

Report to:	Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Date:	28 November 2006
Title of report:	Quarter Two (Q2) monitoring report against the 2006/07 Council Plan.
By:	Director of Policy and Communications
Purpose of report:	To provide an update on performance against the Council Plan for the 2nd quarter of 2006/07

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1. note the selection of early successes and achievements made by the Children's Services Department; and**
- 2. consider the performance measures currently scored red and amber (appendix 1) and any action being taken to address them**

1. Financial implications

1.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

2. Early successes and achievements during quarter two

2.1 The following early successes and achievements have been noted during quarter two:

- Of the 155 pupils permanently excluded or transferring school, 48 (31%) pupils transferred school through managed moves in the academic year 2005/06 (against a target of 25%).
- The number of operational Children's Centres has been increased from six at the start of the year to ten. All of these have received designation status from Ofsted.
- Since April 2006, we have provided 342 (55% of the target for the year) additional childcare places for children aged 0 - 14 years (16 for children with special educational needs). The majority of the increase from April has been in full care day places (generally nurseries and playgroups for children under 5). Access to nursery provision for ages 3 and 4 is a prerequisite to improving take up and ultimately attainment at foundation stage. The main factor behind the success increase is the opening of four Children's Centres in the county since 2006.

3. Performance against Key Service Targets

3.1 Appendix 1 provides a summary of performance measures that will not achieve their target (scored red) and those about which there is doubt (scored amber).

3.2 Three performance measures are scored A* as they have proposed amendments. The remainder of the amber performance measures are either an early alert of potential problems or were a request to Cabinet that it supports the actions already underway to bring the target back on track.

3.3 This is the first year of monitoring of the three year Local Area Agreement (LAA) performance measures. Any proposed amendments to the wording of performance measures or targets for 2007/08 and 2008/09 must be agreed by the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) through the refresh process. All LAA targets, therefore, must remain unchanged until after the refresh is confirmed in the New Year. Problematic LAA targets are presented either as amber or red (when failure is certain) with a suitable comment.

3.4 The committee may wish to highlight those performance results which are of particular concern and ensure monitoring of these are timetabled into the committee's forward programme.

