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Harrow Children and Young People's Plan

**Three-Year Plan
2006-2009**

COMMITTEE DRAFT @ 23.02.06
Text Only Version

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WELCOME TO HARROW'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to the numerous and various people who have contributed to this plan and tried so hard to help it be a map for the journey to the future. We would also like to acknowledge the fact that we were so impressed with the Children and Young Person's plan for York that we followed the same format.

Thank you.

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WELCOME

This document sets out our shared vision for achieving a community where all our children and young people enjoy the highest quality of life. It is an honest attempt to plan the future in a context where we cannot be sure about what changes might affect us and what resources we might have.

This plan is important because it brings together the priorities that will guide our decision-making and our actions for the next three years. The plan will be reviewed during the year and an updated plan published each year in April.

There are some things in this plan that we must do because it is the law and the law requires us to protect the most vulnerable first. There are other actions that we want to do because they will improve the quality of life for all. Nonetheless, we will strive to deliver the best for children and young people in Harrow.

The Children and Young People's Plan looks at where we are now, what could be better (the key priorities) and shows how we plan to improve things. It contains both initiatives aimed at all Harrow's children and young people as well as some targeted approaches for those who are particularly vulnerable. It also recognises that children with disabilities need support to access all the same services as other children as well as needing some specialist help.

Many of the ideas within the plan are the direct result of issues or concerns raised by children or young people themselves. We know there is more work to do. The Children and Young People's Plan 2005 is just a beginning and will evolve over time.

This plan is a living document – it will be reviewed annually in consultation with children and young people, parents, carers, community, faith and voluntary groups as well as partners and other stakeholders.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW: SETTING THE SCENE

Harrow is situated in the northwest of London where the green belt, covering one fifth of the 19 square miles of the borough, blends into the urban density of this vibrant world city. The borough is just 12 miles and 15 minutes away from central London with excellent road and rail links to the rest of the country. Thus, Harrow is well placed to participate in and contribute to the prospects and demands of London life including an exciting future as host of the world Olympics in 2012.

The population of Harrow, which currently stands at 210,700, is increasing and becoming more diverse. 42% of its residents and 62% of school and college pupils belong to minority ethnic groups. In fact, the last census (2001) showed that Harrow is the fifth most diverse authority in the country. A third of the population was born outside the United Kingdom. All these factors have created a vibrant and rich cultural mix but they also set challenges for the

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borough in meeting the many different needs and expectations of the local population.

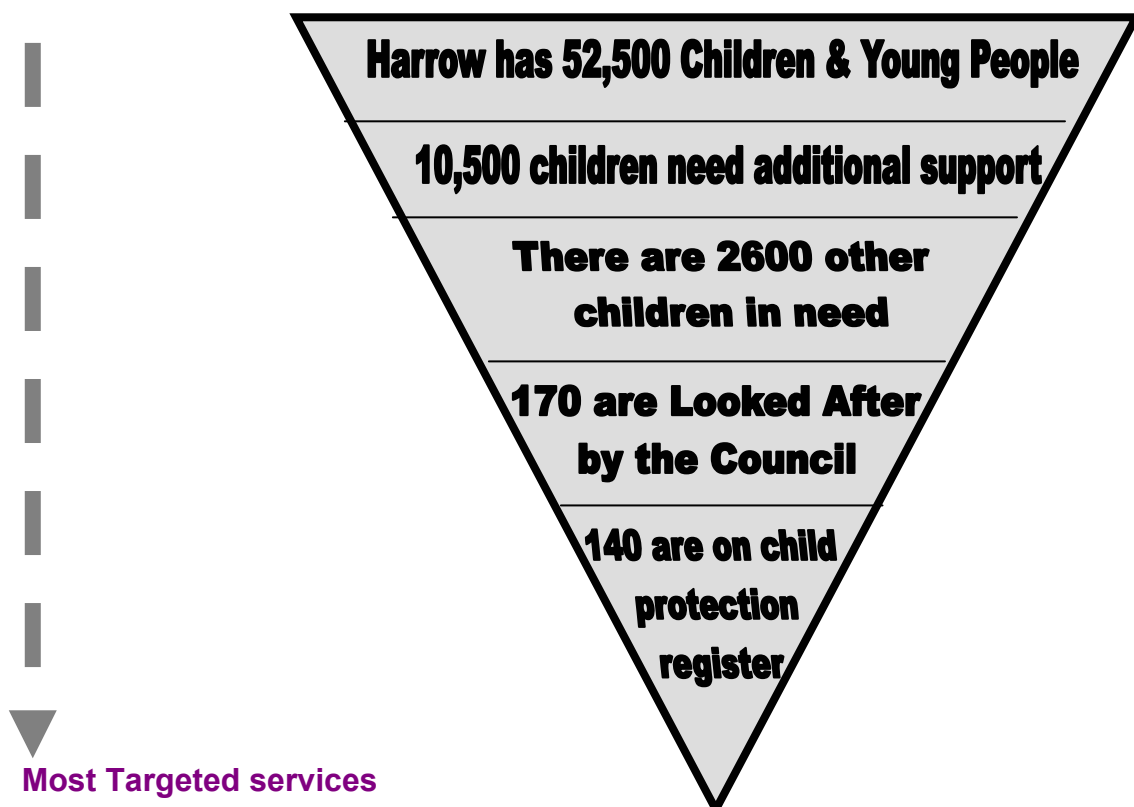
Harrow is an area that combines the fast pace of a lively business and commercial centre with prosperity and achievement. It also has pockets of under-achievement and poverty.

For example, Harrow has a high level of car ownership (75%) whilst in some wards car ownership is as low as 40%. Average unemployment rates are amongst the lowest in London so Harrow is seen as relatively affluent. However, there are areas in the borough where unemployment is high, incomes are low and people experience a range of social and health inequalities. These circumstances can harm the health and general well being of children and young people and affect how they behave and perform at school. It is essential that every possible step be taken to overcome the impact of disadvantage on all our children and young people.

FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT CHILDREN IN HARROW

The diagram below shows the numbers of children and young people the Harrow plan needs to embrace.

Services for All 0-19 year olds



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HARROW'S APPROACH TO PROVIDING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Like all other parts of the country, Harrow is striving towards closer working between the statutory agencies i.e. the Council, Health and Police; and with the voluntary sector; in order to provide better services that are more efficient and cost effective.

Harrow is moving towards a “Children’s Trust” approach where all services to children are delivered from a single, integrated body that has more simplified management and more careful monitoring of achievements to ensure that they are delivered to the new standards defined by central government. As well as linking up services better, we will also be considering how to integrate more services and focus on preventing problems before they affect the lives of children.

This new approach will be developed and delivered through a group called the **Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)**. It is part of the Harrow Strategic Partnership and has special oversight for the needs of children and young people. This group has committed itself to promoting the well being of all children and young people in Harrow through:

- Providing vision, leadership, innovation and strategic guidance
- Working in partnership with other agencies in the wider community
- Ensuring that every child matters and is able to learn, be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve their potential, contribute to and be able to expect future economic well-being.

HOW DOES THE HARROW CYPSP WORK AND HOW CAN IT HELP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

The CYPSP Board provides leadership and holds the overarching view and general accountability for the delivery of the agreed Harrow plan for services to children and young people. It reports to the Harrow Strategic Partnership, which represents all the main public, voluntary and private sector organisations in Harrow.

The main work of the CYPSP is carried out in seven groups made up of staff from all the key service areas that are in a position to actually make things happen. The group focus on Every Child Matters (ECM) issues to help Children and Young People:

- Being Healthy

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- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Achieving Economic wellbeing

A sixth group is working on the development of the Children's Trust Approach.

The seventh group is addressing the requirements of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (the standards for health for children).

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) will be important for everyone working in children's services because it will identify the most important actions needed to be done each year and to which everyone can work. Each service will then be required to organise itself to tackle these and their service plan will give the details of how they will do so. The CYPSP will use the plan to assess how well the professionals do and to guide future service developments.

The CYPSP does not work alone. Alongside its work are a whole range of activities involving children, young people and their parents and carers in shaping their own services. These include one-off events such as the Euphoria Event and the Youth Conference.

We are also building on the ongoing work with the Youth Council, youth surveys, development of special Internet websites and a host of other initiatives. The comments and ideas we receive from young people are fed back into our service planning and have already influenced this document and helped to set the priorities in it.

Extended Schools and Children's Centres

We want to make our services easier to access, be locally based and able to meet religious and cultural needs.

Children's Centres and Extended Schools will become the underpinning network for delivering the changes for children in this Children and Young People's Plan.

The network of nine Children's Centres will become the base for multi-agency delivery of services. They will provide frontline health and social services, which are more accessible to local communities.

We will be working together with partners to enable schools to become a focal point for local communities by providing extended opening times, access to support for parents and children and increased community use. By identifying and supporting clusters of schools and service partners we are developing

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extended services, which will have a positive impact on the outcomes for children.

WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARROW HAVE TOLD US

This section summarises what children and young people in Harrow had to say about the 5 Every Child Matters' outcomes. In future, we will get better at working together through the new Young People's Participation Strategy.

Health services could reach out to more young people by using:

- Using the Internet, e-mail and text messaging
- Use doctors, parents and schools and send leaflets off to schools and shops
- Make it so that they care about who the person is, not just the problem
- Put out big posters on the road and other places
- Do things like the Euphoria event again and put more information out about it
- They had enough drugs education in secondary school – possibly too much – but would like to learn more about the effects of alcohol, however primary pupils would like to learn more about how to recognise drugs and the law
- Do more groups where girls can talk and have fun
- Meet in youth centres
- More information about 'sex'. For example: Where to go for advice, who to contact. Also free contraception should be given.
- More opportunities to discuss the emotional aspects of relationships and how to cope with change

Being Healthy

- We want more local indoor, youth-focussed facilities, including sport, where we can feel safe and warm
- We need more for young people over 12 especially in the east of the borough. We want more floodlit multi-game areas. Physical activity programmes should include things like dancing classes.
- We want to be able to walk to provision and not have to travel longer distances. We want better provision for additional facilities such as kick about areas, skateboard parks, basketball hoops and "free" play areas where there is a sheltered and safe area to be used. Toilets and water taps in parks.
- There should be different activity zones open to all children and young people of all ages-should include more adventurous play.
- More organised activities would be good.
- We want more good quality sports facilities that are clean and well maintained.
- More support for young people with mental health problems.

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Staying Safe

- Children and young people don't feel safe using public transport
- Improve lighting and have more adult workers in parks. Places where we cannot be seen by other people in the park are scary and should be made easier to see from other parts of the parks
- Improve transport.
- Free School Buses
- Clean up graffiti and vandalism quicker
- Information and support for young victims of crime

Enjoying and Achieving

Young children tell us

- They like good quality toys and equipment. They like playing in nice places with good people who look after them and their friends.
- They like spending time with their parents and doing things like swimming and doing family activities together. They like interesting places like libraries, learning all together but not in school and workshops.

Older children and young people tell us

- There is a lack of local services. We don't want to leave our local patch to participate in sport and recreation. We want to use our schools after hours to play sport. We want the leisure facilities to act as our community hub.
- More fun and sport activities especially more adventurous equipment for older youth and spaces to swim not just lane swim. We want to use weights but it is too expensive or the youth hours are during school time.
- Easy access to facilities.
- People aged 14-15 years should be provided with ID cards, for buses, cinemas etc.
- There should be more youth clubs and more information on existing youth clubs. Also there should be better communication, advice and information of services. Youth Clubs need to look at those people over 13 years.
- More advertisements of existing services.
- Cheaper services and facilities.

