

## **KEY ISSUES – CHILDREN’S & YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE**

The Children’s & Young people’s Service covers all services to children and their families in the following areas:

- Children’s Social Care – including
  - Child Protection/Safeguarding
  - Children in Care (Looked After Children)
  - Fostering & Adoption
  - Children with Additional Needs (SEN, etc.)
  - Leaving Care and Asylum Services
  
- School Standards and Inclusion
  - Early Years
  - Primary & Secondary Standards
  - Attainment and Improvement of Learning
  - 14-19 Planning (and Delivery from 2010)
  
- Business Support & Development
  - Place Planning
  - Admissions
  - Building Schools for the Future (BSF)
  - Commissioning
  - Schools Personnel
  
- Children’s Networks
  - 3 x Children’s Networks (locality based working in Multi-disciplinary teams)
  - Educational Psychology Service
  - Partnerships and participation

## Recent Key Events

- Production of the JAR Action Plan and submission to Secretary of State and OFSTED (delivered on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009) – special thanks go to Overview & Scrutiny for its help in progressing the Plan with utmost speed through our local processes and to enable submission to Secretary of State on time
- Appointment of new senior staff to improve child protection work/safeguarding
- Agreement at the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB) to become a Children's trust by June 2009
- Appointment of a headteacher for the brand new Heartlands School (as part of the BSF programme)
- Changes to the Governor Support unit – including publication of an Improvement Plan and appointment of a new Interim Head of the Unit who is working on revised Procedures for the work
- Extended Schools rolling out across the Borough and developing their role, including a wider vision for community engagement and support
- A review of commissioning started to help improve both quality of provision and improve the value for money
- News that we have 43 care leavers at university
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March is National Offer Day, when children find out which secondary school they have been allocated. Hopefully, up-to-date information will be at hand for the meeting of the Committee.
- Appointment of an independent Chair for the Local Safeguarding Children Board (Graham Badman)

## **KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT YEAR**

- Delivering the JAR Action Plan. This is an ambitious, but essential, programme of change that will improve our safeguarding/child protection services and act as a platform for the wider improvement of both the Children & Young People's Services Department and joint working across the borough
- A consequence of this improvement will be reconfiguration of the Children's & Young People's Services Department. Parts of the Children & Families group will need to be changed to allow for more effective and secure practice in our work to protect the most vulnerable children.
- Recruitment and retention of permanent social workers is one of our biggest – and arguably most complex – challenges. Much work is going into crafting an 'offer' that will make coming to Haringey the destination of choice for the best social workers in the country – and ambitious claim that will take enormous effort to pull it off.
- Delivering an adequate number of school places. Population growth means that we are likely to need between 6 and 8 additional forms of entry (between 180 and 240 additional places in each year group – the equivalent of 4 new primary schools) in the next 7 years.
- Continuing the improvements to children's learning and attainment. Building on last year's best ever results at GCSE, we are working hard with schools to try and make sure that 2009 is better still. Key Stage 2 results were less impressive and work has been going into primary schools to try and make sure that our children can do better again.
- Delivering the BSF programme will continue to challenge us – not least because of the credit crunch and some inevitable delays to financial closure on any PFI deals.
- Haringey has worked hard to celebrate its cultural diversity by connecting with those countries from which many of our families originate. As part of the North London Schools International Network, working with the British Council, we want to keep up the pace of that work – again, less secure in the current financial climate.