

Islington Children and Young People's Plan 2006/11: Summary

Building Better Futures with Children, Families and Communities

Our Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) describes the work everyone with an interest in making life in Islington better for children, young people and their families will be contributing to. This is a summary of the plan which has been revised and extended to cover the period 2009 to 2011.

We have considered all the current data and information available as well as what people have been telling us through consultation to assess our achievements over the last three years and improvements still needed. This revised CYPP identifies a clear set of priorities for the Children's Partnership. These are:

- 1. Young children getting the best possible start in life**
- 2. Keeping children safe at home, in school and in the community**
- 3. Every child enjoying going to school everyday**
- 4. Outstanding learning in every Islington school**
- 5. Islington's children in care enjoying the lives we want for our own children**
- 6. Young people having the best possible qualifications, experiences and opportunities for adult life**
- 7. Families and communities raising aspirations for learning and work**

There are also key themes and drivers, such as tackling child poverty and workforce development, that need to be addressed through these priorities. Our ambitions can only be met through strong partnerships including with parents and we will be developing our 'think family' approach across all our work in this plan.

Priority 1: Young children getting the best possible start in life

Our ambition for all children growing up in Islington is that they get the best possible start in life – this means that their opportunities to have good health, wellbeing and high quality early learning will be as good as anywhere else in the country.

Where do we want to be?

- More women start breastfeeding and carry on for longer
- Islington's children are more active and eat healthier diets
- More children are up-to-date with immunisations, including MMR
- More young children are at a good level of development at the Early Years Foundation Stage of learning.
- Fewer children develop tooth decay and access to preventative and treatment services is promoted

How we will get there: Actions by services and the wider community

- All under 5s with complex disabilities accessing the Early Support Programme
- Disabled children and their families reporting a more favourable experience of local services and the Aiming High for Disabled Children 'core offer'
- Implementing new local Healthy Children's Centres standards in Early Years.
- 95% of schools achieving Healthy Schools Status by 2009 and 100% of schools are engaged in the programme by 2010
- More women seeing a midwife or a maternity healthcare professional, for health and social care assessment by 12 completed weeks of pregnancy
- Maintaining the momentum of peer support to improve and sustain breastfeeding rates which will also contribute to our obesity strategy
- Implementing the commissioning priorities identified in the Parenting Support Strategy
- Working with maternity providers, GPs and Children's Centres to provide early access to local services and deliver the Choice Guarantee
- Working in partnership to improve the uptake of childhood immunisations
- Embedding systems and processes to improve the quality of immunisation data
- Implementing the Foundation Stage Strategy
- Implementing and reviewing the impact of the Obesity Care Pathways for Early Years and for Primary Schools
- Every child having at least 5 hours physical activity each week

Priority 2: Keeping children safe at home, at school and in the community

The importance of children being protected from harm and risk wherever they are is paramount and can only be achieved through rigorous safeguarding arrangements and the development of strong and trusting relationships across the borough.

Where do we want to be?

- Improved partnership working between adults' mental health services and children's services
- Improved understanding of the needs of children who are victims of trafficking, honour-based violence, sexual exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Messages from Serious Case reviews are understood and inform practice
- Effective implementation of the Public Law Outline
- Unexpected child deaths are being responded to effectively
- The welfare of children who run away from home is safeguarded
- Multi-agency working strengthened further in respect of sexual abuse
- Reflective and constructive challenge is embedded in working relationships
- Messages from the 2009 Laming Report are translated into tangible improvements
- All partner agencies are operating effective safe recruitment arrangements
- Children from all faith, ethnic and racial communities are safeguarded.
- Children are effectively safeguarded in the school environment.