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Making a Positive Contribution?

Young children told us:

- They enjoy quality time with their parents and families. They like feeling safe and secure within the family unit. They like helping in family life.

Older children and young people said:

- We would like to help Harrow Council in deciding on new activities and facilities.
- Join student advisory group to have a voice beyond school.
- Prime Minister, MPs and local Councillors to listen to young people's voices.
- Newsletters written by youth for youth.
- Youth Council information should be passed onto all young people, so that young people can have a feedback.
- More youth conferences.
- School Councils need to be more effective. There should be more chances to meet at conferences.
- More opportunities for voluntary work.

Achieving Economic Well-being?

- Local vocational courses are limited and pathways not clear.
- Financial support needed to access youth services.
- More flexible school curriculum for those not doing GCSEs

What would make Harrow a better place?

- More winter facilities. Especially sport. There should be ice-skating rinks.
- Improve leisure activities. Such as boxing, karate, go-karting. More football clubs.
- There should be personal advice centres outside of school.
- Better publicity about what's on locally through a young person's web-site

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SNAPSHOTS OF SERVICES IN HARROW...

The services for children and young people in Harrow have many strengths that have been recognised through inspections, comparisons with other authorities and the like. However, we are not complacent and we know that there are also a number of issues we need to change.

The following observations are examples of the feedback that has helped us view our performance and ourselves more objectively.

Harrow Council has been forward-looking by introducing a new structure to improve collaboration across departments and agencies, said the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI). It is anticipated that it will improve the quality and range of services that children and young people receive.

The new structure includes a new Directorate called "People First", with single management of social care services for children by appointing a Director of Children's Services. This is recognised as an early step towards the future mapped out by the recent Children Act, 2004.

Harrow Council has successfully raised the profile of children's services and increased the money spent on them in recent years (CSCI).

Families with children who have disabilities get good support from a scheme developed with partners in the voluntary sector. The Family Link Scheme, which is a dedicated fostering service to provide respite care and a sitting service during the day, It was praised by inspectors.

Wealdstone Centre opened in November 2004. It houses Wealdstone Library, the health services, Youth and Connexions services, a café which provides a training facility for individuals with disabilities and other public facilities. It has significantly increased library membership.

The 2005 Self assessment of **14-19 provision** noted the development and strengthening of consortium arrangements to improve student choice. These have the potential to widen the range of vocational opportunities and address gaps related to entry, and levels 1 and 2 provision.

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Young people leaving care are getting a good service, said the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI). It was impressed by the council's leaving care team, which works with young people who have been "Looked After" by the Council and who are moving on to independent lives at 16+.

All young people had a pathway plan and an allocated a personal adviser. The council had done particularly well in developing a process for engaging and involving children and young people. Resources had been committed to make this happen and it was clear that parents and staff were able to engage and contribute also. Young people confirmed that they had a positive experience of transition.

Some parks and open spaces have been revitalised as part of the Council's environmental improvement programme said the Audit Commission.

Sports and leisure provision is patchy. The Audit Commission found that comments from users were mixed.

For example, a wide range of facilities is provided at Harrow Leisure Centre, which is centrally located within the borough. It provides well-used catering facilities and a crèche, and there are plans to further improve these features. However, the centre is not able to deal with the various cultural needs that exist within the borough where many require separate facilities for males and females.

There is a lack of built facilities elsewhere in the borough; a lack of capacity within the existing facilities to cope with increasing demand; a lack of access for sports development activities during peak periods in the leisure centre programmes; and poor outdoor sports provision.

The voluntary and community sector do a lot in Harrow but this work is not given the recognition it deserves. We need to engage more effectively with these individuals and groups and help them build capacity to ensure that their strengths are used to improve service delivery across the borough.

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The Youth Offending Team has a skilled and dedicated workforce and achieving well against its targets. It has been successful in reducing re-offending and is contributing to making Harrow a safer Borough

Such insights have helped us to choose initiatives to help children and young people better.

A new ward for babies was opened at Northwick Park Hospital. In autumn 2005, Harrow PCT launched the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme. This will identify babies with permanent hearing impairment as early as possible and help them sooner. This will include family-friendly approaches and services will be delivered on a multi-agency basis.

Jack's Place, the Children's ward at Northwick Park Hospital was re-furnished by private donations and officially opened by Sir Nigel Crisp on 10th September 2004. Professor Al Aynsley-Green, the Children's Commissioner for England described the service as "leading the rest of the country" in terms of meeting the Children's' National Service Framework (NSF).

"Jack's Place" has 12 single rooms in a ward for 27 children. Each bed has Internet access. There are additional facilities for child patients such as a co-located gym and a sensory room to de-stress children.

Academic achievement by young people in Harrow is amongst the best in the country. It is the highest performing; non-selective mainland authority and 2005 results at GCSE were its best ever.

However, 39.5% of 16 year olds have not achieved a Level 2 qualification.

A shortage of vocational courses has prompted the opening of the new Harrow Skills Centre in September 2005. It is an important step towards meeting the needs of young people who are more motivated by a focus on the kind of job they want to do in the future.

Three Children's Centres in place with another six planned to be operating by 2008.

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Some **Extended Services** are being delivered in clusters of schools with plans for all clusters working to partners to be deliver extended services by 2010.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN-WHAT MORE DO WE WANT?

In some key areas, improvements are needed if we are to deliver change for children. We also know that if we get better at “partnership” we can achieve more. So...

