

Children's Centres - London Borough of Brent

Aims

Children's Centres provide multi-agency services that are flexible and meet the needs of young children and their families. The core offer includes integrated early learning, care, family support, health and outreach services to children and families not attending the Centre and access to training and employment advice.

In common with other local areas, Brent has embarked on a successful programme of developing Children's Centres. The aim of the project was to profile neighbourhoods so as to identify those areas that would benefit most from the establishment of a Children's Centre, whilst achieving a balance between areas.



Map showing some of the locations analysed including detail of other local services such as schools and GPs, as well as the target population.

What we did

In partnership with the Council and other agencies in Brent, we linked together information on children and geo-referenced data from a range of sources. We then profiled neighbourhoods within a short walking distance of potential locations on a range of different socio-economic criteria. This information was fed back to Children's Services in easy to understand forms, such as the table below, and repeated for different age ranges and locations.

Location	number of children aged 1-5	% receiving council tax benefit	% single adult household	% council tax band A-C	% at addresses known to child social services	% at addresses with recent youth offender	% at addresses with teenage mother	% social housing	% on housing waiting list
1	223	23.8	12.6	4.9	2.7	0	0	0.4	20.2
2	210	28.1	17.1	26.2	1.0	0.5	1.4	19.5	19.5
3	264	32.2	21.2	45.1	5.7	0.4	0.4	8.7	26.1
4	128	35.9	19.5	43	1.6	1.6	0.8	7	18.0
5	190	43.2	24.2	29.5	4.2	1.6	1.1	41.1	23.7
All Brent	16,845	36.8	20.5	36.6	4.4	0.5	1.1	24.3	24.3

An example of a table showing key characteristics of local populations around candidate locations analysed as part of the investigation into possible sites for Children's Centres

Outputs

We provided a large range of quantified information and maps that were used for this exercise and for the wider task of developing a Brent Children's Strategy. The investment in the data base that underpinned this analysis has been put to subsequent use in several different children's initiatives in the borough including the Early Years Strategy and a health equity audit and needs assessment of Brent Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Tailoring services to local needs