

Issue 5 Summer 2006

every lambeth child matters



The Newsletter for Lambeth's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)



Stay Safe



Chief Superintendent Martin Bridger
Metropolitan Police

Children and young people are amongst the most vulnerable members of society. It is therefore vital that we consider how best to safeguard them and promote their welfare in everything we do. To this end I am personally committed to ensuring that Lambeth Police and our partners make a key contribution to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

My officers perform many roles which impact daily upon the security and welfare of our children. This includes the gathering of information to support vetting processes which in turn helps protect children by preventing unsuitable people getting access to them through employment.

In addition, my Safer Schools team, which is expanding, work in schools delivering anti-gun and knife lessons and provide a visible and approachable presence both inside and outside of schools. The new Safer Neighbourhood teams, now implemented across the borough, work closely with their local communities.

Children and young people are key to this process and we actively encourage their involvement, particularly in helping provide solutions to instances of anti-social behaviour.

Lambeth Police Youth Key Priorities



John Corrigan - Detective Superintendent
Pan-Borough

Key Priorities:

- Work in partnership with Crime Joint Action Groups to improve performance on crime reduction
- Improve performance on sanction detections
- Strategy for Offences Brought to Justice



Stewart Low - Superintendent
Brixton

Key Priorities:

- Work in partnership with key stakeholders to divert youths away from committing crime and disorder
- Reduce the number of youth victims of crime through crime prevention activities
- Promote 'good citizenship'



Alistair Sutherland - Superintendent
Kennington

Key Priorities:

- Develop and improve the relationships between police and youth groups within Lambeth by promoting better understanding of key issues e.g. stop and search
- Work in partnership with key agencies on school and summer projects as part of youth diversion
- Reduce the incidences of anti-social behaviour by youths on estates through effective safer neighbourhood working



Jonathan Tottman - Superintendent
Streatham

Key Priorities:

- Reduce the incidence of youths as victims (especially robbery near education establishments)
- Youth anti-social behaviour
- Capacity building: resourcing youth provisions through work with the statutory and voluntary sector



Paul Wilson - Superintendent
Community Safety & Partnership

Key Priorities:

- Facilitate increased police partnership working with statutory and voluntary agencies
- Represent and advise the Borough Commander on a range of partnership initiatives
- Manage officers and police staff in the Safer Schools Partnership, Prolific and Priority Offenders Project, Youth Offending Service and the Community Cohesion Unit

CYPSP Board Members Updated

There have been a number of changes to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board since the last edition of this newsletter. See table below for an updated list of Board Members.

Board Members

Anita Wright Headteacher, Woodmansterne Primary School

David Boyle Headteacher, Dunraven Secondary School

Ian Jackson Local Strategic Partnership Manager

Jane Ramsey Chair of the Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Judith Bowden Head of Child and Adolescent Services, South London and Maudsley Hospital (SLAM)

Kevin Barton Chief Executive, Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Martin Bridger Chief Superintendent, Metropolitan Police

Mary Lynch Deputy Executive Director, Housing Services, Lambeth

Mike Richardson Lambeth Governors Forum/
Loughborough School Governor

Phyllis Dunipace Executive Director, Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), Lambeth

Ruth Vincent Interim Executive Director, Adult and Community Services, Lambeth

Sally Prentice Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Chair)

Sarah Grand Chair of Voluntary and Community Forum

Stephen Bagley Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

The Board is supported by the Change Management team and is chaired by Councillor Sally Prentice.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Vision:

'We will enable children and young people to feel valued, happy, healthy and safe and to achieve their full potential'

We will achieve our vision by:

- Ensuring effective and integrated services
- We will promote partnership working
- Encouraging the full involvement of users by focusing on their needs

If you have any questions about the Change Management programme you can contact the Integrated Services for Children (IS4C) team by email IS4C@lambeth.gov.uk or visit www.lambeth.gov.uk/is4c

or write to us at:
Integrated Services for Children
Floor 7, International House
Canterbury Crescent
Brixton
London
SW9 7QE



CYPSP

Vision: Sally Prentice



Councillor Sally Prentice is the new Cabinet Member with responsibility for children and young people, replacing Roger Giess and Anthony Bottrall.