How we will get there: Actions by services and the wider community

- Reviewing the levels of domestic violence, trafficking, honour based violence, sexual exploitation and FGM and complete audits of multi-agency practice
- Reviewing the quality of partnership working with adults' services
- Monitoring the impact of the Public Law Outline.
- Collating the key messages from Serious Case Reviews and implement a strategy
- Reviewing the operation of the Child Death Overview Panels
- Determining the nature and level of young people running away from home and introducing arrangements that promote their safety.
- Extending partnership work with race, ethnic and faith communities and organisations in Islington on safeguarding matters
- Introducing peer challenge model within the Islington Safeguarding Children Board
- Making necessary arrangements for the introduction of the ISA
- Developing an action and implementation plan based on the Laming report
- Strengthening partnership working between Children's Social Care, the Mental Health Trust, Housing Needs and Strategy Service and Homes for Islington
- Reviewing the constitution and working arrangements of the ISCB

Priority 3: Every child enjoying going to school everyday

Although attendance at Islington schools improved with overall absence and persistent absence reducing, pupil absence in Islington still remains higher than the national average. There is still significant work to be done to raise attendance levels even more to ensure that children can maximise their learning, attainment and access to the full range of enrichment activities and extended services opportunities.

Where do we want to be?

- Improvement in attendance and reduction in persistent absence in all schools and for vulnerable groups
- Reduction in both fixed term and permanent exclusions and time lost from learning
- Behaviour is good or better in every school.
- A year on year increase in the % of pupils reporting that they enjoy school.

How we will get there: Actions by services and the wider community

- All schools signing up to the Strategic Behaviour and Attendance Partnership
- Meeting Extended Schools targets, with all schools providing a range of out of hours learning and activities accessible by all pupils.
- Continuing to implement the new attendance strategy.
- Developing multi-agency targeted support for families and children through integrated working and the Team Around the School/Child arrangements targeted to parents of pupils with poor attendance or at risk of exclusion / poor behaviour.
- Strengthening the work of the Area Children and Young People's Partnerships to promote children's health and wellbeing, to support learning in the community, increasing opportunities and raising aspiration and implement the Disadvantage Subsidy.
- Putting in place an effective Behaviour Strategy that meets the needs of children and young people across the Children's Partnership.
- Improving behaviour and reducing exclusions through implementation of SEAL and Behaviour Strategies in all schools.
- Increasing the use of pupil surveys in schools through the Index for Inclusion and use the results to inform planning.

Priority 4: Outstanding Learning in every Islington school

We want children and young people across Islington to achieve highly and receive the best possible support from schools, ensuring a memorable learning experience for all students in schools which reflect our ambitions for them.

Where do we want to be?

- Improved attainment so that 5 good GCSEs is secure at 60% and over
- Improved attainment so that 5 good GCSEs with English and Mathematics is secure at 40% and over, and increasing
- Early years threshold and gap targets met year on year
- There is year on year progress in comparison to other areas, particularly at Key Stage 4

How we will get there: Actions by services and the wider community

- All schools performing above floor targets at each key stage with no fall back in outcomes
- Meeting Extended Schools and Healthy Schools targets
- Schools, at the heart of their communities, promoting community cohesion
- Implementing the Islington Guarantee to shape and define a memorable and life enhancing experience for Islington children and young people
- Behaviour being good or better in every school
- Narrowing the gap in achievement by improving the outcomes for lower attaining groups
- Securing every school as a good school with an increasing number becoming outstanding
- Actively supporting the leadership and management of learning at every level
- Improving partnership working internally and externally
- Continuing to develop active learning communities that promote sustainable improvement
- Creating outstanding learning environments through Building Schools for Future and other partnerships BSF and PCP. Initiatives are fully implemented on time.
- Improving the use of IT to support learning in schools ,settings and the wider community
- Through the ACYPPs, supporting learning in the community, increasing opportunity and raising aspiration
- Developing our workforce and strengthening joint work across Children's Services

Priority 5: Islington's children in care enjoying the lives we want for our own children

Our aim is to reduce the gap between the well-being of, and outcomes for, looked after children and the rest of the children's population.

Where do we want to be?

