

LEGACY

The Croydon Children's Fund

Summary Report

November 2007

Projects/Services which have received funding from The Croydon Children's Fund

THEME	PROJECTS	
	STATUTORY	VOLUNTARY
YOUTH CRIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP), Youth Offending Team (YOT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Youth Inclusion Project (JYIP), Croydon Youth Development Trust (CYDT) Croydon Young People's Project (CYPP), SOVA RUOK, Victim Support
OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/ PLAY/ PREVENTATIVE WORK		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valley Park TOC H – Peppermint Centre Together in Waddon Croydon Community Bus
WITH BME CHILDREN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beat the Street, Croydon Youth Development Trust (CYDT)
PARTICIPATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croydon Xpress, Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA)
IN SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaching Out, Borough of Croydon (Education) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place2be Voluntary Reading Help
WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Therapy, Primary Care Trust (PCT) (Group A) ADHD Development Worker, Borough of Croydon (Ed Phyc) Willow – Bereavement, Primary Care Trust (PCT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garwood Foundation, Rutherford School Croydon Mencap, (Benefits programme)
PARENTING		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parentline Plus (PLP) PATCH Project at Croydon People's Housing Association (CPHA)

Notes:

- Many of the projects/services cross over these themes, but this gives some indication of their primary functions
- All of the projects/services above were funded from the outset in 2003/04 until 2007/08 unless otherwise indicated below
- Beat the Street, Parentline Plus and Voluntary Reading Help were funded from 2003/04 until 05/06
- Place2be was funded from 2003/04 until 06/07
- RUOK received a one off payment in 2004/05 and is being funded in 2007/08

ACRONYMS

Acronyms used in the report (additional to those listed for projects/services) are as follows:

ADHD	Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder	DfCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	EAL	English as an Additional Language
BME	Black, Minority and Ethnic	ECM	Every Child Matters
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	JAR	Joint Area Review
CJS	Criminal Justice System	LAA	Local Area Agreement
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau	OCN	Open College Network
CVA	Croydon Voluntary Action	OT	Occupational Therapist
CYP	Children and Young People	PCT	Primary Care Trust
CYPSP	Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership	SALT	Speech and Language Therapist
CYPPB	Children and Young People's Partnership Board	YOT	Youth Offending Team
CCF	Croydon Children's Fund		

Introduction

This report presents the good practice and lessons learned from the Croydon Children's Fund. It is one of the voluntary sector led Children's Fund programmes, with Croydon Voluntary Action as the lead accountable body. The current programme is scheduled to end in March 2008 after six years of central government funding (2002-2008 including a development grant in 2002). Over the period 2002-2008 £4.7 million will have been invested in Croydon, in children aged between five and 13 years old.

What is the Children's Fund

The Croydon Children's Fund programme was introduced in 2003. The fund was primarily set up to develop services for children at risk of social exclusion, aiming to provide increased co-ordinated preventive services. Funding was targeted at children and young people aged 5-13 years old and also their families.

The fund is part of the Government's strategy to tackle disadvantage and inequality arising from child poverty and social exclusion, through addressing national priorities including improving school attendance and attainment, improving health (including mental health) and reducing crime and anti social behaviour.

A key element of the programme is that services are locally determined according to local need, and planned in consultation with children and families from the outset. In Croydon a comprehensive mapping and consultation exercise was undertaken to find out the views of children, young people and their families, and this was used in the development of the initial three-year strategy for the Croydon Children's Fund.

Development Focus Trust, the local evaluators of the Croydon Children's Fund, have been working with the 19 projects funded over the past four years to assess how they are meeting the objectives of the Children's Fund and the Every Child Matters Objectives, whether the projects are effective in their activities and influencing work and what impact they have on the children, families and broader service providers that they work with.

This is a summary of the full report that covers the following:

- How the Croydon Children's Fund has responded to the needs of local children
- How the Every Child Matters Objectives have been met from the perspective of children and parents
- How service users view the impact the projects have had on their lives, and the consequences of not having the projects/services
- A children's analysis of Participation, Partnership and Prevention, the three main themes that drive the work of the Croydon Children's Fund as well as Protection, Play and Pounds!
- Overall statistics provided by the monitoring system for the Croydon Children's Fund to show how many children and parents are involved in the programme on an annual basis
- Recommendations to commissioners and funders

There are six accompanying documents to this report that show the good practice developed within the Croydon Children's Fund on the following themes:

- Participation
- Working in and with Schools
- Youth Crime
- Parenting
- Working with Children with Disabilities
- Working with BME Children

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has recently announced that new funding will be made available to extend the work of the Children's Fund over the next three years (2008-2011). Future projects will be commissioned and managed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Those responsible for commissioning future work that aims to benefit the lives of boys and girls in Croydon must take notice of the evidence of success, and lessons learnt by the Croydon Children's Fund thus far.



Together in Waddon: Dancing

Starting with the Perspectives of Children

The Croydon Children's Fund started its development and planning from the voices of children. Croydon Xpress, based in Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA), originated as a participatory inquiry. This consultation stage fed into forming criteria for commissioning services and projects. Initial themes under which projects were funded were as follows:

- Youth Crime (including the YISP as specified in Government guidance)
- Children with Disabilities
- Black and Minority Ethnic Groups
- Mobility (referring to transition between primary and secondary schools)
- Family Support
- Out of school/ After school provision

Twenty-five percent of the Children's Fund budget was initially allocated to the Youth Crime projects – Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) and the Junior Youth Inclusion Project (JYIP) – with the remit to work across the borough. The projects working under the theme of 'Children with Disabilities' also worked across the borough. Projects falling under the other four themes were given a remit of working within the following areas in Croydon:

- Broad Green
- Waddon
- New Addington and Fieldway



In the ongoing evaluation, an interim assessment was carried out with children and parents. Participatory work in the form of a needs assessment was carried out in three schools, one secondary and two covering the primary age range, in order to revive and update the initial needs analysis feeding into the Children's Fund planning process. The schools that took part were Kingsley, Fairchildes and Archbishop Lanfranc. The perspectives of girls and boys from schools in the target areas (above) were sought so that the new programme plan (2005/2008) was directly informed by their realities and ideas. Parents were also consulted during the process. Information was collected from 243 children 153 girls and 90 boys of different ages in the three schools.

A summary of some of the expressed needs and priorities of children and their families is shown below with a fuller analysis in the main report.

Some Of The Views Expressed By Children

Issues that make children happy and unhappy: What makes you feel happy/ good and what makes you feel sad/ bad in your life?

When working in small groups girls and boys identified the following:

	
• My friends	• Bereavement (death of family members and of animals)
• My family (especially mum)	• Arguments and fighting with siblings or parents at home
• Physical Activities (such as football, dance, P.E, swimming and cricket)	• Getting told off
• Toys, computers and play-stations (mentioned only by boys)	• Having no friends – being lonely
• Going to school	• Violence
• Looking after animals	• Getting angry
• Going on holidays	• Lack of privacy (own bedroom)

Social contacts and family relations and physical activity had the most significant influence on children's happiness, while bereavement (and fear of bereavement), arguments within the home and being lonely had the most detrimental effect.

Key Problems for Children

After finding out what children thought in more of a group situation, they were then asked individually about their problems with a follow-up immediately about what help they may still need and their ideas for solutions.