She was first elected to Lambeth Council in 1993 at the age of 23, and has nearly ten years experience as a councillor, having represented Bishop's Ward from 1993 to 1998 and Ferndale Ward since 2002. She has lived in Kennington for 16 years.

Sally's main interests as a councillor are education, early years, regeneration and services for young people. She has pursued a career in public policy and public service management and has worked for HM Treasury, the King's Fund, Tower Hamlets Council Regeneration Department and the Shoreditch Trust.

At the Shoreditch Trust, Sally was responsible for managing the education and employment programmes. For the last three years she has run the education business link consortium in East London, managing funding on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council.

"I am looking forward to working with officers and colleagues in the voluntary sector and other statutory agencies." said Sally.

She works closely with the Children and Young People's Service and its partners to improve services and increase opportunities for all children and young people in the borough.

What is the CYPSP Assembly?

The Assembly is a consultative forum set up under the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) that gives feedback on policies and plans. Through the Assembly's meetings, the CYPSP invites local agencies to discuss innovative solutions to specific issues that relate to service delivery.

Who is it for and when is it held?

The Assembly meets quarterly and is aimed at all service managers who work with children and young people, whether they work for local government agencies or voluntary and community sector groups. The youth council and other service representatives are also actively encouraged to attend.



What can I expect from the Assembly meetings?

Anyone interested in the CYPSP's work is encouraged to attend and feedback is invited from members on how to make meetings both valuable and thought-provoking.

At previous Assembly meetings presentations have been made on the Common Assessment Framework and the Primary Care Trust's Children's Health Strategy, amongst other topical subjects. Workshops have been held during meetings inviting members to take part in action planning around the Children and Young People's Plan. Recently, the meeting hosted a 'marketplace' in which information on a range of Lambeth initiatives was shared.

Can I attend the Assembly meetings?

If you are interested in participating in the CYPSP Assembly, please let us know. Email Katie Myhill (kmyhill@lambeth.gov.uk) to be added to our distribution list.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Private Fostering - an overview

Definitions

A private fostering arrangement is where a parent privately arranges for another adult, who is not a family member, to look after their child. The child is not a 'looked after child', and the 'foster carer' is not one that has been approved by a Local Authority or Fostering Agency.

The child must be under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) and the arrangements should last for 28 days or more.

Background

There is a long tradition of private fostering in the UK. Parents who cannot look after their children for a period of time, make their own arrangements as a positive measure. However, there is increasing awareness that children being cared for away from home, can be at greater risk within society. Private fostering has increased with the growth of diverse communities and mobile populations, where these arrangements can be common practice.

New private fostering regulations came into force as part of the Children Act (2004). They require local authorities to ensure that the well-being of privately fostered children is promoted and their welfare safeguarded.



Duties and responsibilities

Children's Social Care has a responsibility to ensure that the welfare of privately fostered children is safeguarded and promoted. Parents, private foster carers and professionals now have a responsibility to notify Social Care (the Referral and Assessment Service) of any private fostering arrangements.

Plans in Lambeth

Lambeth is currently recruiting a specialist private fostering officer who will undertake case work with existing, and future, privately fostered children. They will be available for advice and will coordinate a programme of awareness raising and training for staff across agencies and for community groups.

For further information, contact Marcella McHugh, Service Manager, Family Support and Child Protection. By telephone 020 7926 5451 or email mmchugh@lambeth.gov.uk

Children with Disabilities and Special Education Needs Strategy Group

The Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs Strategy Group, part of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, is to oversee a pilot for integrated services operating under the new Children's Trust.



All aspects of service management and delivery are to become integrated across agencies (in particular the Primary Care Trust, Children and Young People's Service and the voluntary and community sector) when the Children's Trust is established.

