

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND CUSTOMER SERVICES**

**On-Street Car Sales**

The Public Protection Service (PPS) has seen a significant increase in complaints about cars being advertised for sale at the roadside. Car traders are thought to be selling cars in this manner, using spots on busy roads to park vehicles and advertise them. This causes problems for local residents, has the potential to distract passing drivers and encourages other car sellers to put their cars for sale at the same location, so escalating the problem.

In addition to residents being upset by this practice, the PPS is concerned that traders selling cars in this manner are likely to be bypassing consumer rights, as buyers rarely have the seller's full details the sellers don't declare themselves to be a trader. Enforcement against the sellers is not always straightforward, but the PPS has announced that it intends to step up action against on-street car sales in areas where disruption is being caused to residents.

The Executive Member would be happy to hear from Councillors whose constituents are experiencing problems with on-street car sales in their locality, and will pass this information on to the PPS.

**OFSTED Inspection**

During the first week of February 2010, the Neighbourhoods and Learning service were inspected by Ofsted. The service received an overall grade 2 (Good), with grade 1 (Outstanding) areas of:

- How well citizens and learners achieve and enjoy their learning
- How well citizens and learners attain their learning goals
- How well citizens and learners make a positive contribution to the community
- How well partnerships with schools, employers, community groups and others lead to benefits for citizens and learners
- How effectively leaders and managers raise expectations and promote ambition throughout the organisation
- How effectively the service actively promotes equality and diversity, tackles discrimination and narrows the achievement gap

The Ofsted inspectors recognised, and strongly praised, the commitment and passion of all staff throughout the service for the innovative work that they do. Equally importantly, they have recognised the difference the work makes to citizens of the borough in terms of employment, health and wellbeing, narrowing the achievement gap and shaping their own neighbourhoods. The full inspection report can be found on the [Ofsted website](#).

**In Your Own Words Event**

For the past six months, the Neighbourhoods and Learning service has worked in partnership with the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) on a project funded through 'Learning Revolution' Transformation Fund monies. The project has been developed jointly through five area based third sector, voluntary and community organisations including Age Concern, Circle of Friends, Healthy Living, Nightsafe and Youth Action. An event was held on Monday 29th March for these groups to come together to showcase a DVD that they have developed about their organisations and the work that they do called 'In Our own Words'. Feedback from both the project and event have been highly successful, demonstrating how partnership working enables the

sharing of best practice and equips individuals with the ability to learn new skills and knowledge - in this case around multi media and digital technologies. Part of the legacy of the funding is to raise awareness to other groups that they are able to utilise equipment from the project (including mac books and HD cameras) by hiring them free of charge from the CVS.