"What are your top 3 problems?" Below is a compilation of children's main issues:

Family Friends School Attitude/anger Death Violence	Home Health Going to sleep Losing games/ computer	Accidents and sickness Money issues Environment Body image
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Issues

The following are strengths in terms of coverage by the Croydon Children's Fund Programme as compared to the issues that have been prioritised by children and their families:

- Fun activities, trips and outings
- Children's self-confidence and decision-making
- Bullying issues – both working with those that are bullied and those children that bully other children
- Mental health issues
- Bereavement
- Working with children with disabilities
- Working with some children at high risk of 'getting into trouble' with often very difficult home situations and this can include:
 - Work with parents
 - Feeling safe, both outside and at home/ Violence at home
 - Drugs and substance misuse (for parents and awareness amongst older children)
 - Sexual Health
 - Boys and girls managing their anger
 - Children as carers

Ongoing participatory work and capacity building in project and throughout programme

The Croydon Children's Fund profiles projects/services that have spent 3-5 years working with disadvantaged children and their families to build trust and relationships. Participatory work with girls and boys and their parents takes time, as does building relationships within the broader community and amongst a broad range of service providers from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

In some projects, such as Integrated Therapy and Willow, it takes time to employ therapists with the right type of training and once in post, continuity of funding is important to maintain the service.

Many of the project staff have been trained in participatory monitoring and evaluation, and have consistently provided important information for monitoring progress and assessing impact, in order to review practice and improve their service.

All this capacity needs to be strategically maintained so that the full benefits of the programme can be translated into continuing to improve the lives of girls and boys in Croydon.

Background and Local Context

Croydon will be part of a Joint Area Review taking place in January 2008.

The lessons learned from the Croydon Children's Fund also need to inform the ongoing development of the Children's Trust in Croydon. This, together with the Preventative Strategy in Croydon, has formed a basis for working with children and young people across the borough. Information from the Children's Fund has fed into the development of the Children and Young People's Plan by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP).

The Children's Fund Partnership Board was mainstreamed into the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership with the Children's Fund Manager from Croydon Voluntary Action and members of the board being represented on many of the commissioning sub-committees. Continuation of the multi-agency working, demonstrated in the Croydon Children's Fund, would help to put into practice the Common Assessment Framework and Every Child Matters Objectives.

Imperative to the transition of the Children's Fund into the Children's Trust is the continuation of funding for the children in the age spectrum of the Children's Fund (5-13 years), as this will no longer be specifically ring-fenced.

The management of the Children's Fund has been located in the voluntary sector, with Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) as the lead accountable body. The ongoing involvement of the voluntary sector is critical to the success of implementing programmes aimed at improving the lives of boys and girls and their families in Croydon. Consistency of funding is a factor in maintaining the capacity built across the Children's Fund and is particularly pertinent in the voluntary sector. Croydon Borough Council was awarded Beacon Status by Central Government 2007/2008 for Increased Voluntary and Community Sector Delivery.

In a policy climate where participation is advocated broadly in national policy, Development Focus Trust has worked with the Croydon Children's Fund to employ participatory monitoring and evaluation approaches. The continued work with children and young people in the borough also needs to continue to have the perspectives of children as central to decision-making.

The Underlying Principles of the Croydon Children's Fund: Partnership, Participation and Prevention And Protection, Play and Pounds

The underlying principles of the Croydon Children's Fund can be seen as the 6 Ps: Partnership, Participation and Prevention as well as adding Protection, Play And Pounds. The children who go to JYIP helped us to understand and explain what the Children's Fund means for disadvantaged children in Croydon. Their full analysis is in the main report, but the story and song produced below give a flavour of their input:

The children addressed prevention and protection together. The way that they understood protection and prevention was to explain the positive – what happens if you stop crime, bullying and bad behaviour and have protection to stay safe – and the negative; what happens if you don't.

Positive, stop crime, bullying and bad behaviour and stay safe	Negative – don't stop it
Stay safe with somewhere to go Don't go out to look for trouble Stay in if there is a fight Someone who can look after you	Getting into trouble Getting involved in things that are bad Bad at school Get involved in fighting

One boy wrote the following story to explain what the words mean to him:

"You can stop fighting and killing people by everyone listening. One day someone thinks that they want to go to the bad side and that they will get away with it – so they go to a bank with a sack and mask. When he went in, he saw a sign and remembered what would happen to him if he did something bad so he goes back home and goes to the park."

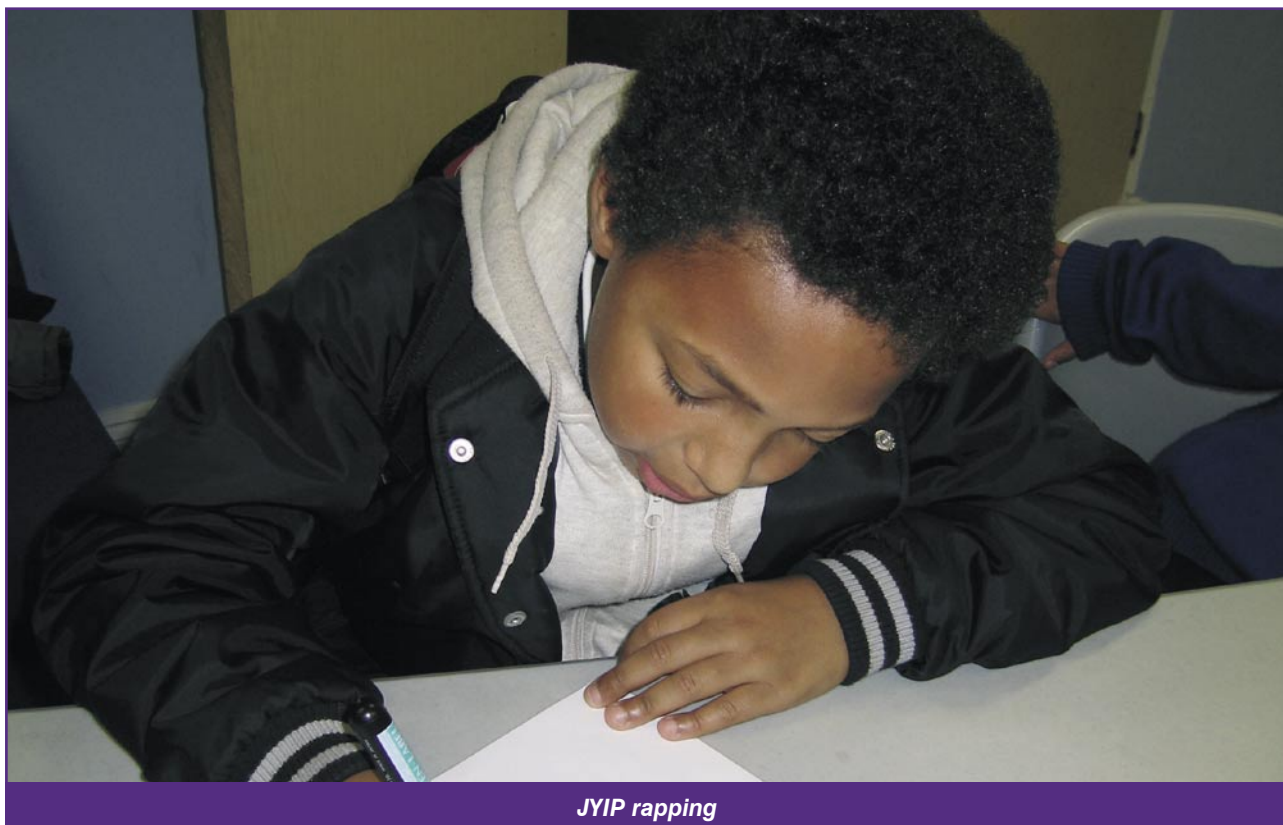
The JYIP children said 'Play can keep you strong and you can have fun'. One boy said that you can use play to have exercise and that 'this keeps you fit and stops you fighting'.