These changes are motivated by the need to introduce significant improvements in the services offered to children with disabilities and special educational needs and their families, helping early intervention and transitions above all, as well as reducing the duplication of efforts between agencies.

Staff and users of services are being consulted during the rollout of the pilot, and the new arrangements are expected to be in place by September 2007. For more information, please contact: Nicolas Taylor on 020 7926 9005 or email ntaylor2@lambeth.gov.uk

Integrating services

By integrating information technology systems, we have been able to share information with other partners and provide a new structure for recording information that comes from children, young people and their families.

Refugees and asylum seekers, young carers and teenage parents, children and young people in care, temporary accommodation or homeless, and others can find themselves in circumstances that may make them vulnerable to a variety of risks. By identifying the particular needs of these children in Lambeth we will

enable the development of targeted universal services that ensure access to the services they need most.

Some of the projects Lambeth has developed are: The children services directory (www.younglambeth.org.uk); Integrated Children's System to assist the work of social workers in the borough; training for agencies on the Common Assessment Framework and the launch of the pilot of Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs.

The one-stop service directory is here!



The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has produced a single, definitive online service directory to display information on all services available to children and young people in the borough.

The directory provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on: local service providers; who can access the services; where services are located and how you can be referred to them.

Creation of the directory has enabled the council and its partners to meet the requirements of the Information Services Directory, set out by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the

recommendations set out by Every Child Matters and the Youth Matters green paper.

The directory aims to make information more accessible to everyone associated with children and young people in the London Borough of Lambeth, by giving access to the same information, in one place.

Log on to <http://www.younglambeth.org.uk> to access the directory.

If you require further information or have any questions please e-mail cypsdirectory@lambeth.gov.uk www.younglambeth.org.uk

Children's Social Care goes electronic



From October 2006, staff in children's social care will be using a new Integrated Children's System (ICS), to record, assess, plan and review the entire scope of their work.

The Integrated Children's System (ICS) is a comprehensive set of recording, assessment, planning and review formats that cover the entire scope of work with children. It will work within Framework, an integrated case management system and will replace the current 'embedded' documents, with a more user-friendly system.

ICS, along with Framework will provide a logical workflow from information gathering to assessment to care planning. One step must be completed before moving on to the next. ICS will see the end of paper records, as all files will be recorded electronically.

ICS, along with the recent developments within Framework, will help improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery, through:

- Comprehensive and structured recording tools
- A logical step-by-step process for information gathering
- A reporting facility, in one central electronic system which will give easy access to key management information.

ICS is being rolled out nationally across all authorities providing children's social care services by January 2007.

For more information visit the Every Child Matters website:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/integratedchildrenssystem or email John McNally on Jmcnally1@lambeth.gov.uk

The Common Assessment Framework

The Common Assessment Framework is part of the wider Every Child Matters agenda for change. It is a tool to ensure that children and young people achieve the five outcomes and employs a pre-assessment checklist and process for undertaking a common assessment. It will help agencies provide more integrated services to children and to identify and intervene in the case of any issues or problems arising earlier.

The CAF team works closely with staff and colleagues from partner agencies. The team's main function is to ensure that training is made available to all relevant people and organisations, and that there is an understanding of the CAF and when to carry out an assessment.

All agencies are expected to train at least some of their staff in using the Common Assessment Framework. A number of awareness raising sessions have been organised to enable services and agencies to begin thinking about how the CAF will impact on their current assessment processes. These sessions offer an opportunity to:

- Receive information about the CAF and what it will mean to you and your service
- Begin the process of developing a common understanding of 'thresholds'
- Discuss casework scenarios in multi-agency groups

Next session	Contact	Venue	Time
Monday 16 October 2006	Katie Myhill	Lecture Theatre, International House	2.00pm - 3.15pm 3.30pm - 5.00pm
Tuesday 17 October 2006	Katie Myhill	Lecture Theatre, International House	2.00pm - 3.15pm 3.30pm - 5.00pm

To book a place on one of the courses please contact Katie Myhill on 020 7926 1106 or email kmyhill@lambeth.gov.uk

Youth Strategy

Lambeth Facts:

Lambeth is a 'young' borough. There are over 57,000 children and young people living in Lambeth, and this number is expected to rise to over 62,000 by 2006, leading to an increased demand for services and facilities for young people.



