



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

THE ISSUES:

- Too many expensive out of area placements for children with special needs, coupled with very inadequate overall funding for these services.
- Poor mental health services for young people, with long waiting times for assessment and lack of help for these young people who may be in crisis.
- Inadequate overall funding for our schools.
- Too many agency/temporary/interim staff in the Department which has led to a lack of Leadership, direction and control of finances.

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PROPOSALS:

- Build our own Special needs provision within the Borough.
- Training to support permanent staff with the aim of cutting the need for temporary staff.
- Provide more day & residential places in the Borough for children on the autistic spectrum
- Share education support services with other Local Authorities.
- To consider setting up a Children's Services council owned company to deliver some of these services to enable them to be sold to other local authorities and Academies as well as to our local schools.
- Work with Public Health to provide training for staff in primary and secondary schools on how to identify and support young people who are struggling with issues.
- Work with all schools and academies to find economies of scale.

BENEFITS:

- To cut the reliance on expensive external placements.
- To reduce the dependence on temporary staff, thereby providing leadership and continuity in provision of services
- To keep greater control of the spiralling costs of these services
- To provide a future revenue stream for the Council