One boy wrote a song about play and pounds:

*P.L.A.Y, Play, Play, Play
Junior YIP just has to stay
Its da place to be in every way
Children's Fund, please can you pay!*

*We want a residential in 2008
We don't want to send young people to the estate
We need your help before its too late
We would like you people to participate!*

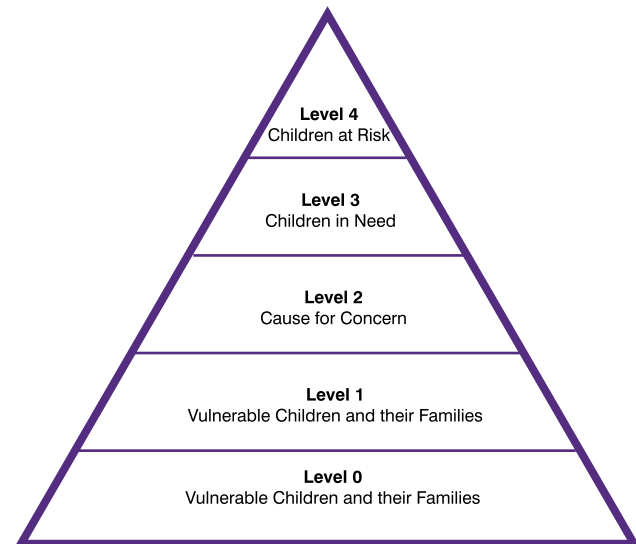
In terms of partnership, children in JYIP saw this as 'working together' to be kind, polite and not to bully. They also saw this as 'involving others' so that children can work and play together. As they say, 'the partnership is working'



JYIP rapping

Early Intervention And Prevention: Impact Analysis

The Croydon Children Fund has built on the work that has been carried out so far by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to develop the Local Preventative Strategy for Children and Young People: 'Partnership in Prevention, Croydon' 2004-2006. In this report, the model of the triangle of need in the Local Preventative Strategy has been referred to. It was envisaged that the Children's Fund would largely be working with Children at levels 1 and 2 of the triangle, although some projects cover all levels.



Impact without early intervention/prevention services

Without the kinds of project/services that the Croydon Children's Fund has supported the result could be:

- Increase in social exclusion
- Increase in school exclusion
- Increase in anti-social behaviour and crime
- Increase in poor health and emotional issues
- Increase in self harming and self medication
- Increase in substance abuse
- Increase in family breakdown
- Increase in anger amongst children
- Increase in gang violence
- Lack of personal empowerment
- Greater financial burden on adult services

These results are demonstrated by the following analysis by children, parents and broader stakeholders of the outcomes and impact of the projects funded by the Croydon Children's Fund for their lives and for the broader community and service provision in the borough.

Impact Analysis: What do the projects achieve?

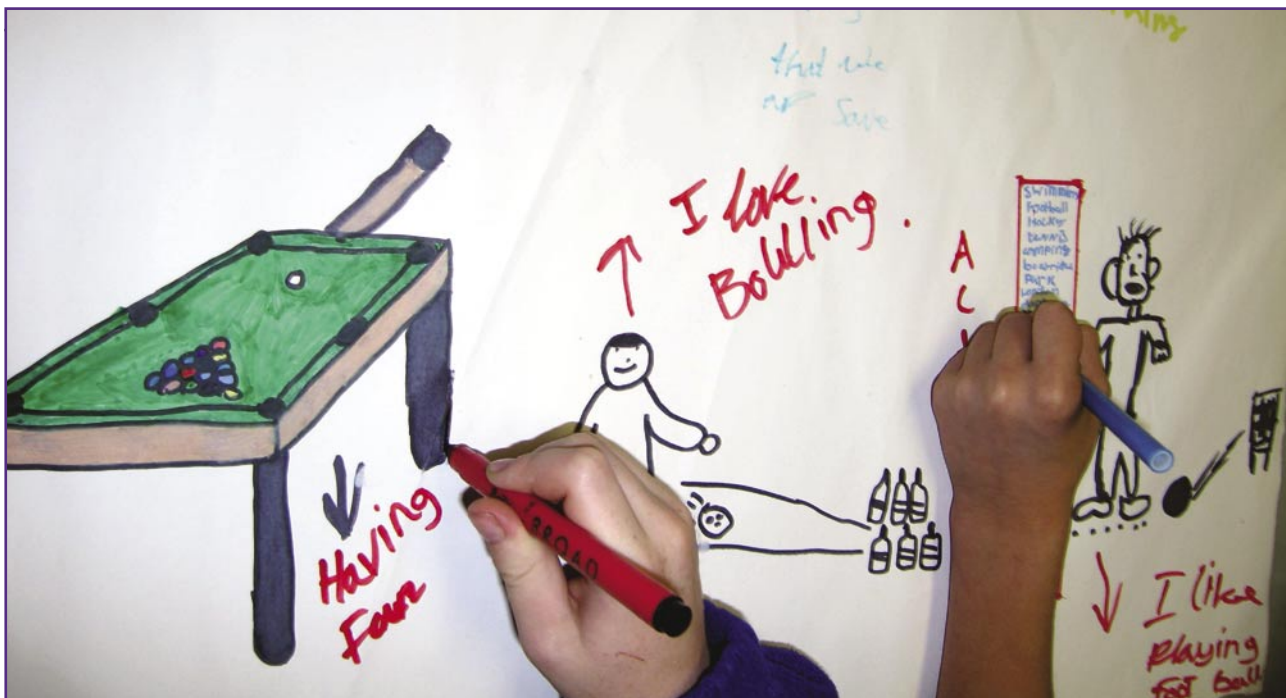
The full programme evaluation explored the impact that projects were having on the lives of girls and boys and their families. This was completed for the third year of funding in order to feed into the ongoing development of the programme.