Corporate Parenting:

- The implementation of modernised corporate parenting arrangements

Family and Parenting Support:

- The only children who come into the care system are those for whom it is not possible to care for safely in the community.
- The number of children entering care continues to decrease.

Care Placements:

- More looked after children placed with Islington foster carers
- An increased number of children placed within borough boundaries
- Improved stability of placements
- An increased proportion of children in "permanent" family placements.

Education:

- Looked after children under 5 attending appropriate early years provision
- Year-on-year narrowing the gap between educational performance of the looked after population and the rest of the Islington population in all Key Stages
- Year-on-year improvement in the level of attendance
- Looked after children are placed in the best achieving schools
- Gifted and talented children are identified and supported

Health and well-being:

- Improved levels of physical and mental health
- All looked after children enjoy quality time with their carer
- All looked after children are engaged in a range of positive activities

Transition to adulthood:

- Young people leaving care receive the appropriate level of support from universal, targeted and specialist services
- Increased numbers of young people in employment, education and training
- Positive and supportive friendship and relationship networks

How we will get there: Actions by services and the wider community

Full details of the specific actions to achieve the above outcomes are contained in the Islington Plan for Looked after Children and Young People 2008-2011, monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board

Priority 6: Young people having the best possible qualifications, experiences and opportunities to prepare them for adult life

We want all young people to enjoy their teenage years and have the best possible qualifications, skills, experiences and opportunities to ensure that their transition to adult life is a successful one.

Where do we want to be?

- Improved achievement at level 2 and level 3 at aged 19
- Increased numbers of young people applying to and securing a place in further education including in top universities
- A further reduction in under-18 conception rate
- An annual reduction in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and a reduction in re offending
- A further reduction in the number of 16-18 year olds who are not in education employment or training (NEET)

How we will get there: 2009/11 Actions/Activities by services and the wider community

- Revising the post 16 curriculum offer
- Targeting work in schools to promote higher education opportunities
- Introducing free leisure time for young people and better communication of offer
- Encouraging more young people to access positive and leisure activities
- Establishing pathways and access to targeted youth support
- Embedding a cohesive Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS)
- Using evidence based interventions to support NEET young people
- Developing consistent methods of communication and information to all young people on Sex and Relationship Education.
- Supporting teenage parents through the Family Nurse Partnership
- Implementing the Short Breaks programme for disabled children and their families
- Implementing Targeted Mental Health in Schools Programme
- Embedding the range of services to support young people at risk of becoming first time entrants to youth justice system and supporting their parents
- Implementing the gangs prevention and youth violence strategy
- Developing co-ordinated approaches between the YYS and IYPDAS
- Improving pathways and access to substance misuse support and treatment
- Implementing a programme of workforce development to ensure practitioners are able to effectively identify and assess young people at risk at the earliest possible stage.

Priority 7: Families and communities raising aspirations for learning and work

We want to work with families and communities to raise aspirations for their children and for themselves in relation to learning, training and work. We aim to provide tailored family-centred support and personalised services to ensure that the particular needs of a family do not serve as barriers to entering or sustaining work.

Where do we want to be?

- Fewer children in households dependent on defined out of work benefits
- More households with children with incomes above the 60% equivalised median income level
- Annual value of additional income (from work and benefits) generated

How we will get there: 2009/11 Actions/Activities by services and the wider community

- Routine consideration of family engagement in learning, training or employment as part of personalised support for vulnerable children and young people
- Implementing a multi-agency pilot to identify and tackle child poverty in both workless and working households.
- Developing strategies to raise aspirations within Finsbury CYPP including links with local universities, promotion of community role models; development of 3 Corners community education centre
- Implementing the Childcare Strategy to support parents to access training and remain employment

Copies of the full Children and Young Peoples Plan can be downloaded from <http://www.islington/Community/childrenpartnership/> or you can contact us on 020 7527 3080 or by email on childrenpartnership@islington.gov.uk

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