It is a borough of great cultural and ethnic diversity - over 60% of the population are not of British origin and over 157 languages are spoken in Lambeth's schools. The largest ethnic minority groups are the Black Caribbean and Black African communities.

Lambeth is one of the most deprived areas in the country although there is significant economic growth there are inequalities in who actually benefits from it and this is a prime focus of the Community Strategy.

Lambeth has a highly mobile population, compared to London and national averages.

Crime is statistically high in comparison to other boroughs and the perceptions of high levels of anti-social behaviour are strong. Young people are disproportionately likely to be victims of crime, and yet are often seen by the community as the main cause of crime.

Accommodation for young people, particularly those leaving care, is becoming an issue of increasing concern.

Our Strategy:

Lambeth is working hard to tackle these issues and has created a borough wide youth strategy, which was launched in July 2006. It identifies the needs of young people in Lambeth and how they will be met. It supports and links in with a number of strategies and plans including; the Children and Young People's Plan, the Borough Play and Sports Strategies and the Education Achievement Plan. The Youth Strategy focuses mainly on the age range between 11 and 19.

The strategy is based on the review of existing documentation and extensive consultation held with elected members, staff, partner agencies and young people to create a vision of an accessible range of opportunities for young people.

The Youth Strategy is guided by the following principles:

- Young people are a positive part of the community and all services should be welcoming to them
- Diverse communities and groups have a right to fair and high quality services
- The range of diversity in Lambeth is to be celebrated
- Parents and carers have the potential to play the most important role with young people
- Young people are encouraged and supported to take responsibility
- Effective communication and partnership working between services and sectors is essential

There are nine strategic priorities addressed within the strategy, these are:

1. Young people feel part of their community and are welcome in services and facilities
2. All young people have equity of access to provision relevant to their needs
3. Young people are actively and meaningfully involved in local decision making
4. Young people are engaged in a range of positive activities that can clearly demonstrate benefits
5. Young people can access volunteering and community opportunities and gain maximum long term benefit from this involvement
6. Young people are able to find the solutions they need, and are able to work out positive ways forward
7. Vulnerable young people and those involved in the criminal justice system are able to access effective support
8. Parents and carers are able to access support as a part of holistic services to young people
9. Inward investment is enhanced and programmes expanded through excellence in performance management

A new, rationalised strategic Youth Partnership Board will be established under the structure of the Lambeth Local Strategic Partnership and will report to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Work in progress will be built on, to promote better access for young people to services. For further information, contact Lambert Allman on 020 7926 9349 or by email lallman@lambeth.gov.uk

Youth Offending in Lambeth

One of the key areas of focus for the youth strategy is youth offending. Lambeth is one of the highest crime boroughs in the country with reported crime 55% above the national average (England and Wales). Serious offending by young people in Lambeth is higher still - robberies represent 1.6% of all crimes for young people nationally, yet in Lambeth the figure is 8%. Indeed almost 3% of all young people convicted of robbery in England and Wales are Lambeth residents. The seriousness of youth crime in Lambeth is exceptional when compared to the rest of the country.



Approximately 100 youths aged below 18 are sentenced to custody each year for a range of offences including robbery, serious assaults (including GBH and sexual assaults), the supply of drugs and domestic burglary. In the council's most recent residents survey 54% of our citizens cited 'crime' as their number one concern (24% more than the next highest concern). Lambeth's Youth Inclusion Support Panel has been established to help the Youth Offending Service reduce the likelihood of targeted young people committing offences or anti-social behaviour.

Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP)

Lambeth YISP is a multi-agency planning group that seeks to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by offering support services to high-risk 8-13 year olds and their families in Lambeth. Lambeth YISP is made up of a number of representatives of different agencies (e.g. Children and Young People's Service, Police, Social Care, youth services, mental health and drugs services).

