



Ormiston
children · young people · families

Our vision
is that of a society
where every child and
young person feels
valued, safe, and free
from prejudice,
isolation and stigma

Our mission
is to reach those
children and young
people most
disadvantaged by their
life experiences and
circumstances

Both the Mission and Vision Statements have been revised as a result of an organisational consultation with employees and volunteers in preparation for the new *Ormiston 2010 Three Year Strategic Plan*



Our mission
is achieved
through direct
service provision
and by raising
awareness of related
issues through
research, publications,
conferences and events

This year has demanded energy and commitment in keeping Ormiston's profile high, as the new statutory Children's Services structures, across every county and unitary authority where we work, have been implemented. We have ensured that we have pursued those opportunities most closely aligned to Ormiston's Mission – and which we believe will bring positive outcomes for children and families.

We have taken a lead role in furthering the designation of Children's Centres in Colchester and Ipswich and developments for other centres are well underway in Peterborough, Essex and Fenland. Children's Centres will provide integrated services to children and families and offer Ormiston the opportunity to build local partnerships to deliver high quality services in the heart of communities, which we already know well.

Overall, we are pleased to be able to report a pattern of sustained growth, despite the challenges of changes to many of our funding streams. This year has seen the launch of two major, new initiatives. The first is the Ormiston Emotional Wellbeing Programme providing early intervention support to children and young people aged 5 to 16 years, whose emotional wellbeing or mental health is at risk. The second has been the setting up of a national training and consultancy service to promote good practice through the dissemination of our learning and experience in working with Travelling communities. This is a completely new venture for the organisation and is among the first of its kind in the country. Funding for the fifth year of operations within the Eastern Region Families Partnership has also enabled the development of more new services for children and families of offenders.

We have published our new three year organisational Strategic Plan, creating clear direction for an organisation which is strong and robust and able to reach those children and young people most in need.

This year, in response to the needs of those children and young people who are most often overlooked:

- ✔ We delivered the first year's activities of our region-wide Emotional Wellbeing Programme, providing early intervention support to young people aged 5 to 16 years, whose emotional wellbeing or mental health is at risk. A variety of one-to-one and group services were provided in Bedford, Great Yarmouth, Ipswich, Newmarket and to Travelling communities in Cambridgeshire.
- ✔ We secured new funding to develop a new outreach support service for children and young people affected by imprisonment in Bedfordshire. This will complement work already established in the counties of Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. We are also developing new family support provision at three more of the region's prisons – HMP Blundeston, HMP Hollesley Bay and HMP Warren Hill.
- ✔ We secured funding to deliver activities for young Gypsies and Travellers aged 5 – 13 years old from across Norfolk. The aim is to encourage participation of this much marginalised group and support their access into wider community services.
- ✔ We expanded our work with young carers in Fenland, with eight groups now meeting across the area. A new dimension to this work has been the addition of extra funding enabling us to support young carers, within families affected by drug or alcohol misuse.
- ✔ In both east and south Peterborough we have been developing extended schools provision, with delivery in a number of local primary schools already in operation.
- ✔ We published 'Visiting my Mum', a photo book to help prepare children for a prison visit, which complements an existing 'Visiting my Dad' book.

This year, in response to the needs of those families who, for whatever reason, feel least able to access mainstream services:

- ✔ In Ipswich, we were commissioned to deliver an infant mental health project to support parents with pre-term babies, babies with a disability or mothers vulnerable to postnatal depression. The emphasis was on encouraging parents to focus on getting to know their baby and be better able to respond to their needs.
- ✔ We were instrumental in the setting up of a new Sure Start Children's Centre, in the St Anne's area of Colchester. This is part of the provision within a brand new community centre, the Oak Tree Centre which was officially opened in early 2007 and will now provide a wide variety of resources and services for local families.
- ✔ We appointed a full time lead for our learning programme to co-ordinate both the production and delivery of parenting course material for families of offenders.



- ✔ This year we completed the purchase of Robert Milne House in Ipswich, which had been leased since the late 1980s. This secures it as a base for two of Ormiston's own services, our main management and administration team and a number of other local voluntary organisations. Negotiations are also well underway for the purchase of premises for our work in March, Cambridgeshire.
- ✔ We provided a wide range of parenting programmes across the region including the Positive Steps Parenting Programme and Webster Stratton. These remain an important tool in enabling parents to recognise and build on their existing skills. Improvement to parents' confidence and self knowledge brings a greater understanding of their children's social, physical, emotional and intellectual needs.
- ✔ We have seen an encouraging increase in the take-up of childcare places at The Tree House Neighbourhood Nursery in Ipswich meaning that local parents, especially those on low incomes, are able to pursue training opportunities or new employment.
- ✔ In south Peterborough we secured new three year funding for a city-wide project with teenage parents and their children. Working in partnership with health professionals we provide a mix of individual and group support.
- ✔ We established new groups to support newly arrived families in Fenland, responding to a need identified by local health professionals. Realising that language barriers were preventing families accessing the services they need, we have provided a combination of signposting support and facilitated short term courses.

