

The Children's Fund is a government funded programme, administered by a multi-agency Partnership Board, with strong representation from the voluntary sector both on the board and in service provision. The partnership is one of several overseen by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) and has been set up with the intention of developing prevention and early intervention programmes for vulnerable children aged 5 to 13 years and their families.



The Children's Fund Board operates as an effective multi-agency decision making and commissioning body with an effective commissioning model that is supported by a needs analysis and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of service provision.

One of the key strengths of the Children's Fund Board is its links with the voluntary sector, the Board is chaired by a member of the Voluntary Sector and five key children's voluntary sector providers sit on the Board. The Chairman of the board is also the Vice-Chairman of the CYPSP.

The range of services provided through the Children's Fund strongly supports the agenda for prevention and early intervention, and a wide range of needs are addressed through the services commissioned, including some child and adolescent mental health services, inclusion for disabled children, holiday activities for vulnerable children (including a scheme for children with learning difficulties and disabilities), early intervention for young people at risk of offending, provision of family support through outreach work and provision of an information service for parents and carers.

Successes

During 2006/07 the Children's Fund has funded, either fully or partially, a range of projects all of which are monitored and evaluated against the following five outcomes contained within the Every Child Matters framework:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

To date 849 children (a 48% increase in the number of children part/fully supported by Children's Fund prevention and early intervention projects. compared to the previous year) and many of their parents have participated in a Children's Fund project in some form and the Information Service has been accessed by 4040 parents

75% of the Children's Fund grant has been commissioned through the third sector. Two of the Fund's successful projects are outlined below:

- i. The Pyramid Project, aims to address emotional well being of year 3 pupils (6 – 7 year olds) has been introduced into 30% of the Borough's primary schools and independent studies have found that 65% of children involved in the clubs demonstrated a reduced level of need when compared to a series of indicators
- ii. The Youth Offending Service's Early Intervention Project aims to prevent offending by young people considered to be at risk of offending has seen a 96% success rate with those children it has worked with, the highest in Berkshire.