The objectives of the Lambeth YISP are to:

- Prevent children referred to the YISP from becoming involved or further involved in offending and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce the risk factors and increase the protective factors of children who are involved or are at risk of becoming further involved in offending and anti-social behaviour
- Ensure that children assessed as high risk by the YISP are in full-time education

The YISP prioritises children who:

- Are not offending but involved in anti-social behaviour
- Are offending but not known to the police or Criminal Justice System
- Have received a police reprimand and are identified as being at high risk of re-offending

Those children who are further involved in the Criminal Justice System will not be prioritised by Lambeth YISP as they will be receiving support from other areas of the Youth Offending Service.



The YISP aims to work with children and young people to turn their negative experiences into positive ones by offering packages of support such as: after-school clubs, one-to-one mentoring, family support, domestic violence outreach service, family counselling, drama clubs, sports activities, health advice, youth projects, school holiday activities, school transitions project, assistance to and from activities and personal development programmes.

For further information on YISP, contact Junior Shabazz, Operations Manager on 020 7926 2676 or by email jshabazz@lambeth.gov.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

A move towards area based service delivery

Area based service delivery (ABSD) is the decentralisation of services to meet the needs of communities at a local level. It provides an opportunity to shape services for children and young people by:

- Increasing preventative working
- Developing a 'team around the child' approach

ABSD will improve outcomes for children and young people and their families/carers in Lambeth by developing local partnerships, providing local access to specialist services (swift and easy referrals) and early intervention and more preventative working. It creates multi-agency teams that work together locally to meet community needs.

ABSD will bring together a number of current programmes including Workforce Reform, new relationships with schools, the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Extended Services, integrated youth provision, Lambeth Information Sharing & Assessment (LISA), Integration of services and Children Centres.

Discussions about area based service delivery are beginning to take place at every level within the Children and Young People's Partnership. This involves talking to Lambeth Council staff, the Primary Care Trust, Police, voluntary and community groups, children and young people as well as parents and carers.

Developing extended services

By 2012 all schools are to provide access to a range of extended services. This will result in raising the standards of pupil motivation, aspiration, achievement and behaviour and contributing to a wider range of other government targets including childcare, children's services, community cohesion, neighbourhood renewal, adult learning, combating child poverty, health inequalities and crime reduction. The main extended services offer will comprise:

High Quality childcare provided on the school site or through other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements where appropriate, available 8am - 6pm all year round.

A varied menu of study support such as homework clubs, catch up provision, gifted and talented provision, sport, music tuition, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs, visits to museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering and enterprise activities.

Parenting support including information session for parents at key transition points; parenting programmes run with the support of other children's services and family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parents.

Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist services such as speech therapy, child and adolescent mental health services, family support services, sexual health services. Some of these services could be delivered on school sites.

Providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities including adult learning.

Lambeth's target is as follows:

- 15% (13) of schools to be providing the full core offer by September 2006
- 33% (3) secondary schools to be providing the full core offer by September 2008
- 50% (34) primary schools to be providing the full core offer by September 2008

Extended services advisors will help plan, develop, manage and maintain services throughout schools, minor capital costs, developing partnerships with key agencies and consulting the main stakeholders (children, parents, community etc.) about what services are needed. For further information on extended services, contact John Hogarth on 0207 926 1107 or by email jhogarth@lambeth.gov.uk



CONSULTATION

Have you got your copy yet?

Lambeth's first Children and Young People's Plan is an important strategic document which will bring about change and improve the lives of children and young people in the borough.

It has been developed using contributions from children, young people, their families and their carers as well as many stakeholders who are involved with and supporting children and young people.

The plan manifests our public commitment to working in partnership across a number of agencies to support Lambeth children and young people and their families. It is available online at:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/CYPPPlan.htm>

Alternatively a copy of the plan and feedback questionnaire can be sent to you on request from CYPP@lambeth.gov.uk

Consulting with young children



The Early Years and Sure Start Service has put listening and responding to the views of young children at the heart of its Brightstart Childcare Strategy.