For Children – given by children and parents

PROJECTS	TYPE OF OUTCOME/ IMPACT
YISP, JYIP, Beat The Street, CYPP, RUOK	Improved behaviour at home Better attitude to school, better attendance Less rude to teachers Less fighting with peers, less swearing and shouting More able to control temper and anger Improved relationships at home and school Increase in self confidence Feeling calmer and happier More friends, more sociable Feel that will no longer become juvenile delinquent Don't bunk off lessons Stopped bullying other children so much Not being bullied so much Not so worried and being able to talk out in the open More helpful to other people
TOC H, Valley Park, Together in Waddon, Community Bus, PATCH, CPHA	Feeling happier and less shy More friends to play with More funny, helpful and friendly Less bored Increased understanding of cultural background More outward looking Less rude and violent More cooperation Better relationships with friends and family
Croydon Xpress	Fun, meeting new friends Learned to communicate with other children
Reaching Out	Can read better and enjoy reading more More confident with more friends Enjoy school more Better temper and less fights
Place2be	Solves my problems Telling someone about difficult situations at home
Integrated Therapy, ADHD Development Worker	More able to deal with changes in routine Better concentration, calmer, happier Sitting for longer periods at school Can communicate better therefore less frustration Feel more mature, more confidence
Garwood	Children with extreme disability responded to stimulation by, for example, grasping, pulling, making noise, squeezing a hand to indicate that the workshop leader should play the music again or do a movement again

For Parents - given by parents

PROJECTS	TYPE OF IMPACT
YISP CYPP	More hope More interaction with children Better understanding of issues facing their children Feel that there is more respect from their children
Parentline Plus PATCH, CPHA	More able to share difficulties Feeling of empowerment from different strategies learnt Maintained some contact with other parents Less feelings of depression and being upset/ shouting Listening to children more and being open with them More confident as a parent and able to communicate better
Integrated Therapy ADHD Development Worker	Better understanding of children's needs Network of parents facing the same issues Parents learnt new strategies and forms of interventions Understood the different services available Not feeling so alone Better relationship with children at home
Mencap	Parents understanding forms and benefits better Parents going for appeal successfully Receipt of Disability Living Allowance and Carers Allowance



JYIP: What Participation and Partnership means to us

Given by Service Providers

PROJECTS	TYPE OF IMPACT
YISP JYIP CYPP	Lower rates of exclusion from school Helping to maintain children in education who might otherwise be excluded Higher self worth for children and parents Significant impact on students that are at high risk of exclusion or disengagement, and those that had been misusing drugs Better inter-agency working around children Improved co-ordination of services to children and young people More holistic assessment of children More respect shown to teachers Children more up to date with school work Children more able to deal with their anger
RUOK	Trust and effective communication in the school Helping with children's self-esteem and confidence
Together in Waddon Community Bus	Addresses bullying, healthy eating, better communication and social skills Preventative project in the community to divert and empower children and young people and involve parents Motivating and inspiring, a stepping stone on the way to getting things better Helps police deal with children on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts Children and young people have fun and it gives them something to do Vital service in those areas of Croydon where the need is highest, where children are 'hard to reach' and where there are no facilities for them
Reaching Out	Enhanced confidence of refugee children at school Increased awareness of refugee issues amongst staff and other students Help integrate refugee children into school and into the curriculum
Place2be	Improved social skills Change in emotional state Less nightmares and bedwetting, Child stopping crying in class
Integrated Therapy ADHD Development Worker	Identification of specific learning needs Identification of therapeutic needs Reduced bullying of particular pupils Improved behaviour at school Children able to manage their own behaviour better Increased joint working Has made treatment of ADHD and ASD more holistic Significantly helped the work of the CAMHS workers, especially in schools Parents and professionals both say they get lots of ideas from workshops to use with the children By bringing agency networks into regular contact with one another, there is increased knowledge, awareness of roles and stronger links for clients Achieves consistency between clients and ensures they are properly directed to other appropriate services Insight into issues around ADHD increased

Willow	<p>School and its support staff now feel more comfortable as they have strategies for supporting pupils and their families after suffering bereavement</p> <p>Telephone support provided by Willow is reassuring for teachers and continues the learning process in the area of bereavement</p> <p>Children able to deal with anger and manage their behaviour better</p> <p>Children are less confused and better able to deal with their school work</p>
Garwood	<p>Children, many of whom can barely move, able to participate in events</p> <p>Children experience sensations, for example colour, wind, music and comedy with the children responding to the play-worker, or children making movement and expressions that is rare to see in daily life as they experienced different sensations</p>



Valley Park TOC-H: Dance class at the Peppermint Centre

Every Child Matters Objectives And How They Have Been Met

In the main report an analysis is presented where children and parents have ranked projects based on criteria that have been developed from the Every Child Matters objectives. (see page 19) The programme as a whole is shown to have covered all the objectives with some projects demonstrating more obvious impact in different areas. Many projects achieved all the objectives in the eyes of some of the children.

Analysis with service providers, based on the ECM objectives, revealed where projects could strengthen their impact. This analysis has been used by the Children's Fund to inform its commissioning strategy.

Being Healthy

Projects meeting this goal have been those working with children with disability aimed at addressing the mental and physical wellbeing of the children. Many of the projects, however, have influenced 'how the children and their parents feel that they can cope on a day-to-day basis' and 'how happy and calm they feel'. This includes Willow, Place2be, projects addressing youth crime (including YISP, JYIP, CYPP and RUOK) and projects that work with children in disadvantaged areas, such as the Community Bus, Together in Waddon and the TOC H, Valley Park.

Physical health is not directly dealt with by projects that are not looking directly at issues of physical disability, but children have talked about the exercise that they get and the good food they are given in projects such as JYIP, TOC H and Together in Waddon.

Projects such as CYPP and Beat the Street were highlighted by children as making them aware of sexual health issues where relevant. These projects along with YISP, TOC H, Together in Waddon and RUOK also address issues around avoiding drugs and knowing what they do to you.

Staying Safe

The projects specifically funded under youth crime are: YISP, JYIP and RUOK. Many of the projects, however, are seen more broadly as addressing safety at home and outside as part of a broader preventative strategy. Children, parents and broader stakeholders such as the police and the Youth Offending Team, identified projects such as CYPP, The Community Bus, Together in Waddon, Beat the Street and TOC H as being key to making girls and boys and their families feel safe. These projects were also recognised by children as helping them 'not to get into so much trouble', 'not to bully other children so much' and to feel as if they are 'not bullied so much'.

Enjoying and Achieving

A broad range of projects were identified by children as helping them to work better at school. Projects such as YISP, JYIP, CYPP, TOC H and Reaching Out were also identified as getting children to attend school. These projects alongside others such as the Community Bus were also seen by children as helping them to enjoy school and learning.

Making a Positive Contribution

All of the projects evaluated against the outcome of increased confidence of children were scored highly by children. This is a very strong area for the Croydon Children's Fund. In addition to this some of the projects were identified as giving parents much more confidence to deal with their children, such as Parentline Plus, Integrated Therapy, the ADHD Development Worker, Beat the Street, Together in Waddon and the PATCH parenting course. Children also identified projects, such as Valley Park, Together in Waddon, CYPP, Beat the Street, YISP and Reaching Out as helping them to make their own decisions.

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Children identified projects as both helping them to feel like they are living in a better home and community and feeling like they are more likely to carry on in education or go into employment in the future. These projects include: RUOK, Together in Waddon, TOC H, Reaching Out, Beat the Street and CYPP. Parents also added that their work with the ADHD Development Worker had helped children to think about the future in a more positive way and had helped in terms of achieving a better standard of living/ family income. The latter is also the area of work where Mencap gives strength to the programme in terms of ensuring that families with children with disability get the benefits that they are entitled to.



