

Dear ECEN

I would like to write to thank ECEN members for the valuable contribution that they have made to the development of the Enfield Children and Young People's Plan 2009 – 2012.

The plan is a statutory document that we need to publish every three years.

In September 2008, we began the process of consultation on the new plan. ECEN arranged a forum, which gave the Children's Trust team the opportunity to consult directly with ECEN members (from a cross section of community and voluntary organisations) who are particularly concerned with the delivery of services to children and young people.

The forum gave those present an opportunity to contribute to Enfield's response on Government proposals for strengthening legislation around Children's Trusts.

Group discussion took place around how the plan could be made accessible for professionals, young people and parents alike. It was from this forum that the basic idea of providing information for parents and carers in the form of a service map emerged. We took on this idea and have developed this into the Parents/Carers leaflets that you may have seen around the borough today.



Forums such as the one discussed above provide an important role in ensuring that the voices and opinions of groups, who might not otherwise have the opportunity to contribute, can do so and have a direct impact on the borough in which they live. The voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough reach some of our most vulnerable and isolated families and therefore are able to bring an important perspective to discussions on the services agencies provide and the needs of our community.

This was demonstrated when ECEN arranged the first of the Local Area Agreement Forums that looked at those 16-18 yr olds in our community who are not in Education, Employment and Training. ECEN members were able to look at how their work directly contributes to the LAA and speak to the deputy head of the Youth Support Service to gain a clearer understanding about this group of young people and pose questions or issues of concern to Local Authority officers.

Producing the plan is just the first step, over the next three years we need to deliver on those goals and aspirations. The Children's Trust Board is responsible for overseeing this process. ECEN have three elected representatives that sit on the board and represent the views of ECEN members. As Board members they will be

able to directly input to the development of strategies covering issues such as the way we communicate, share information and develop the children's workforce.

Our next goal is to ensure that the children and young people who attend your groups and organisations also have a chance to have their say and make a difference, so we will be looking for your support to make local youth forums a successful reality.

Kind regards

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