This year, in seeking to inform the development of future services for children, young people and families:

- ✔ We launched a national training and consultancy service to disseminate our learning and experience in working with Travelling communities. The consultancy has already delivered a range of training to statutory services including the Fire Service, Police, Supporting People teams and social care providers. The year also culminated in a major national conference, 'Travelling towards Inclusion' which explored the issues and action needed to address the social exclusion of young Gypsy and Traveller children.
- ✔ We published a facilitators' pack to support the 'You and Your Child' training course for parents in prison, which is already accredited through the National Open College Network (NOCN). The programme also supported and contributed to the development of a unique T-learning project at HMP Littlehey, which enabled fathers in prison to participate in a parenting course transmitted by television.
- ✔ We worked with the former Dfes (Department for Education and Skills) and secured recognition of the needs of children and young people affected by imprisonment within national Surestart Children's Centre Good Practice Guidance (Dfes 2006).
- ✔ We were commended for our work with Travelling communities in Cambridgeshire, aimed at overcoming their barriers to employment, when it was recognised as a model of good practice by the Department for Communities and Local Government Gypsy and Traveller Task Group.
- ✔ We published research to highlight the importance and impact of support to children and young people who have a parent or someone close in prison. The report provides evidence that a combination of early intervention, interagency working and prison based family services can effectively support the wellbeing of these children and young people.

Time for Families: Positive outcomes for children and families of offenders using Ormiston services in prisons and the community by Gill Pugh
For more information on Ormiston's publications visit www.ormiston.org

Ormiston maintained the level of growth achieved in recent years with income increasing by 16% to reach in excess of £4.5m. This was matched by an increase in expenditure with £4.3m being spent to improve the lives of children and young people in the Eastern Region. Our largest source of income is from statutory and public grants which amounted to 57% of our annual income.

Our growth during the year was achieved by the continued expansion of work under the Eastern Region Families Partnership, the development of the new Emotional Wellbeing Programme and the establishment of the Ormiston Consultancy Service. Community based services remain the largest area of work, representing 55% of total income received. Although income in this area overall remained stable this disguises some significant changes across the many services, including growth of the Norfolk Travellers Initiative and Fenland Young Carers. However, a reduction in income has created some vulnerability and funding challenges within several of our other services.

We have continued to invest in a strong organisational infrastructure. This has included the implementation of a new organisation-wide database, enabling us to better measure the reach and impact of our services. The appointment of a Workforce Development Manager has been essential in ensuring that we are able to meet new government requirements covering employees working with children and young people and to ensure our employees and volunteers continue to be skilled to a high standard.

We have implemented a Quality Assurance system (PQASSO), which complements and strengthens our organisational review and planning processes and a more comprehensive volunteer policy, allowing us to recruit new experience and skills from the communities where we work. In our commitment to take vigorous action on equality and diversity issues we are implementing a new Equality and Diversity Policy, through a training programme for all employees, Trustees and volunteers.

The main focus of the coming year will be the launch and implementation of our new Ormiston 2010 three year Strategic Plan. This will be led by Trustees and involve employees and volunteers at all levels.

To further our mission to reach those children and young people most disadvantaged by their life experiences or circumstances we will:

Deliver high quality support and services which enable children and young people to achieve positive outcomes in their lives

We will achieve this by

- locating our services where there is clear unmet need
- addressing specific need through our regional and national programmes of work: Community, Emotional Wellbeing, Children of Offenders and Travellers
- achieving those outcomes identified by children, young people and families themselves

Engage with and reflect the diversity of communities in which we work

We will achieve this by

- developing partnerships into new communities
- extending our understanding of the communities where we already work
- ensuring that our services are accessible to all who might benefit from them

Influence legislation, policies and practice which will create positive long term change for children and young people

We will achieve this by

- enabling children's voices to be heard through participation and research
- championing the best interests of the child
- being at the forefront of developments within the Children and Young People's sector

Reach those most at risk of marginalisation

We will achieve this by

- identifying gaps in provision and extending delivery to address that unmet need
- securing new work and building partnerships which further our mission and values
- disseminating learning and good practice

Inspire and encourage excellence in all that we do

We will achieve this by

- placing the needs of children and young people at the centre of all our work
- supporting an organisational culture where our values underpin all that we do
- reaching the highest possible standards in the development of our workforce, quality standards, evidence based delivery and outcomes for children and young people



Much of our work would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of our volunteers and supporters who hold a variety of roles within the organisation, and we extend our sincere thanks to them all. We would like also like to thank Ormiston's Ambassadors, county fundraising teams and the many individuals, funding bodies and community groups who have supported our work this year.

These include the following major contributors:

Action for Prisoners Families
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The Blunt Trust
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Tex Plastic Products Ltd
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Emma Hardy for taking cover
photograph for this annual review
and everyone who very generously
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one of our many fundraising events
throughout the year.

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