Croydon Community Bus

Key		Key	
YISP	Youth Inclusion Support Panel, YOT	TW	Together in Waddon
JYIP	Junior Youth Inclusion Project	VP	Valley Park TOC H – Peppermint Centre
CYPP	Croydon Young People's Project	CB	Community Bus
RUOK	RUOK, Victim Support	BtSt	Beat the Street
R	Reaching Out, Croydon Council (Ed)	ADHD	ADHD Development Worker
PLP	Parentline Plus	IT	Integrated Therapy
PATCH	Croydon People's Housing - parenting course		

Note: at the time of this part of the evaluation it was not possible to carry out this exercise with the children and parents from Willow, Place2be, Mencap and the Garwood foundation. In addition the information at that stage was from parents for the ADHD Development Worker and Parentline Plus.

Note: Croydon Xpress is not explicitly listed under the objectives on page 19 because it played a supporting role to several of the projects.

Every Child Matters Objectives - Children's Ideas of What Difference The Projects Make

Stay Safe

Feeling safe

At home	Outside
CYPP JYIP/YISP R, BtS VP TW RUOK	CYPP JYIP/ YISP TW VP CB RUOK Parents added ADHD PLP IT

Not being bullied
so much
YISP CYPP
TW VP CB
R RUOK

Be Healthy

Feeling happier/calmer
JYIP YISP
VP TW R
RUOK
ADHD IT

Feeling healthier
TW VP JYIP
CYPP YISP
R RUOK
ADHD

I'm not getting into so
much trouble
CB VP TW
YISP JYIP RUOK
ADHD
R PATCH

I'm not bullying
other kids so much
JYIP CYPP
CB TW VP RUOK
ADHD

Aware of sexual health
issues
BtSt CYPP
VP YISP
(asked 11-13yrs)

Achieve Economic Well-being

Enjoy & Achieve at school

Enjoy more	Attend more	Work better
R CB VP JYIP PATCH YISP RUOK PLP	JYIP YISP CYPP VP R PLP	YISP/ JYIP BtSt TW PATCH VP IT

Living in a better home/
community
TW VP BtSt
YISP RUOK CYPP ADHD

Avoiding drugs / knowing
what they do to you
BtSt CYPP TW
RUOK VP YISP
(asked 11-13 yrs)

More likely to carry on
in education/ go into
employment
VP R RUOK
BtSt CYPP TW ADHD

Make a positive contribution

Making my own
decisions
TW VP CYPP
BtSt YISP R PLP

Feeling more
confident
JYIP TW VP
BtSt CYPP YISP
RUOK R PATCH PLP IT
ADHD

Lessons Learned And Different Themes

Analysis on different themes was carried out by the evaluators and project workers (below). Reports are available on each theme which give examples of 'star projects', tips for project workers and managers, and key messages to service providers and funders. In this way lessons learned from the projects can be shared more broadly.

The following is a summary table for the different themes:

THEME	KEY LESSON	* PROJECTS
YOUTH CRIME	Take a risk approach and address the root causes of crime in a preventative strategy e.g. Services that are fun and free for children and their families and addressing ADHD	YISP, JYIP, CYPP, RUOK Community Bus Together In Waddon TOC H ADHD Development Worker Willow
PARTICIPATION	Avoid tokenism and involve and inform children and young people throughout the project process, from planning to evaluation and feedback	JYIP, Croydon Xpress, Beat The Street, CYPP, TOC H, Community Bus
WORKING IN AND WITH SCHOOLS	There needs to be coordination and collaboration between agencies working with and in schools and from the schools themselves – the support of the Head teacher is critical to success	Place2be, Reaching Out, Willow, JYIP, Together In Waddon, YISP, CYPP
WORKING WITH BME CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	All services need to be assessed for accessibility and relevance to BME groups, and whether modifications are needed.	Beat The Street, JYIP, Reaching Out, TOC H, Willow
WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY	Value the child. See the child first, not the disability. Don't stereotype and make judgements.	Garwood, Mencap, Integrated Therapy, ADHD Development Worker, Willow
PARENTING	Value and respect what parents have to say, and build their confidence	Integrated Therapy, CYPP, YISP, JYIP, PATCH Project, Parentline, Croydon Xpress

(See themed reports on each of these issues available from the Croydon Children's Fund)

Who And Where Are The Children And Their Families

The type of contact that projects have with children can be categorised into two groups. Firstly, there are those projects that have on-going regular contact with a well-defined group of children. Details of the numbers and profile of children are presented in the following section. Secondly, there are those projects that run one-off events for children. Details of numbers and profiles of children for this type of contact is presented for each project in the main report.

Regular On-Going Work With Children

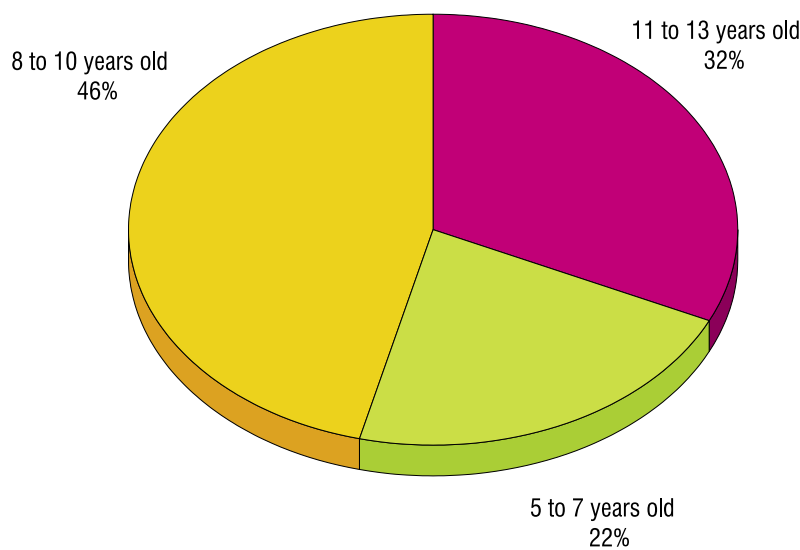
The projects that had on-going regular contact with children during 2006-2007 were as follows:

Willow – children's bereavement service	Croydon Mencap
Croydon Young People's Project – Mentoring Project- CYPP	Youth Inclusion Support Panels (YISP)
The Place2Be In Croydon	TOC H – Valley Park
Reaching Out	Together in Waddon
The Garwood Foundation	Integrated Therapy
ADHD Development Worker	Croydon Community Bus
Junior Youth Inclusion Project (JYIP)	Croydon Xpress
PATCH, CPHA	