- We will develop the leadership and management capacity of the Children & Young People’s Strategic Partnership.
- We will complete work already in progress in children’s health services to prevent problems or catch them at an early stage. This will mean working with parents to assess needs early and will also involve a wide range of professional staff.
- We will review budgets for children’s services across the agencies and ensure they are based on clear analysis of future need and focus on the top priorities for children and young people in Harrow. We will also pool budgets where possible and appropriate to improve service delivery.
- We will improve our understanding of the local needs of children and young people by organising the collection of data so that it is specific about children and young people and we can match it up with data from other agencies and draw out the local issues.
- We will deliver the new national service standards including the successful implementation of the improvement plan for our maternity services.
- We will ensure that all pupils, families and the local community can access the Harrow extended services in or around their local school.
- We will move towards delivering multi-agency services for children and young people and their families from local sites situated in the heart of communities.
- We will improve the range of learning choices at 14-19 to ensure that more students, particularly those below level 2, are motivated to participate, develop and achieve in learning or employment.
- We will develop a co-ordinated approach for engaging children and young people in service development.

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- We will work with the voluntary sector better and use their skills and influence more effectively.
- We know that we cannot afford to do everything we wish to upgrade indoor and outdoor leisure facilities. We will develop partnerships and a strategy to secure funding so that all children and young people can benefit from healthy lifestyles.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

We know we need to understand the specific local issues about our children and young people as well as working on the national priorities. We want to sharpen our knowledge over the next three years and get better at sharing this information with our partners. This will enable us to work to the same objectives at the same time.

Our plans are based on an analysis of our shared understanding of need and this is summarised below.

BEING HEALTHY

We found...

- On average, residents are amongst the healthiest in London but closer examination shows that there are inequalities in health outcomes amongst different groups and wards.
- In 2002, Harrow was above the national and London averages for low birth weight babies. The incidence of low birth weights is often associated with smoking in pregnancy and higher rates of child deaths. There are also increasing numbers of babies surviving with complex needs and requiring technological support. This places a greater responsibility and need for resources from services and families to support these children at home.
- Only 61% of Harrow children under five have teeth free from active tooth decay and the government target is that it should be at least 70%. The majority of tooth decay in the 39% goes untreated.
- Teenage sexual health causes some concern. Although teenage pregnancy is lower than the national average and the second lowest in London, there are some geographical pockets where the incidence is much higher. The Brent and Harrow statistics for 2002 showed the third highest rate of abortions in London. There is also a rise in sexually transmitted infections.
- Access to healthy food is fundamental to good health but we found that a large number of children are not using their entitlement to free school

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meals. Furthermore, no school is able to meet the proposed school meal standards currently being introduced to help improve children's nutrition. However, 100% of our First and First and Middle Schools take up the opportunity to be part of the school fruit and vegetable scheme - so children aged between 4 and 6 in LEA schools have the opportunity to have at least one piece of fruit a day.

- Parents and adults working with children and young people exhibiting signs of behavioural, emotional and social difficulties sometimes find access to early help and intervention difficult. This was contributing to the build-up of waiting lists and the complexity of cases.
- Though the incidence of illicit drug use in Harrow is low the use of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis can be seen as normal recreational activities amongst some young people. Children and young people are starting to use drugs at a younger age.
- There are nearly 700 children in Harrow who care for members of their families who are sick and this often affects their ability to benefit fully from learning and leisure opportunities.
- A high proportion of young people being supported by the Youth Offending Team have been found to have experienced significant emotional crises in their earlier lives and they have not had access to specialist support to enable them to deal with these life events.
- A recent cultural services inspection found that leisure and sports facilities are not suited to meeting the needs of some ethnic minority groups.

We want...

- Women to have easy access to supportive, high quality maternity services designed around their individual needs and those of their babies.
- No group or individuals to suffer disadvantages and inequalities in health because of their social or ethnic background.
- To make health advice and services, including dental services, available at locations sited in the community within easy distance of home so that young children and their families can find support for healthy childhoods easier to access.
- To provide excellent hospital and community services for any child or young person who requires them, with timely consultation and treatment

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- To promote health and well being, identifying needs and intervening early, enabling the development of trusting relationships between health, other practitioners and families.
- Children, young people and families can access high quality services that are coordinated around their individual and family needs and take account of their views.
- All children and young people have access to timely, integrated, high quality mental health services to ensure appropriate assessment, treatment and support for them and their families.
- Schools and other settings to be a central resource to promote healthy lifestyles, develop healthy living, build self-esteem, encourage children and young people to be active and help them make informed choices.

To do this we need to ...

- Coordinate a programme of action to include prevention and early intervention wherever possible including the provision of information on access to services and support to enable families to better care for their children that take account of the different needs of ethnic minority groups in Harrow.
- For those children and young people who need hospital treatment we will focus on making it a positive experience and one in which their views are listened to.
- Complete the development of the 9 Children Centres so that every community has access to high quality child-care and a range of tailored additional services, including dentistry, family health and midwifery, within their locality where this is not currently available.
- To ensure that children and families can access advice on healthy lifestyles and are supported in making healthy lifestyle choices particularly around, diet, exercise, smoking, alcohol, sexual health and drugs
- Ensure that children and young people have access to mental health services when they need them by widening the reach and impact of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) programme in schools, in the criminal justice system and across the community.
- Ensure that every school achieves the Healthy Schools Standard, participates in the Sports Co-ordinator programme and is able to provide food that meets the new quality standard.
- To increase the accessibility of advice on sexual health

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- To ensure that schools, other settings and organisations work together to provide timely, accurate advice and information on substance use and misuse that meets the needs of all children and young people
- Review the provision for leisure and sport within Harrow to ensure that it is accessible to all groups and promote facilities within the community to engage all ethnic groups.

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STAYING SAFE

We found...

