

Strategy and has directly influenced the contents of the statutory Children and Young People's Plan.

An extensive programme of rebuilding of all the Youth Centres is nearing completion. The last venture, the Phoenix Centre, is a multi-agency site on which a Leisure Centre, Library, Community Centre and Youth Centre are all co-located. This project has just been recognised nationally by the Local Government Chronicle and won the Sustainability and Regeneration Award and the Community Youth Initiative Award for 2006. Plans are currently being drawn up to transform another site into a Citizenship Centre in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police and the Fire Service and other agencies. She has also laid the groundwork for the development of an adventure education site.

The targeted aspects of the service that Jane has developed are a particular strength. They are numerous and meet a tremendously wide range of identified need. Jane's work in integrating young Travellers into the Service has been particularly successful as has been her commitment to outreach work and her inclusion in the Service of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Her work on social inclusion merited particular praise during the Ofsted inspection and was highlighted in an earlier thematic Ofsted report on support for 14-19 year olds which showcased the Building Bridges 14-16 curriculum project.

Under Jane's leadership the Play Service also flourished in Sutton producing one of the first Play Strategies nationally and was invited to be a guest speaker at the recent Children Now National Conference to share that expertise. The Service was the first in the London area to reach the highest level 3 quality charter mark 'Quality in Play' and be recognised by London Play.

Increasingly Jane has played a corporate role at both strategic and operational level. In addition to the Youth Strategy and Play Strategy Jane played a key role in compiling the statutory Children and Young People's Plan. Jane led a multi-agency group which was responsible for pulling together the response in the Plan to the ECM outcome of Making a Positive Contribution and drawing up the accompanying operational annual Action plan which demonstrated how the Strategy was going to be delivered and at what cost. She recently led on production of the successful APA assessment for this outcome.

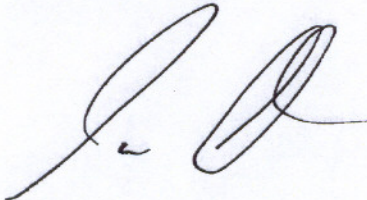
Much of the success of Jane's work is as a result of her commitment to working in Partnership. For example she has worked closely and collaboratively with the local Connexions Board to such an extent that she was able to lead the local Connexions Service on an interim basis whilst the organisation recruited a new manager. Her valued work with the Voluntary and Community Sector ought also to be highlighted. She has made a decided contribution to supporting this sector in enabling it to grow

its own capacity. In practical terms Jane is a core member of the Safer Sutton Partnership, the Children and Young People's Inclusion Support Panel, The Children and Young People's Partnership, the local Connexions Management Committee and the Pupil Referral Unit Management Committee and the Youth Offending Team Management Group. She is the natural point of reference for a whole range of parties when a young person's perspective is sought.

Jane has also had an impact regionally in that for example she is the founder and Chair of the London South Association of Principal Youth and Community Officers group, and is the co-ordinator and contract manager for the Positive Activities for Young People Programme in the South London region.

In summary Jane Hurst has transformed the services for which she has been responsible in Sutton. She has been the prime advocate for Young People and is the first to promote the Student Voice. She has a deep-seated conviction of the worth of children and young people and has dedicated her career to improving the quality of their life experience with a particular emphasis on ensuring that those at the greatest disadvantage are provided with the best life chances. Jane's experience and expertise is invaluable to any organisation that has the ECM outcomes at its heart. Her breadth of experience is rare, her creativity is outstanding and her belief in young people is unassailable. Jane would bring a rich dimension to any integrated Children's Services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Birnbaum', written in a cursive style.

Ian Birnbaum
Strategic Director