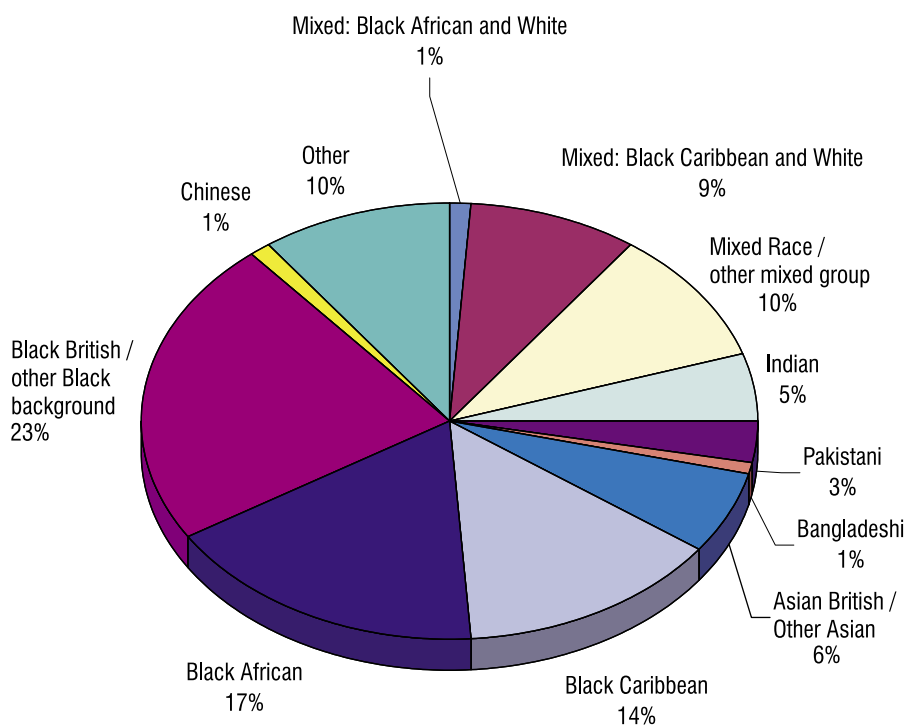
The type of on-going contact that these projects had is expanded on in the main report where details are given for each project.

During the financial year 2006-2007 the projects worked with a total of 1,303 children aged between 5 and 13 years old. 64% of children were boys and 36% were girls.

The proportion of children in each age group is shown in the graph below:



54% of children were ‘White’ – White British (51%) White Irish (1%) and White other (2%). 46% of children came from Black, Minority and Ethnic communities and the graph below shows the proportion from each group.



Regular On-Going Work with Parents

Several projects have regular contact with parents. These are: Willow, CPHA, Place2Be, ADHD Development Worker, Together in Waddon, Croydon Xpress and Reaching Out. Details of this contact are presented in the main report. During the year 2006-2007 these projects worked with a total of 248 parents of which 82% were female, and 18% male.

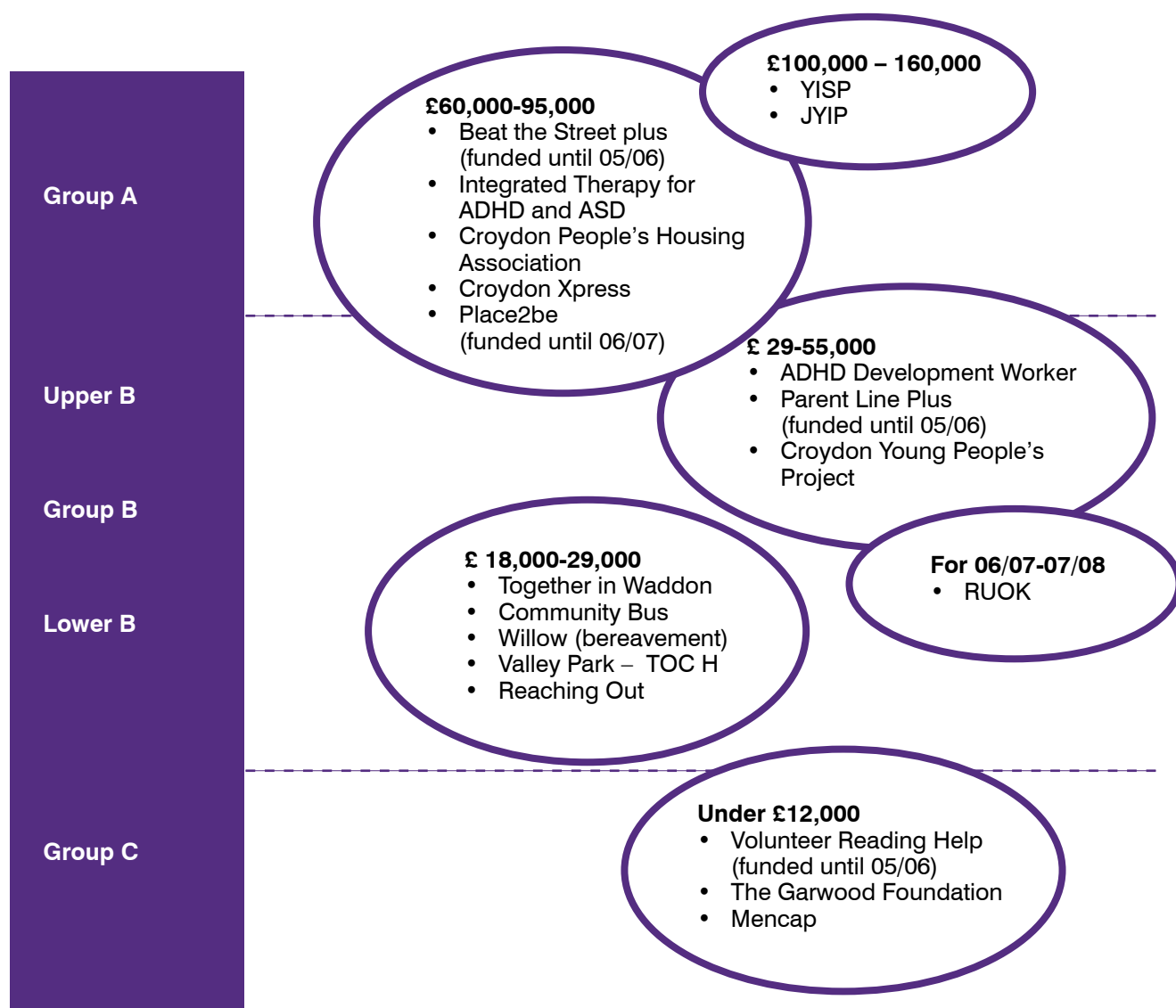


ADHD Development Worker: Outing

The Projects In The Croydon Children's Fund

The projects have been grouped into funding brackets from A-C. The figure below shows the bracket that each project falls into.

Projects Funding Breakdown (Annual funding)



Note: Figures are based on 06/07 figures except for RUOK that received a one off payment of £10,000 in 04/05 and now lies within the Upper B for 06/07-07/08. Also Beat the Street, Parentline Plus and Volunteer Reading Help where 04/05 levels have been used to place them in the correct group order.