- Young people inform us of their two main concerns, bullying and fear of crime.
- They prefer to learn ways of dealing with bullying themselves before resorting to telling an adult.
- E-Bullying (for example using text messaging, instant messaging on the computer) is particularly difficult to tackle and children and young people want support.
- Young people have varying levels of knowledge about the dangers of internet abuse. They cannot always rely on their parents and carers to help them. Nationally, research shows that some children will meet with strangers they met online without informing their parents.
- Young people are more likely to be a victim of an offence than commit a crime. Of those that experience crime, young males aged 14-25 are more likely to be victims than anyone else.
- Young people experience racial harassment and need ways of getting help and support reflecting the messages in the Stephen Lawrence enquiry report.
- Younger children want safe, clean spaces to play in.
- The numbers of children and young people whose names are on the child protection register varies from month to month, but ranges from about 90-140. Those whose names are on the register for a second time are a particular concern, as it is an indicator of repeated deterioration in family circumstances.
- Some children and young people who had been placed in public care (Children Looked After by the Local Authority) had experienced several changes in the accommodation and home arrangements we had made for them.
- Although this is rare in Harrow, older young people can become very vulnerable, by running away from home frequently, or becoming involved in heavy drinking and/or drug misuse. They may become homeless and/or be involved in prostitution.
- Nationally, Road traffic accidents are the biggest cause of death and injury of children and young people nationally. Locally, there have been no fatalities in recent years.

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- Family violence is harmful to children. This is not just about being “caught in the cross fire” but about witnessing, hearing or just being aware that a parent is being abused.

We want...

- To continue raising awareness with parents, children and young people on the dangers of internet, (within the context of its obvious benefits) and the harm done by bullying, including e-bullying.
- To ensure those working with children and young people are aware of the use of digital and/or other materials, (cameras, videos and computers) in the abuse of children and young people.
- To take action to support children suffering from racial harassment.
- To reduce the fear of crime among children, young people and the wider community
- To have safe clean places for children to play in.
- To keep the numbers of children whose names go on the register more than once, to nationally agreed levels.
- To provide children looked after with stability and consistent support.
- To reduce the risks posed to older young people who are vulnerable because they frequently run away, are involved in substance misuse, are homeless and or are involved in prostitution.
- To raise public awareness of the importance of ensuring children know how to use the roads safely.
- To ensure that all agencies , including voluntary agencies and faith groups are aware of the harmful effects of family violence on children.

To do this we need to....

- The Local Safeguarding Children Board will continue working on an anti-bullying campaign, joining in the national anti-bullying campaign in anti-bullying week in November 2006 and writing up an anti-bullying strategy based on initiatives and ideas develop over 2004-2006. This will include e-bullying.
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board will continue to raise awareness on the dangers of internet abuse, targeting parents, children and young people and using as many media resources will allow.

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- The Board will also form links with the Multi-agency Forum on racial harassment to raise awareness among children and young people that racial harassment is not acceptable, what to do if subjected to it and how to report it, using 3rd party reporting procedures.
- Provide information and restorative justice to the victims of youth crime
- Develop the Safer Schools scheme so that every high school has a police officer to help maintain a safe learning environment and deal with crime as it affects members of the school community.
- To re-focus our efforts on prevention, the Common Assessment Framework described in Every Child Matters will be a single information gathering tool, for all agencies to use when a child has needs over and above universal services and requires multi-agency intervention. Working in partnership with parents, this will mean that they will not have to repeat their history to different professionals and the information is in one place and accessible. This will develop over 2006-2007 and will be fully implemented by 2008. They will also be provided with a "Lead Professional" who will co-ordinate services to the family, ensuring information is shared, and avoiding duplication.
- Improve road safety through further provision of education in schools, cycle paths and access to public transport for young people. Harrow Primary Care Trust and Northwick Park Hospital will lead the developing accident prevention group, which, as well as looking at accident prevention in general, also develops education programmes, some aimed at very young children. E.g. the Traffic club.
- The New Harrow Project will make sure play areas are safe and secure for children to use by inspecting park and play areas for safety every day, and, in housing estates every 2 weeks for safety.
- Social care will create a team of social workers to work with children looked after to provide them with stability and consistency and ensuring a focus on their health and education. With partner, including the voluntary sector, where appropriate, we aim to improve their life chances, and to ensure that they are actively engaged in decision-making whenever possible.
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board will set up a panel of experienced professionals to advise and support the work done with older young people who are vulnerable due to frequent running away from home, substance misuse, homelessness and/or prostitution.
- The Board will also continue collaboration arrangements with Harrow Domestic Violence forum, providing multi-agency training on the harmful effects on children.

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- The Board will also build on the success of previous multi-agency training by providing an annual child protection training bulletin.

ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING

We found...

- Parents want access to advice and support at specific times in their child's life in dealing with the newborn; the toddler at 18 months; starting school, moving on to the next school and leaving school.
- Harrow's GCSE and A Level results are amongst the best in the country with 60.5% of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades in 2004. Of the 39.5% of students without level 2, 5% do not go on to education, training or employment. 37% have not achieved a level 2 qualification by the age of 19. This tells us that a significant number of pupils are not sufficiently motivated by the provision on offer to want to achieve to a higher level.
- Our schools have approximately 1800 children who are refugees and around 220 registered asylum seekers. Some of these children experience difficulties in learning due to language and emotional issues. They can also experience difficulty in accessing health services also.
- Some parents find the organisation of schools in Harrow does not suit their preferred pattern of schooling. Harrow operates a First/Middle School system with secondary transfer at the end of Year 7, which differs from surrounding boroughs, and High Schools do not have Sixth Forms. Therefore, some parents choose schools outside the Harrow: an average net loss of 17% by year 11. In 2004, 44.3% chose post-16 destinations outside Harrow.
- There is a surplus of places in Harrow schools. There are between 12% and 16% extra places in the primary schools and High Schools have 3% to 9% surplus places.
- Community and Culture provide a range of services and activities which are aimed specifically at engaging young people in Harrow. Art, music, sport and leisure are accessible to all and a wide variety of projects are provided across the Borough by the Music Service, the Arts Development Unit and Sports and Leisure Services and Library service however not all groups access this provision fully.
- A recent audit (2005) showed that there are many shortcomings in our indoor and outdoor leisure provision for children and young people. Those with disabilities have particular difficulties in using our playing fields as none conform to the standards for people with disabilities as set out in the legislation (Disability Discrimination Act, 2002). Many

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parents, grandparents and child carers had experienced difficulty in finding suitable play equipment in local parks.

