

Briefing for Scrutiny – Social Services

18 December 2006

Forward: Increased impetus on performance management. Regular meetings involve the Leader and Chief Executive.

Mental Health

- A mental health **partnership project board** has been set up to oversee the reconfiguring of supported housing for people with mental health problems.
- Over 120 people attended a very successful **world mental health day** event to launch an anti- stigma photography exhibition in Wood Green Cultural Quarter and the launch of Haringey service user network.

Older People

- A survey carried out at Woodside Day Centre, The Haven Day Centre and the Grange found that over **95%** of service users are happy with the service they are receiving at the centres.
- The **Haven Day Centre** successfully recovered from a number of very traumatic episodes of vandalism in their garden with the help of a number of council services and the help of the local community.
- The building of a new **respite care** home on the old Osborne Grove site has now commenced.

Supported Housing

- Over 140 tenants entered “Supported Housing in Bloom” competition which is a major contribution to the Councils key priority of working towards a Better Haringey.
- The Grange Day Centre also came 2nd in the Haringey in Bloom Community Gardens category, having won it in 2005.

Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment

- **Winkfield Resource centre** and Renate Campbell Trust, a nationally registered charity, have forged a partnership which has recently secured lottery funding for the posts of one and a half Deaf support workers.
- This will be based and supported at Winkfield with a worker who is able to use British Sign Language to communicate with deaf people in Haringey who are seeking employment.
- The service has been operating on a Friday only but is due to open from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday in November. They will be supporting people in job applications, CVs, interview skills and supporting people once they have gained employment.

- This is only the second job club in London to work specifically with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Learning Disabilities

- The Crescent Day Service recently won an **Extra Mile Award** for the commitment successful management and running of a demanding, and often stressful service which aims to meet the needs of service users with high behavioural support needs.

Day Opportunities have been working hard to focus on sports activities:

- Service users have begun to use the mainstream sports facilities at Broadwater Farm and Tottenham Green on a regular basis for a variety of sports activities, using trained coaches from the Active London Project.
- **Motor Activity Training** Programme sessions have begun taking place. These are aimed at people with complex needs. MATP comes under the Special Olympics Banner. This is being held at Tottenham Green sports Centre.
- **Green Peppers Café** is in the process of relocating to Faith Plant Centre based at Wolves Lane, which is under the umbrella of John Grooms charity. This will enable Green Pepper to take on more of a role as a training provider in terms of preparing service users who are interested in working in the catering industry. Green Pepper will be providing Entry Level 2 pre-vocational qualifications in catering through the award body of the National Proficiency Test Council which affiliated with City and Guilds.
- The Combined Team have introduced new working systems for social workers on duty and conducting reviews. This has led to an improvement in the number of reviews recorded and marked improvement in contact assessment timescale.

Contracts

- Our Meals On Wheels provider, Sodexo, has now added Cypriot, Polish & Chinese meals to its ethnic meals range which already includes, Halal, Caribbean and Kosher.

Communications

- Both the Mental Health Inspection and the Supporting People Inspectors have commented positively on the Social Care elements of the website.

eCare

- Framework-I has successfully been extended and gone live for Housing Adaptation staff in order to streamline processes.
- Framework-I processes have also been successfully streamlined and gone live for the looked after children processes in the Children and Young People's Service.
- In June the eCare team won a 'Best service improvement award' in London Connects project recognising their ongoing achievements.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

- All £1.2million allocated to well-being theme for this year has now been allocated to various projects to meet key objectives and outcomes.

Local Area Agreements

- Feedback on our initial LAA submission is positive both from DCLG and the Government Office for London. The GOL health lead in particular was positive about the Healthier Communities and Older People block.

Councillor Bob Harris
Executive Member for Social Services