Projects/Services Funded By The Children's Fund – Summary Profiles

THEME	PROJECTS	
	STATUTORY	VOLUNTARY
YOUTH CRIME	Youth Inclusion Support Panel, Youth Offending Team (YOT) (Upper A)	Junior Youth Inclusion Project, Croydon Youth Development Trust (Upper A) Croydon Young People's Project, SOVA (Upper B) RUOK, Victim Support (Upper B)
OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/ PLAY/ PREVENTATIVE WORK		Valley Park TOC H – Peppermint Centre (Upper B) Together in Waddon (Lower B) Community Bus (Lower B)
WITH BME CHILDREN		Beat the Street, Croydon Youth Development Trust (Group A)
PARTICIPATION		Croydon Xpress, Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) (Group A)
IN SCHOOL	Reaching Out, Borough of Croydon (Education) (Lower B)	Place2be (Group A) Voluntary Reading Help (Group C)
WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	Integrated Therapy, Primary Care Trust (PCT) (Group A) ADHD Development Worker, Borough of Croydon (Ed Phyc) (Upper B) Willow –bereavement, Primary Care Trust (PCT) (Lower B)	Garwood Foundation, Rutherford School (Group C) Croydon Mencap, (Benefits programme) (Group C)
PARENTING		Parentline Plus (Upper B) PATCH at Croydon People's Housing Association (Group A)

Notes:

- Many of the projects/services cross over these themes, but this gives some indication of their primary functions
- All of the projects/services above were funded from the beginning of the Croydon Children's Fund in 2003/04 until 2007/08 unless otherwise indicated below
- Beat the Street, Parentline Plus and Voluntary Reading Help were funded from 2003/04 until 05/06
- Place2be was funded from 2003/04 until 06/07
- RUOK received a one off payment in 2004/05 of £10,000 and is a funding level of Upper B (£35,000) for 2006/07 and 2007/08

Project/service profiles are included in the full report for all of the projects/services funded by the Croydon Children's Fund. Each has a short description on the main aims and activities, key successes and annual statistics for 2006/2007. Information on each project/service is also available in the Full Evaluation Report (2006) carried out for the first three years of funding.

Recommendations For Future Funding

The following are strengths in terms of coverage by the Croydon Children's Fund Programme as compared to the issues that have been prioritised by children and their families in the needs assessment carried out by Development Focus Trust:

- Fun activities, trips and outings
- Children's self-confidence and decision-making
- Bullying issues – both working with those that are bullied and those children that bully other children
- Mental health issues
- Bereavement
- Working with children with disabilities
- Working with some children at high risk of 'getting into trouble' with often very difficult home situations and this can include:
 - Work with parents
 - Feeling safe, both outside and at home/ Violence at home
 - Drugs and substance misuse (for parents and awareness amongst older children)
 - Sexual Health
 - Boys and girls managing their anger
 - Children as carers

These strengths need to be built upon and consideration given to funding the continuation of projects previously funded by the Croydon Children's Fund.

There is generally good coverage by the Croydon Children's Fund in meeting the ECM objectives and in meeting the expressed needs of children. The needs assessment and evaluation/review processes were carried out by the local evaluators, Development Focus Trust, in order to ensure that the Croydon Children's Fund Programme could evolve to address issues as they arise. The evaluators have continually highlighted areas of need identified by children and parents and The Board have acted on these suggestions, whilst also considering the changing local context in Croydon. This practice of continued local evaluation championed by the Croydon Children's Fund should be continued by mainstream services and funding programmes.

During the 2004/05 – 2005/06 full programme evaluation, the following issues were highlighted by children and identified by the evaluators as needing further work. However, many of the projects have taken these on board and are now covering them:

- Living conditions and improving community
- Literacy and numeracy in schools
- More physical exercise in fun activities and more outings outside school

- Physical health, for example, in healthy eating and healthy lifestyles
 - More work to inform parents of what projects are doing with kids
 - Work with parents around issues of health, achieving economic well-being and community safety.
- The findings of the evaluation would indicate that it is easier to engage with parents when projects are working with their children, rather than targeting parents separately

Project by project recommendations to commissioners and funding bodies are given below.

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families made a recent announcement about the extension of the Children's Fund for the next 3 years. Although the money is not ring-fenced and will be going to the Local Authority as part of a broader grant, it shows that the work of the Children's Fund is recognized as central to meeting the Every Child Matters Objectives (See Appendix 1).

As money for the continuation of the Children's Fund is not ring-fenced, it will be particularly important to ensure that funding goes to the age range 5-13 years, that preventative work including play is funded and that there is an identifiable funding stream that is specifically to support the continuation of good projects, especially those in the voluntary sector. Statutory sector projects should look to mainstream funding with evidence of successful piloting, for example following the Primary Care Trust picking up the continued funding for Willow.

There should also be continued evaluation and identification of needs and gaps so that new areas of work are strategically put out to tender to voluntary and statutory sector organisations so that new projects and ideas continue to refresh the preventative work in Croydon.

In the light of the evidence of success of the Croydon Children's Fund, it is expected that those commissioning preventative services in Croydon will use the details in this report to inform further funding. Projects/services that have worked over the past four years to build trust and working relationships with children, their families and key stakeholders and service providers in some of the most deprived communities in Croydon should be considered for continued funding.

Project-By-Project Recommendations To Commissioning Bodies/ Funders

The following table summarises the key recommendations for the projects that have been funded by the Croydon Children's Fund:

Projects, roughly in order of annual funding	Comment on future funding	Continued Development (0 - ★★★★★)	Outcomes (0 - ★★★★★)
Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) YOT	Needs to be picked up by mainstream funding considering development and outcomes (already mainstreamed for 14+ years)	★★★★	★★★★
Junior Youth Inclusion Project (JYIP) Croydon Youth Development Trust	Needs sustained funding stream to voluntary sector for preventative work	★★★★	★★★★
Beat the Street Plus (Funded until 05/06) Croydon Youth Development Trust	Need to replicate project but for after school clubs, not in school lesson time. Need sustained funding for voluntary sector to work with BME children out of school.	★★★ for 03/04-05/06	★★★
Integrated Therapy for ADHD and ASD Primary Care Trust (PCT)	Should be picked up by mainstream funding for its development work in this area, especially considering the capacity issues in getting the trained staff for integrated therapy	★★★★	★★★★
PATCH Project Croydon People's Housing Association. (CPHA)	The course piloted had positive outcomes. Any further funding should be for delivery of courses that are demanded by other services or tendered for. The core funding for the PATCH project should discontinue.	★	★★★ (for pilot course carried out in 04/05-05/06)
Croydon Xpress Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA)	Service is integrated into CVA's Involvement Unit which will support Xpress to deliver. Could tender for work and will need to secure core funding for voluntary sector (eg. DfES)	★★★	★★★
Place2be In Croydon (funded until end 06/07)	Well-piloted model by voluntary sector that now needs services to be paid for by mainstream (from schools, social services, CAMHS)	★★★	★★★★
ADHD Development Worker London Borough Croydon	Should be picked up by mainstream funding for its work in education, child and adolescent mental health and more general health and school related positive outcomes	★★★★	★★★★

Parentline Plus (Funded until 05/06)	Organisation should be recognised for further funding despite difficulties in overcoming barriers in target areas in the initial stages of the CF funding	★★★★ for 03/04-05/06	★
Croydon Young People's Project SOVA	Needs sustained funding stream to voluntary sector for preventative work	★★★★	★★★★
Valley Park, TOC H Peppermint Centre	Needs sustained funding stream to voluntary sector for preventative work. Need to build capacity in monitoring	★★★★	★★★★
Together in Waddon	Needs sustained funding stream to voluntary sector for preventative work Need to build capacity in monitoring	★★★★	★★★★
Croydon Community Bus	Needs sustained funding stream to voluntary sector for preventative work	★★★★	★★★★
Willow (Bereavement project) (PCT)	Picked up by mainstream funding by the PCT due to its development and impact	★★★★	★★★★
Reaching Out London Borough of Croydon Education	Needs sustained funding, but as service that can be mainstreamed to more than 1 school	★★★★	★★★
The Garwood Foundation Rutherford School	Suitable for sustained funding for unique project working with children with extreme disability	★★★★	★★★
Volunteer Reading Help (Funded until 05/06)	Organisation fills important part of Children's Fund remit, although pilot in target areas was not successful on this occasion	★	★★
Mencap – (Benefits programme)	Should be a service which is funded by the mainstream, although whilst it is not it needs to have sustained funding to the voluntary sector	★★★★	★★★★
RUOK (funded in 04/05 and at higher level in 06/07 and 07/08) Victim Support	Needs sustained funding stream to voluntary sector for preventative work	★★★★	★★★★

Appendix 1

Every Child Matters: A Straightforward But Ambitious Mission 18 July 2007

The new Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls today set out a straightforward yet ambitious mission to drive up school standards and improve the lives of every child in the country. He announced a total of £456 million for projects to support the wellbeing of children and families across the country, and a focus on play which enables children to have healthy, safe and happy childhood.