We want...

- All children to be ready to learn and achieve to their fullest potential and enjoy doing so from 3-19.
- All three and four year olds to be able to benefit from 15 hours of high quality free integrated childcare and learning per week by 2010.
- All pupils to attain the best possible levels of achievement including identified groups of young people at risk of not achieving their potential.
- All our schools to develop as extended schools to facilitate the increase of opportunities to their communities with additional services such as out of school activities; homework clubs; wrap-round childcare and access to learning and recreation activities for the wider community etc.
- Children and young people to have access to sport and recreational activities within easy reach of their home.
- A school and college system that offers diverse provision to better meet the needs of the Harrow Community, including access to school-based Sixth Form courses.
- To promote the active use of all Harrow Libraries to all children and their families.

To do this we need to ...

- Give all families access to help available locally and, based on school clusters and Children Centres, to enable them to prepare their children for learning and give them the social confidence to become fully participating citizens.
- Embed the recently launched transition process which helps children move smoothly and successfully from their early years setting to school.
- Fund, deliver and promote access to a comprehensive training, advice and support and programme for every Foundation Stage practitioner and identify and support early years and childcare providers to prepare and undertake "Investors in Children" endorsed quality assurance mark for all child care providers.

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- Minimise the risk of children going missing from education by having robust systems in place to monitor transition from school to school.
- Promote the achievement and inclusion of identified groups of young people at risk of not achieving their potential, and encourage schools to identify and support these pupils. Ensure that training and knowledge about meeting the needs of all groups are embedded.
- Work with schools and other settings to improve the academic attainment of Children Looked After by reducing exclusions, improving attendance and creating flexible pathways and personalised learning opportunities.
- Work with schools to promote a rich, relevant and inclusive curriculum and develop a learning culture both within and across schools including the provision of personalised learning to ensure that learners receive their Harrow Curriculum Entitlement and achieve stretching targets.
- Support schools in developing their provision for young people's personal and social development and their enjoyment of recreation including the extension of use of outdoors and indoor leisure provision to the whole community.
- Manage the process of removing surplus school places and work towards a reorganisation of schools to better meet the needs of the Harrow Community.
- Develop a Sixth Form Collegiate with all High Schools and Colleges working together to provide a broad range of opportunities post 16.
- Work with our partners to market libraries to hard to reach groups, including teenagers, Children Looked After, refugees, asylum seekers and Travellers.
- To ensure Libraries, Early Years and the Primary Care Trust deliver the Bookstart programme to all children, aged 0 - 4 in Harrow.
- To develop and deliver a range of targeted sports development initiatives, which seek to raise participants quality of life.
- Improve the physical accessibility of indoor sport facilities by meeting legal requirements for access and endeavoring to reduce other physical barriers.
- Support or pro-actively develop partnerships with other organisations or educational institutions that utilise outdoor sports facilities.
- Improve targeting of arts development programme and cultural strategy implementation, particularly towards needs of priority groups including,

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children looked after and leaving care, disabled young people and those individuals who may benefit from engagement with the arts.

- Promote the development of extended school provision in all schools through cluster working and encourage schools to create increased opportunities for the local community to use their buildings and facilities.

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

We found...

- Two thirds of Harrow schools have School Councils and young people like them.
- Young people want more opportunities to spend their leisure time positively.
- There are a higher percentage of pupils excluded from Harrow High schools in Years 9 to 11 than in similar areas. Many of these young people have been excluded as a result of their behaviour and many have special educational needs, such as communication difficulties, that may not have been identified and addressed.
- The rate of offending is low overall. Re-offending rates are low and have declined faster than the national average. However, the number of first timers into the youth justice system has increased. (APA letter 2005).

We want...

- All our young people to feel confident and able to make a positive contribution that makes a difference to the community.
- To create a positive image of young people to counteract that portrayed in the media by giving them a wide range of opportunities to volunteer and help others.
- To reduce the numbers of young people coming in to the youth justice system as well as the number of young people re-offending.
- To engage children and young people in voluntary and community work.
- All schools to have a school council so that all children and young people, including vulnerable children and those in need, have a voice.

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- All children and young people to be in school and enjoying their education.

To do this we need to....

- Fully implement the Children's Services Participation Strategy for consultation with children and young people and their involvement including more Youth Conferences and events for children and young people.
- Ensure that schools have effective strategies to manage pupil behaviour and that staff have access to guidance, training and support for positive behaviour management.
- Implement a borough-wide strategy for dealing with pupils who are excluded, or at risk of exclusion, involving a wide range of services.
- Improve the effectiveness of interventions and support to reduce the likelihood of offending and re-offending including timely and effective parenting support, access to mentoring programmes, and provision of restorative justice opportunities.
- Further develop citizenship education, encouraging all schools to have School Councils and increase the variety and breadth of participation.
- Make better use of websites and community centres for communications with and between children and young people.
- Work with schools and the voluntary sector to find ways to engage children and young people in charitable, voluntary and community work.

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELL BEING

We found...

- Children and young people living in Greenhill, Stanmore South, Marlborough, Wealdstone, Kenton East and Roxbourne wards are more likely to experience difficulty in achieving prosperity, health and economic success.
- 69% of registered homeless households have children in them.
- Harrow has a high rate of young people moving on to further and higher education. 88% of students going on to full time studies after 16. However, only 55.7% attend colleges in Harrow for post 16 education and a downward trend is expected to continue.
- Despite the overall academic successes and achievements of most young people in the borough, 19% of our young people are vulnerable,

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or at risk of limited life chances, due to poor educational achievement and training.

