully built leadership capacity in schools and have achieved a significant reduction in governor vacancies. The Ofsted judgement for overall effectiveness in Barnet schools for 2007/08 was 81% and continues to be well above the national figure of 63%. Achievement of 5 or more A\*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths for the academic year 2007/08 stands at 61.1% against a national average of 47.6%. We continue to work hard to close the achievement gap and have successfully narrowed it in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Additional consultant support has been provided to those primary and secondary schools where pupils are at risk of not making the expected progress. The re-constructed East Barnet School is on schedule to open as planned in September 2010, two new primary school buildings at Parkfield and the Hyde schools and the re-built Whittings Hill primary school open in September 2009.

### Improving employability

In 2008/09 4.1% of 16-18 year olds in Barnet were not in education, employment or training (NEET), compared with 4.6% a year earlier and 6.7% nationally. Ongoing links with employers have been strengthened through the Education Business Partnership, intensive support was provided for 31 NEET young people on programmes including construction and plumbing, and six care leavers took up apprenticeships in the council in business, admin, pest control and parks. We have fully devolved our Connexions service to provide services in each of our secondary schools and other community settings, which has resulted in a significant increase in the number of interventions especially among vulnerable groups requiring intensive support. In addition, a new multi-agency centre opened at Woodhouse Road giving young people access to services including Connexions, Leaving Care, counselling, drug and alcohol support. Youth participation was further strengthened in 2008/09: the Youth Board now has representation from all 21 mainstream schools and the pupil referral unit, and nine young people have been trained to inspect primary care services to assess how welcoming and accommodating they are of young people's needs.

## Safe at home, safe at school and safe in the community

A range of activities have taken place to raise awareness of safeguarding issues. These include e-safety awareness raising sessions for teachers and parents; the appointment of a designated nurse for safeguarding and a named GP to improve the compliance of independent contractors; and safeguarding awareness training for a number of GP practices. We conducted an audit of children subject to Child Protection plans and supported vulnerable families through a pilot advocacy service for parents involved in the child protection process. During 2008/09 targeted support was given to ten secondary schools, resulting in a reduction in the average persistent absence rate from 5.95% at the beginning of the autumn term to 4.7% at the end of spring term in these schools. Opportunities for children and young people were expanded and publicised: an on-line youth directory of over 500 activities was launched; Barnet's first Summer Uni programme in 2008 attracted over 1,000 young people; and Canada Villa youth centre was refurbished.

## Personalising services for children and young people in vulnerable groups

The number of children in care achieving 5 A\* to C GCSEs or the equivalent rose to 21.2% in 2007/08 from 10.3% in 2006/07. Funding has been secured for 1:1 tuition enabling schools to provide personal tuition outside of school hours to identified children not reaching the expected levels, thereby helping to further narrow achievement gaps. The workforce has been strengthened with additions to the adoption team and the kinship and permanence team, providing additional capacity and helping to improve service delivery. Twelve families of disabled children, with 14 children, are on a pilot of individual budgets; seven new short break services for disabled children and young people have been introduced; and provision for young people with autism has been expanded, with additional nursery, primary and secondary resources. In January 2009 a transition team was established in Adult Social Services to help improve the transition of young disabled people with complex needs into adulthood. Personalising services for vulnerable young people has also been successful in the Youth Offending Service; its prevention service made successful use of the Common Assessment Framework and oversaw a reduction in the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system.

## Building resilience, supporting independence

The Building Resilience Supporting Independence (BRSI) division has brought together Children's Centres and Extended Schools. All relevant Children's Centre staff have attended multi-agency Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Training. There has been extensive training for social workers and first line managers on the use of the Barnardo's Domestic Violence risk assessment model and over 200 multi-agency staff have attended workshops on the threshold scales for domestic violence. Three domestic violence support workers have been recruited to work with the lower threshold cases, and a team of four parent support advisers and two lead parenting practitioners have provided intensive support to targeted parents in individual and group settings, reaching over 80 parents on a one to one basis. In May 2009 Underhill Children's Centre formally opened in new purpose built accommodation, providing integrated support services for the local community. A comprehensive audit of extended services in and around schools has been completed and the information is being used to further develop services to meet local need.

## Healthy choices for a healthy life

A successful family programme targeting overweight and obese children aged 7-11 proven to increase daily physical activity and modify families' diets reached 92 children and their families this year. 18 new schools were supported by Barnet's Healthy School Team to achieve Healthy School status and we are working with St Joseph's Junior School to help it become one of Barnet's first flagship "Food for Life" schools. Participation in sports competition has also been a focus, with 2,870 new participants as of April. A new peri-natal service based at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital is being piloted to support women at risk of depression both ante-natal and post-natal, and a breast feeding buddy programme has been launched across Barnet. Considerable effort has gone into supporting and informing GP practices and parents about immunisation and by the end of 2008/09 the recorded immunisation rate rose to 81% from 75% in 2007/08. Barnet has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of teenage conception in London and sex and relationships sessions have been delivered in all youth centres, the pupil referral unit, and on our mobile Rolling Base bus.

## Delivering the plan

In 2008/09 multi-agency workforce development activity included holding a multi-agency children's workforce conference with a focus on collaborative working; sponsoring six new graduate trainees and three 'employment route' candidates to undertake their MA in Social Work; and running joint training programmes across the Children's Service. Our IS systems and infrastructure have been upgraded to enable more effective working and we are on track to implement the national children's database (ContactPoint) at the end of 2009. During 2008/09 the Children's Service achieved efficiencies savings of £2.460m and the service ended the year within budget.

## CYPP 2009/10

An updated version of the Children and Young People Plan covering targets and activities for 2009/10 is available at <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/cyp-plan-2009-2010.pdf>.