A number of different initiatives are underway including 'Our Lives in Lambeth', a project to find out what our youngest residents think?

In June 2006 more than 200 children took part in Our Lives in Lambeth. Through the project Lambeth children were asked to draw, photograph and talk about what they like and dislike about their environment. Open spaces to climb, cycle, run and play, grass, trees, flowers and plants all topped the list of 'likes'. The artwork produced by children for the project was displayed at Roots and Shoots in Kennington on 11 July.

Other initiatives in the listening to young children programme include:

Baby massage consultation sessions

Midwives in the Myatts Field area, are consulting parents on whether their babies enjoy baby massage. Parents are being asked to observe their babies over 4 to 5 sessions to see what evidence and signs they pick up from their babies and what interpretation parents put on this.

Childminders

Training sessions are being run with registered childminders, on the importance of listening to children and how this translates to their practice. This training is linked to Ofsted inspections that require providers to provide evidence of how children are experiencing their service.

Babies First Words

Parents have been asked to record their baby's first words and the story behind these words, as part of the National Literacy Trust initiative. They have had 48 responses and plan to produce a publication featuring 12 stories based on the feedback they've received.

Involving young children in the design of early years spaces

In a partnership between Ashmole School and the architects Greenhill Jenner and Thomas Coram Research Unit, young children have been given the opportunity to get involved in the design of their new nursery building.



For the full report on Our Lives in Lambeth and information about other initiatives please contact Lorna Wilamowski, Early Years Communications Manager on 020 7926 8613 or lwilamowski@lambeth.gov.uk

CYPSP

The CYPSP Board is the primary body for formulating strategy and making decisions. It has a two-way purpose; it hears the discussions and recommendations of the Programme Forum and the Assembly, as well as cascades information down through the agencies. The Board represents both business and end-user interests and informs external stakeholders of programme developments. It ensures that appropriate actions are taken and approvals are sought from relevant decision-making bodies and management teams. The CYPSP Board meets six times a year, to monitor and progress work and actions.

CYPSP Programme Forum

The Programme Forum is a group of key managers, who interpret strategy into policy and practice, and drive the implementation of decisions. It enhances partnership working within and between key agencies and seeks to use partnerships to improve outcomes for children and young people. The CYPSP Programme Forum meets every six weeks.

The CYPSP Assembly

A consultative meeting, that provides feedback on policies and plans as they are developed. Participants are encouraged to offer innovative solutions based on their knowledge and experience of public facing service delivery. It is open to all those who work with children and young people in the borough and meets quarterly. Please contact Katie Myhill on 020 7926 1106, kmyhill@lambeth.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

This is a monthly meeting for the voluntary and community sector that has been set up as a consultative body for matters relating to children and young people. Please contact Katie Myhill on 020 7926 1106, kmyhill@lambeth.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

Key Dates

Date: Tuesday 26 Sept 2006
Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre, International House, SW9
Description: CYPSP Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Date: Wednesday 27 Sept 2006
Time: 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre, International House, SW9
Description: CYPSP Programme Forum

Date: Wednesday 11 October 2006
Time: 4.00pm to 6.00pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre, International House, SW9
Description: CYPSP Board

Date: Friday 03 November 2006
Time: 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre, International House, SW9
Description: CYPSP Assembly

Date: Tuesday 28 Nov 2006 (tbc)
Time: 10.00am to 12.00pm
Venue: Lecture Theatre, International House, SW9
Description: CYPSP Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

N.B. All meetings subject to confirmation, please contact Katie Myhill on 020 7926 1106 for further details or if you wish to attend.

Contact us

If you have any questions or comments about the IS4C programme, please e-mail the team at is4c@lambeth.gov.uk

Or write to us at:

7th Floor, International House
 Canterbury Crescent
 Brixton
 London SW9 7QE