- 39.5% of students have not achieved a Level 2 qualification at 16. Many of these are white males.
- Young people with physical disabilities who leave school at 16 lose access to much help and support provided in school settings. So this affects their ability to access opportunities in further education.
- Around 300 young people aged 16 -19 are not in education, employment or training. Some of these young people need settled accommodation and have their food and health needs met before they can focus on a return to learning/training.
- 8% of unemployed people in Harrow are aged 16-24 years old.

We want...

- To provide targeted local services through the provision of Children's Centres and Extended Schools.
- To provide high quality careers advice and counselling the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training.
- All young people to have the opportunity to access higher education, vocational training or employment when they leave school or college to minimise the effects of disadvantage, such as homelessness, family breakdown and other difficulties.
- To provide continuity of support for vulnerable young people including access to accommodation, continuing education and careers advice.
- Parents and carers to be able to receive appropriate support so that they can access training and gain employment.
- To help the most disadvantaged families access recreation and leisure activities.

To do this we need to....

- To develop a broader 14-19 curriculum, more flexible pathways and personalised learning through collaboration between schools and colleges to engage and motivate young people. This should include a wider range of vocational courses and work-based opportunities at all levels using a variety of contributors, including Harrow Skills Centre.
- Encourage young people to remain in school or college post 16 and to further reduce the numbers of young people who are not in education, employment or training. They will be helped by a programme of career

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education from year 7 that enables them learn about the world of work and the opportunities that are open to them, and by independent information, advice and guidance at points of choice and transition.

- Provide access to Connexions education, training and employment advice to hard to reach young people such as through the YOT, Leaving Care and Tuition Centre.
- Support schools to offer a range of additional services beyond the school day to help meet the needs of children, their families and their community . Ensure that vulnerable children and children with disabilities will be able to access all activities and services provided at a school
- Improve the tracking of young people at risk at all stages in order to ensure targeted support is timely, relevant and sufficient and preventative where possible.
- Work with partner organisations to provide affordable housing and ensure that the accommodation needs of vulnerable young people are met .
- Ensure continuity of support to young people with disabilities who leave school so that they can move on to further education, training or work.
- Increase resources and opportunities for sustainable sport and physical activities for low-income families.
- Increase the diversity and flexibility of childcare provision so that parents with specific training and employment needs can use it when they need it.

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TURNING PLANS INTO ACTION-HOW WILL WE KNOW CHANGE IS TAKING PLACE?

Priorities for 2006/7

Of course, there are many things we want to achieve and we know we cannot do them all at once! So we have decided that the real drive and focus for next year has to be...

Being Healthy

We know that good health in the early years enables a child to benefit from learning and is most likely to have good life chances as an adult. We will focus on giving all babies and young children a healthy start.

Staying Safe

We know that the key to safeguarding children and improving outcomes for Children Looked After is through maintaining a well-qualified and motivated multi-agency workforce.

Enjoying and Achieving

We will focus on identifying the groups of children who are not doing so well in their learning and our focus will be educational inclusion for all. This will be supported by organisational changes and the implementation the plans for the 14-19 strategy.

Making a Positive Contribution...

We want to implement the new co-ordinated strategy for the participation of children and young people in school and community life and in planning services.

We want to reduce the number of pupils excluded from school.

We want to reduce the number of young people entering the youth justice system

Achieving Economic Well-being...

As part of wider curriculum development to expand choice, we believe we need to focus on developing a network of vocational courses available through consortia of secondary schools and colleges so that we increase the number of 16/17 year olds staying on in education/training, particularly those from disadvantaged groups.

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We want to build stronger partnerships with local businesses and other employers

How will we know we are making a difference?

If we are to produce better outcomes for children, we need to be able to make judgements about how we are doing based on facts. The following dimensions can show us how well we are working together. These can then be used by the CYPSP to set targets and assess progress.

This will give us a shared focus and a grasp on whether change is really happening.

Our targets and performance indicators...

Being Healthy...

OF= Outcomes Framework and LP= Local Priority

TARGETS & INDICATORS	
Infant mortality rates	OF
Obesity	OF
Death rates from suicide	OF
Undetermined injuries	OF
Access rates to CAMHS	OF
Conception rates	OF
Diagnostic rates of new episodes of STIs among 16-19 year olds	OF
Average alcohol consumption	OF
Children who are regular smokers	OF
Children consuming 5 portions of fruit a day	OF
Harm caused by illegal drugs	OF
Referrals to drug treatment services	LP

Staying Safe...

Re-registrations on the child protection registrations	OF
Number of 0-15 year olds injured or killed in road traffic accidents	OF
% of 11-15 year olds who state they have been bullied in last 12 months	OF
Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	OF
% under 16s looked after for less than 2.5 years & living in same placement for less than 2 years or placed for adoption	OF
Care cases completed in the courts within 40 weeks	OF

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Enjoying and Achieving...

Level of development reached at end of the Foundation Stage, including narrowing the gap in the 20% most disadvantaged areas	OF
Half days missed through absence	OF
% 7 year olds achieving L2+ at KS1	OF
% 11 year olds achieving L4+ in English and Maths. Including floor targets	OF
Educational achievement of CLA compared with peers	OF
Take up of sporting opportunities by 5-16 year olds	OF
Take up of cultural & sporting opportunities among under 16s.	OF
% 14 year olds achieving L5+ in English & maths. Science and IT including floor targets	OF
% 16 year olds achieving equivalent 5 A*-C GCSEs including floor targets	OF
% of YOT clients in full-time education, training or employment	LP

Making a Positive Contribution...