Addressing an NCB-sponsored conference of experts in children's services, he said:

- Our aspirations are straightforward and ambitious. Every child deserves to be safe and loved and have a healthy and happy childhood, free from harm. And every child should have the chance to make the most of their talents and fulfil their potential.
- To do this, we must provide excellent universal services for all children and their families; be able to identify potential problems early, before things go wrong; and when children are at risk, do something quickly to help children and their families get back on track.
- Some commentators claim there has never been a worse time to be a child in this country. I reject this view. Of course we face real challenges, but this pessimism fails to recognise the new opportunities children have today, and it undermines the dedication of parents and the immense passion and commitment of many in schools and children's services to give children the best possible chance in life.
- Supporting children, young people and families in the community is integral to helping all children, promoting excellence and closing the achievement gap in schools."
- Ed Balls said however that key challenges remained in tackling the attainment gap, particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds; joining up services for children, particularly mental health services; and intervening early and decisively with children at risk of truanting, poor behaviour before it escalates into offending behaviour.

To this end he announced:

- £396 million investment to continue the Children's Fund over the next three years, supporting projects that specialise in early intervention and prevention, and are having a notable impact on school attendance. They are improving the skills and emotional wellbeing of parents to help them better support their children, and improving relationships between families and professionals;
- £60 million over the next three years to support schools in working with mental health practitioners to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, and have mental health experts working in schools to identify problems and provide children and young people with support - some 10% of children are diagnosed with a mental health problem;
- a 'Staying Safe' consultation to support parents in striking the right balance between protecting their children and allowing them to learn and explore safely, without being wrapped up in cottonwool; as well as extending anti-bullying policies to children's homes, extended school services, and youth groups;
- taking on dual responsibility for play with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to develop fun, safe, and effective children's play - the central part of any happy childhood and essential to learning and development;
- announcing the key focus of the nationwide consultation to develop a new Children's Plan to examine:
 - **prevention** - how universal and targeted services can work together better to head off problems before they start;
 - **personalisation** - how services can tailor their support so that all children can reach their potential;
 - **positive childhood** - the role of parents and various services can provide a happy, healthy and safe childhood for all;
 - **families** - to consider the role families play in each phase, and how we can support them.

Just last week Ed Balls set out plans to further drive up school standards for children, including £265 million to fund an extended schools subsidy over the next three years to ensure that children from disadvantaged backgrounds can benefit from extra out-of-hours tuition and after-school clubs in sport, music and drama.

Editor's Notes

This press notice relates to 'England'?1. A copy of Ed Balls' speech is posted on the DCSF website at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches>

1. Starting this month, Mr Balls and his Ministerial team will lead a nationwide consultation with education and children's services experts, as well as children and families themselves to bring together all aspects of policy affecting children and young people into a new Children's Plan. Three working groups will look at education and other services for children and young people - one for 0-7 year olds, one for 8-13 year olds and another for 14-19 year olds.
2. The working groups will be chaired by members of the National Council for Excellence in Education to ensure a fully joined up approach: Jackie Fisher, Principal of Newcastle College; leading London headteacher Sir Alan Steer; and Jo Davidson, Director of Children's Services in Gloucester. The consultation will report in October.
3. The Children's Fund funds additional preventative services for children aged 5-13, often delivered through the voluntary and community sector. The Children's Fund was a time-limited programme originally due to end in March 2008. Funding in 2007-08 is £132m nationally. Funding was initially ring-fenced and distributed through local Children's Fund partnerships, but has been moving towards funding being distributed to local authorities. Today's announcement means that funding will now continue at £132m in each of the three years from 2008 to 2011. The money will be distributed through local authorities and pooled with other funding to form a new area-based grant. The Government is encouraging local authorities and their partners to maintain a strong engagement of the voluntary and community sector in using these funds.
4. 10% of children are estimated to have a mental health problem. Early problem behaviours are closely related to academic underachievement, and an increased likelihood of school exclusion, offending, anti-social behaviour, marital breakdown, drug abuse, alcoholism and mental illness in adulthood. Voluntary and community sector organisations have developed models of targeted support in schools for pupils with social and emotional health problems. New funding of £9.6m in 2008-09, £19.5m in 2009-10, and £30m in 2010-11 will enable more schools and local authorities to introduce effective early intervention services in and close to schools, which will supplement and complement existing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

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Press Notice 2007/0134**

Acknowledgements:

This document was written by Vicky Johnson with Robert Nurick, the local evaluators for the Croydon Children's Fund. We would like to thank all the children and young people, parents, project workers and service providers who have worked with us over the last 5 years. Thanks also to Christine Cleveland, the Manager of the Croydon Children's Fund for her continued support for independent evaluation. Thank you to the pupils, staff and head teachers of Kingsley, Fairchildes and Archbishop Lanfranc Schools for their participation in the needs assessment. Information in this report was based on information from the full evaluation of the Croydon Children's Fund, available from Croydon Voluntary Action, and ongoing monitoring and workshops run with the following organisations:

ADHD Development Worker
 Croydon Young People's Project
 Croydon Community Bus
 PATCH Project At Croydon People's Housing Association
 Croydon Xpress
 The Garwood Foundation
 Integrated Therapy Project
 Junior Youth Inclusion Project
 Mencap
 TOC H, Valley Park
 Place2be
 Reaching Out
 RUOK At Victim Support
 Together In Waddon
 Willow
 Youth Inclusion Support Panel
 In Addition, Information Was Included From:
 Beat The Street
 Parentline Plus
 Voluntary Reading Help

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children's fund

What is the Children's Fund?

The Croydon Children's Fund programme was introduced in 2003. The fund was primarily set up to develop services for children at risk of social exclusion in all local areas, aiming to provide better increased co-ordinated preventive services. Funding is targeted at children and young people aged 5-13 years old and also their families.

The fund is part of the Government's strategy to tackle disadvantage and inequality arising from child poverty and social exclusion, through addressing national priorities including improving school attendance and attainment, improving health (including mental health) and reducing crime and anti social behaviour.

A key element of the programme is that services are locally determined according to local need and planned in consultation with children and families from the outset. In Croydon a comprehensive mapping and consultation exercise was undertaken to find out the views of children, young people and their families and this was used in the development of the initial three-year strategy for the Croydon Children's Fund.

This report was commissioned by the Croydon Children's Fund,
and written by Vicky Johnson with Robert Nurick from Development Focus Trust