

A BRIEF OVERVIEW AND ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED

What is the Children and Young Person's Plan (CYPP)?

Harrow Council must co-ordinate and publish an over-arching plan for all services to children and young people by 1 April 2006. This must be done on behalf all our partners who are the organisations, agencies, groups and individuals who provide services to children and young people. The plan will cover the following five main areas of well-being for our children and young people:

Every child matters....

We aspire to a local community where all children and young people enjoy the highest quality of life. This means that there will have to be changes. The focus of the plan is to ensure that every child in Harrow is

Healthy

Stays safe

Enjoys and achieves

Makes a positive contribution

Achieves economic well-being?

The Children and Young Person's Plan (CYPP)

The CYPP is a three-year plan for children and young people that will be delivered by statutory services and their partners. It is a strategy for change. A strategy is more than a vision statement-it defines a clear set of actions that everyone can work to.

We want to make our services easier to access, to be locally based and able to meet religious and cultural needs. Overall services will be inclusive and available to all. But when children have particular or different types of needs there will be services available. This will include making sure those children and young people who are at risk, vulnerable or suffering are protected and offered the right kind of support.

Not More Plans?

Although Harrow Council is charged with the duty to write the CYPP, the plan covers work delivered by service providers and other partners outside its control. It will drive better joined-up working and change for children amongst a number of organisations, not just Council services. The CYPP replaces 17 other plans but it will be short! It will be an over-arching guide to improvement and change for children. We want to find new and better ways of working with children and young people such as joining up services, commissioning services together etc.

The core of the plan is our understanding of the needs of local children and young people and why we have chosen particular services to be directed at them. It will highlight which groups and individuals are doing less well than their peers. Action plans will indicate what needs, services and priorities are to be tackled over the next three years. That is to say, which children are falling short in the 5 areas of well-being. It is important to recognise that although Harrow is actually a great part of London, the good headlines mask the fact that there are pockets of disadvantage and some children are not doing so well.

What the plan must do

Some examples of priority groups will include the educational needs of Children Looked After and the transition of children with special needs into adult services. We may wish to deal with the verbal abuse that pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds have revealed. Issues around children and young people - in their leisure time; travelling around their locality; being part of their community. Children who have difficulty in social adjustment; children who start school without the skills for success. Obese children may feature but we want this consultation to help identify all of the priority groups.

Improvement "action plans" will reflect the priorities and focus of various services including School Development Plans aimed at improving the situation for these children.

The Plan will form a key part in the subsequent inspections of our work for children and young people so it has to be realistic and backed up by genuine change for children.

Getting involved...the consultation process

Remember, this Plan is a beginning not an end. The first draft CYPP will outline the needs of children and young people, as we understand them now. The consultation period will take place between 15th September and 28th October 2005. We will be trying out new ways of working so the Plan will be revised and changed each year.

Thus, we are seeking the views of community groups and on four main concerns:

1. We need to know if we have got it right?
2. Have we understood the needs of children and young people?
3. Have we missed anything?
4. Are our intentions likely to make a difference?

Responses will be analysed and directly inform the proposed CYPP. All respondents involved in the consultation process will be sent a copy of the final CYPP and a

summary of how the consultation process was used, if they provide a name and address.

Throughout the process of putting together the CYPP, Harrow Council has closely followed government guidance, which stresses the importance of involving children and young people in developing the plan.

Which groups are involved in the consultation process?

The following extensive list sets out the different range of organisations that we will consult with.

Children	Young people
Parents	Carers
District councils	Police authorities
Local probation boards	Youth offending teams
Strategic Health Authorities	Primary Care Trusts
Connexions Partnerships	Local Learning and Skills Councils
Diocesan authorities	School organisation committee
Relevant voluntary organisations	Relevant community organisations
Local safeguarding board	Maintained and independent schools
Local strategic partnership	Drugs Action Teams
NHS trusts	Relevant local private sector providers
Local cultural, sport and play organisations	