% Pupils in schools participating in election of school/college council members and mock general elections	OF
Voluntary and community engagement by young people	OF
Availability of local vocational courses	LP
Pupils leaving school without Level 2 qualifications	LP
Reduction in level of offending	OF
Crimes brought to justice	OF
Reduction in school exclusions (temporary and permanent)	OF/LP
% 10-19 year olds admitting to bullying a pupil in last 12 months	OF
% 10-19 year olds admitting to attacking, threatening or being rude due to skin colour, race or religion a pupil in last 12 months	OF
% 18-24 year olds who are self-employed, manage their own business, or have thought seriously about starting their own business	OF
% reduction in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system	LP
% of victims of youth crime offered restorative justice and satisfied with the process	LP
% of parents of YOT client receiving parenting support programmes	LP
% of young people re-offending after a YOT intervention	LP

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Achieving Economic Well-being...

% young people aged 16-18 not in education, training or employment	OF/LP
% 19 year olds achieving L2+ in NVQ2 or equivalent	OF/LP
Young people with disabilities staying on to education and training	LP
% 18-30 year olds participating in higher education	OF
% social housing and vulnerable households in the private sector in a decent condition	OF
Cleaner, safer & greener public spaces and quality of the built environment in deprived areas	OF/LP
Level of material deprivation and low income	OF
% Children living in relative low-income households including children living in workless households	OF
Stock and take-up of childcare for all families	OF

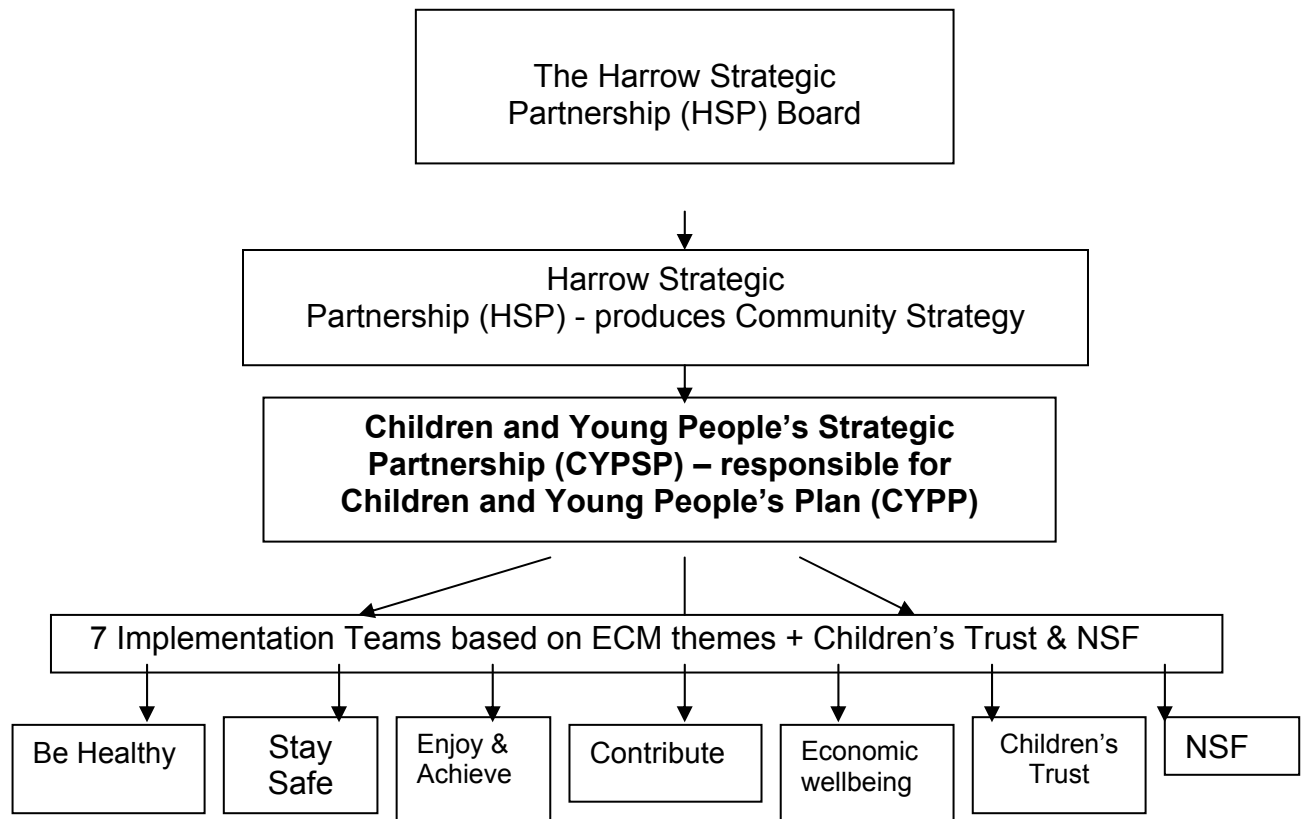
OF= Outcomes Framework and LP= Local Priority

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ANNEX 1

THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Structure



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Membership

CYPSP Board

Chair: Paul Clark, Director of Children's Services, LBH

Chairs of the Sub-Groups:

Be Healthy

Jean Bradlow, Director of Public Health, HPCT

Stay Safe

Paul Wedgbury

Betty Lynch

Enjoy & Achieve

Heather Clements

Making a Positive Contribution

Richard Segalov

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Barbara Field

Extended Schools Programme

John Kennedy

Delivery of NSF

Paul Man nix, Clinical Director, NPHT

Children's Trust Approach

Paul Clark, Director of Children's Services, LBH

Responsible Officer for CYPP:

Mark Gillett

Children's Trust Approach Project Officer:

Betty Lynch

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ANNEX II

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

www.harrow.gov.uk/everychildmatters

www.childhealthmapping.org.uk

www.teachernet.gov.uk/extendedschools

www.harrowkidz.org.uk

**Children and Young People's Plan
2006-2009**

This information can be provided in your own language.

Tel. 020 8XXX XXXX

This publication is available in large print and on audiocassette

This publication is also available on:

www.harrow.gov.uk/everychildmatters

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