

## Welcome

This newsletter is the first of many which will keep you up-to-date with the approach Lambeth Council and its partners are taking to address the requirements of the Children Bill. The Integrated Services for Children (IS4C) programme, which was launched in July 2004, supports the national outcomes and local priorities of the borough's community strategy for children and young people.

Responding to the Laming report, the government policy paper *Every Child Matters* and the Children Bill, will place a duty on agencies to co-operate and share information.



## What does this mean to Lambeth?

- Reviewing how services are delivered and developing user-friendly services through the involvement of children, young people and their families;
- Testing out processes for the integration of services;
- Identifying what prevents and what supports partnership working;
- Delivering services that are effective and efficient by identifying, through the development of integrated services, areas of duplication and gaps in provision;
- Addressing areas of underachievement and poor performance by delivering services in a different way and by learning from others as part of the continued drive to improve services;
- Developing integrated services to provide a seamless service to Lambeth young children and their families;
- Establishing a Children's Trust to ensure more effective use of resources to deliver integrated outcomes, including pooling budgets with key partners.

The leader's speech in July 2004 further highlighted a number of issues that relate to the IS4C programme – a commitment to safeguarding all children, meeting the needs of vulnerable children, service improvement, putting the needs of the user first, improving efficiency and effectiveness and working in partnership.

National outcomes for all children	
<b>Being healthy</b>	Enjoying good physical & mental health & living a healthy lifestyle
<b>Staying Safe</b>	Being protected from harm and neglect
<b>Enjoying and achieving</b>	Getting the most out of life & developing the skills for adulthood
<b>Making a positive contribution</b>	Being involved with the community & society & not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour
<b>Economic well-being</b>	Not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life

### How are we doing this?

As a first step in establishing improved inter-agency working, the council initiated a **Children and Young People Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)** in April 2004 to strengthen its existing partnerships.

The CYPSP is now structured as follows:

- Executive Group shapes strategy and priorities
- Programme Forum drives implementation and co-ordinates across initiatives
- Assembly acts as a think-tank providing advice, guidance, feedback and recommendations for action

In addition, the council has established a combined officer and member group, the **Integrated Children & Families' Services (ICFS)** subgroup, which includes the Executive Members for Social Services and Education, plus the Chair of the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

As a result of our shared priority to sustain improvements in services and to maintain stability, an incremental approach was agreed by the CYPSP. This allows the council and its partners to take a consultative and inclusive approach to this major change programme by:

- Integrating services gradually over a 3 year period;
- Appointing a Director of Children's Services in 2006 to participate in shaping the organisation;
- Testing out ideas through pilot projects;
- Learning from other authorities who have already implemented changes;
- Benefiting from the work that the DfES is undertaking on workforce reform and development of an accountability spine that ties key performance indicators into the 5 national outcomes.

Key Milestones	
CYPSP established	Apr 04
IS4C team established	Jul 04
Pilot projects initiated	Aug 04
Lambeth Corporate Parenting Board operational	Dec 04
Preventative strategy for vulnerable children	Jan 05
IT strategy developed	Mar 05
Lambeth Local safeguarding Children Board operational	Jul 05
Children's Trust options developed	Jul 05
Strategy for all children	Jul 05
First joint inspections possible	Sep 05
Lambeth lead member for children	Jun 06
Single statutory Children & Young People's plan	Sep 06
Director of Children's Services appointed	Jan 07
Integrated Children's Services department	Mar 07
Lambeth Children's Trust	Mar 08

### The IS4C team

The IS4C team is working with senior managers across agencies to ensure the council and its partners are ready and able to meet our new duties between 2006 and 2008. The team is small, consisting of senior representatives for Children's Social Services, Education, Health and Corporate services.

The team is charged with facilitating and co-ordinating activities and developing policy and procedures to support an integrated service. This limited scope for the IS4C team assumes that the responsibility for operational aspects of an integrated service will lie with the service delivery units within the relevant organisations.

### Who should be involved in IS4C?

All those providing services that have an impact on children, either directly or in-directly. Achieving the 5 national outcomes for children will depend on **all Lambeth services working together** to share information and provide joined up solutions. How might your service contribute and become involved?

### What are we doing now?

The CYPSP has approved three **pilot projects** relating to Looked after Children (LAC), Children with Disabilities and complex medical needs (CWD) and Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS). It is intended that these pilots will contribute to an improvement in service delivery for three of the most vulnerable groups of children and young people and their families. A fourth proposed pilot is under development involving integrated service delivery at schools. These pilots will also enable the council and its partners to improve partnership working, performance management and service delivery that better meets the needs of users.

The CYPSP is developing a **Preventative Strategy for Vulnerable Children**. This is an interim strategy that reflects our immediate priorities for vulnerable children. It will be incorporated into our Strategy for All Children, due to be developed by mid 2005.

So that services are developed in consultation with users, the Youth Council have been commissioned to **listen to young people** across the borough and to those young people in council care who are placed out of the borough. Other forums such as school's council will also be used to obtain the views of young people.

We have begun to look at the service delivery and financial aspects of integrating services and have begun preliminary **mapping** exercises for areas that may allow the council and its partners to reduce duplication of effort

and activity. These areas include grants, performance management, and the resources that are linked to the pilot areas.

In addition, the council and its partners have begun to address some **management information** sharing issues through the Lambeth Information Sharing and Assessment system (LISA). The sharing of data and information across agencies is a key aspect of the programme work plan for 2005/06. In parallel, the council is developing an IT strategy, which will establish a cost effective approach to the sharing of data across the council.

### Forthcoming Key Consultation Events

CYPSP Assembly (Avonmouth House)	12 Nov
Early Years Focus group (Lambeth Town Hall)	30 Nov
8 – 13 years Focus Group (Lambeth Town Hall)	2 Dec
13 – 19 years Focus Group (Lambeth Town Hall)	2 Dec

**For more information on the pilots, the communication strategy, CYPSP and the IS4C team please visit the web page, available from December 04.**



