

Hounslow Children and Young People's Plan 2007- 2010
Expanding Horizons

Executive Summary

Introduction

This is Hounslow's three-year plan for children and young people. This plan sets a new direction for how all services will work to address the needs of children and young people in the borough and how together partners will improve their quality of life. The plan's vision of 'Expanding Horizons' is an indication of the aspirational nature of the plan and the desire to maximise opportunities and potential.

The Children's Act 2004 requires that the Council and partners prepare a local Children and Young People's Plan. This plan has been agreed with all those responsible for planning and delivering services to children and young people in the area. It sets out how all services working with children and young people in Hounslow will achieve the five outcomes of Being Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Well-Being. The Government has identified these outcome areas and they are set out in their Every Child Matters: Change for Children agenda.

Our Vision for Children and Young People in Hounslow – 'Expanding Horizons'

We want children to be:

- Safe, resourceful and free from all kinds of crime and harassment
- In good health
- Enjoying life, progressing and achieving well
- Economically secure and thriving
- Making a real contribution to the world they live in
- Laying the foundations for an economically secure and successful future.

We put the child or young person at the heart of what we do

- This will be demonstrated by:
- Making sure that children and young people are a central part of our partnership
- Working with children and young people

We believe that outcomes matter; what matters is what makes a difference in the lives of children and young people, their families and carers

- This means that we will:
- Measure whether what we do works
- Ask children and young people, families, schools and others about their experience of our help
- Listen and adapt what we do

We work together in partnership

Children and young people, their families and carers, the Hounslow community, statutory services, voluntary agencies, and the private sector are partners. Each brings a part of the solution.

We recognise that how we do it matters: we will 'be the change we want to see'

We will do this by:

- Involving people affected by what we do
- Valuing and investing in those whose jobs contribute to what happens to children and young people
- Agreeing and keeping children and young people safe is vital and that we share responsibility for that
- Emphasising an approach which prevents problems if we can
- Doing something early on if we identify a problem
- Working in a way which is fair and gives equal opportunities to everyone
- Making the most of the resources we have

Golden Threads

Alongside the vision for children and young people, there are some key themes, called Golden Threads. These are extremely significant and will underpin everything we do in delivering the priorities identified in the plan and in every development that we make. These key themes are:

- *Preventing problems*
- *Intervening early on*
- *Supporting families/parents*
- *Building stronger and united communities*

Delivering an Integrated Agenda

In Hounslow, we want to transform the way in which we work to deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families, ensuring that services work together effectively. The Hounslow Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will lead the development of this integrated approach, developing a strategic commissioning function for the partnership and systematically examining the options for service re-prioritisation.

We need to ensure that we provide robust and effective services delivered in a flexible way that have a real impact on outcomes for children and young people.

We will do this by:

- Changing cultures
- Changing structures
- Changing the way we do things
- Managing performance
- Good communication

Our key priorities in the first year in developing integrated working are:

- Better coordinate services to children in need through implementing the Common Assessment Framework across all agencies
- Develop shared capacity for commissioning
- Develop locally based multi-agency teams

The Five Outcomes

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out a strategic plan for children, young people, their families and carers to deliver the five national outcomes. For each outcome, two strategic priorities have been identified. Within each of these strategic priorities, specific key priorities for the first year of the plan have been developed.

There is a separate section on each strategic priority in the plan. Each section presents information about the needs of children and young people. This information has been derived from consultation and information available about the needs of children and young people in the area. It then identifies specific challenges that need to be addressed and associated actions that the council and partners will commit to achieving to meet the priority. Funding streams that will support delivery and any risks and barriers have also been identified for each priority. It then follows with a set of outcome measures and improvement targets that will be used to assess whether the priority is being delivered.

Key Priorities

Outcome: Being Healthy
Priority 1 – Improving the health of children and young people by promoting active and healthy lifestyle choices
Priority 2 – Improving the mental and emotional well-being of children and young people
Key priorities in the first year: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the number of teenage pregnancies• Improve the health of mothers and babies• Ensure that a significantly increased proportion of the children's workforce is confident in recognising and supporting children and young people with emotional and mental health issues• Address the gap in provision for children and young people with learning disabilities and additional mental health problems

Outcome: Staying Safe

Priority 1 – Safeguarding Hounslow’s children and young people

Priority 2 – Improving the life chances of Looked After Children (LAC)

Key priorities in the first year:

- Ensure that the Local Safeguarding Children Board adopts a robust inter-agency approach to safeguarding children through implementing its three-year business plan
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children through the implementation of the new all London child protection procedures
- Ensure that more LAC have a local, secure family base
- Provide effective and timely responses to families where there is a risk of children becoming looked after

Outcome: Enjoying and Achieving

Priority 1 – Maximising the educational achievement of all children and young people and reducing inequalities

Priority 2 – Developing places to go and things to do that children and young people enjoy

Key priorities in the first year:

- Improve the performance of children in underachieving schools
- Reduce the number of children and young people excluded from school
- Make a broader range of out of school learning opportunities available to children and young people
- Ensure that young people know what is available in terms of places to go and things to do
- Increase and improve leisure activities and facilities available for children and young people who are out of school

Outcome: Making a Positive Contribution

Priority 1 – Engaging and involving children and young people in decision-making and participation within the community

Priority 2 – Making sure that children and young people become responsible citizens

Key priorities in the first year:

- Enable children and young people to have more influence in shaping the services they receive
- Ensure that all children and young people have pathways through which to put their views across and influence decisions about issues that affect them
- Focus multi-agency effort on securing a step change in reducing the numbers of young people engaging in crime
- Reduce children and young people’s experience of bullying

Outcome: Achieving Economic Well-Being
Priority 1 – Assisting young people to move on successfully into adult life
Priority 2 – Promoting the economic well-being of children, young people and families
Key priorities in the first year: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the proportion of young people aged 16 to 18 that are engaged in education, employment and training• Enable young people to take full advantage of local employment opportunities• Increase the number of lone parents accessing training and subsequent employment

Turning our Vision into Reality

Arrangements for partnership working

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has been established to bring together all the agencies working with children and young people in Hounslow. The Partnership includes representation from a wide range of local agencies including health, the police and the voluntary sector, Council services, schools, parents, carers and young people. The main purpose of the Partnership is to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Use of Resources

Joint commissioning

In order to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people, we need to make sure that we make the best use of our resources, try new ways of delivering services, give value for money, join up processes and reduce duplication of work. We are committed to developing shared capacity to commission services for children and young people to achieve this.

Developing the workforce

The government has set out guidance for the development of a workforce skilled in the delivery of services to children and young people. It expects all areas to have a workforce strategy in place. All agencies in Hounslow are committed to making sure this happens. They will work together to develop a workforce strategy that will encompass the whole range of workers from statutory, independent and voluntary sectors.

Strategic approach to funding

Resources already available will need to be managed more effectively to make sure that this plan is delivered. Agencies will work together to find ways of re-shaping services and to make sure that the resources are directed to the priority areas.

Information systems

It is vital that modern, well-maintained, adaptable and accessible information systems are in place in order to deliver efficient and effective services to children. In Hounslow, we are working towards storing data in key modern and appropriate systems that will enable us to have up to date and accurate

information on the children we are working with to assist us in delivering the best service to children, parents and carers.

Monitoring and Reviewing Performance

Good performance management mechanisms are critical to ensuring that the commitments set out in the plan are realised.

In order to ensure that the commitments set out in this plan are realised and that all partners are clear about their respective responsibilities, an implementation will be developed. There will be regular review of the plan and of the outcome measures and targets.