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Local Member: All

Background Documents

None

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
1. Improve the health of children and young people (Be healthy)	1.1 Meet the national requirements for schools to be participating in the healthy schools programme and to be achieving healthy schools status	1.1a The percentage of schools to have achieved the new, more exacting, Healthy Schools status: 35% by 31 March 2007 (LAA 2.1.3)	<p>In East Sussex, 6% (11/196) schools have achieved the new Healthy School status to date. An additional 35% (70/196) schools already engaged with the programme are being supported to submit their evidence by March 07, but it now seems unlikely that all of these schools will achieve the new status by March, so it is unlikely that we will meet the target of 35%.</p> <p>Cluster group meetings for primary schools have taken place and will continue in Rye; Bexhill; Uckfield; Lewes and Crowborough. One-to-one support is also given to identified primaries; special schools and secondaries, with two cluster meetings for special schools also held in Q2. Accreditation processes are being scrutinised at national level and national directives will emerge in November 2006 with likely implementation during 2007. The changes are being made in response to national concerns about the challenging nature of the targets re new healthy schools status.</p> <p>Recommendation: LAA target, remedial action detailed above to be noted.</p>	A	
	2.1 Children & young people are provided with a safe environment and the incidence of child abuse and neglect is minimised	2.1a Increase the percentage of schools that have a designated child protection teacher trained within the last two years from 98% to 100%	<p>Current outturn is 97.4% (191 schools of a total of 196). On reflection, 100% is an unrealistic target as it is likely that there will always be a small number of schools which, at the time we are counting, do not have a designated teacher who has been trained within the past two years. This is almost entirely due to the natural turnover of staff. A replacement is usually designated quickly but then there might be a delay in getting them trained.</p> <p>Recommend target amendment to maintain a minimum standard of 98% by end of academic year 2006/07</p>	A*	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
2. Ensure that children and young people are safe (Stay safe)	2.4 Implement the Anti-Bullying Strategy thereby enhancing practice across settings	<p>Additional comments for 2.4a and 2.4b - The anti-bullying team are working with key partners to develop the Every Child Matters (ECM) kite mark for schools. Work will also include mentoring a range of schools over the coming months to strengthen existing anti-bullying strategies and assist schools to focus specifically on the Stay Safe and Positive Contribution aspects of the ECM agenda. Work will be undertaken with the pilots to work specifically on the reporting and recording of all bullying incidents and to capture young people's perceptions of bullying behaviour and how safe their schools really are. Work is well under way with schools to support schools during national anti-bullying week.</p>			
		<p>2.4a The number of schools completing incident reports: achieve 78 (out of 194 schools. 2005/06 baseline: 0) (LAA 1.2.1)</p>	<p>The LAA target of 78 (40% of all schools) is incorrect and should be for academic year 2006/07. Baseline data will be gathered from January 2006 to 2007. Alternatives are being considered to link with existing self evaluation processes. It is possible that bullying incident reporting will be added to the criteria for achieving the Health Schools silver award. If accepted it will be added to the criteria for the next academic year (2006/07)</p> <p>The Every Child Matters (ECM) pilot schools will be encouraged to provide data on the number of children and young people reporting incidents bullying behaviour, and explore ways to capture children and young people's perceptions of the risks and how safe schools are. Discussions are also underway with colleagues at Brighton and Hove to look at implementing the Safer Schools Survey as a means of capturing this data. Recommendation: LAA target, note the intention to use this year's data to set a baseline.</p>	A	
		<p>2.4b Decrease the number of requests during the year for school transfers citing bullying from 93 to 88 (LAA 1.2.1)</p>	<p>The outturn figure quoted for 2005/06 of 93 was actually an estimate. This year's Council Plan will report the confirmed baseline figure. Recommendation: LAA target, note the intention to use this year's data to set a baseline.</p>	A	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
3. Enhance the enjoyment and improve the achievement of children and young people (Enjoy and achieve)	3.4 Support schools in improving the quality of their leadership, management and governance	3.4a Increase the percentage of inspected schools that received a judgement of good or outstanding for 'leadership and management' from 66.5% to 72%	<p>A planned programme of training continues. Central governor training programme, providing 13 different courses across the county. Targeted programme for 28 governing bodies, which includes governing bodies causing concern, arranged so far. There are 27 student teachers in the new intake for the Graduate Teacher Programme. Trainees are due to complete their initial teacher training by July 2007, and be ready for employment as Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) from September 2007. Targeted programmes of support for all staff (teaching and support staff) continue apace, as per our CPD Strategy and CPD Pathway. Copies available if required.</p> <p>Between 1 September 2005 and 1 September 2006, 58% (28 out of 48) schools received a judgement of good or outstanding for leadership and management. For the Q2 period (NB: results from inspections carried out in September 06 are not yet available) 33% (2 out of 6) schools received a judgement of good or outstanding for leadership and management.</p> <p>Recommendation to note actions in place, challenging target and possible non-achievement at year end.</p>	A	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
<p>Additional comments for 3.5 - Ongoing training is being provided for nursery staff. Support is provided by the Early Years Teaching Support Service (EYTSS), Family Intensive Support Service (FISS), Speech and Language Therapy Services (SALT), and the Centre for British Teachers (CfBT) Education Trust. There is a bursary scheme aimed at supporting children entering nurseries/preschools in the 30% most deprived SOAs in England. Work is also done on transition to Nurseries. We will identify young parents and families in refuges through information sharing with partner agencies and following consolation with these parents provide a safe place in which they can access a variety of resources. Development and publication of self-evaluation framework continues. Launch and training planned for Autumn term 2 and Spring term 1.</p>					
<p>3. Enhance the enjoyment and improve the achievement of children and young people (Enjoy and achieve)</p>	<p>3.5 Improve access to and quality of foundation stage learning</p>	<p>3.5b Increase the percentage of children in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas scoring 6 points or above in communication, language and literacy in the Foundation Stage Profile from 61.4% to 63.0% (LAA 3.1.1ib)</p>	<p>This is a disappointing result with an outturn of 60.7% (605 out of 996). However, the pump priming bid and communication, language and literacy (CLLD) project that come into force from November should secure an improvement in communication skills. Analysis of CLLD nationally shows that it scores lowest of all the areas of foundation stage learning. Responsibility for management of the pump priming bid moves to Cubit once staffing has been appointed. (East Sussex is one of 32 authorities identified for the CLLD project having been identified as having the capacity to improve by DfES).</p>	<p>R</p>	
		<p>3.5c Increase the percentage of children in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas scoring 7 points or above in personal, social and emotional development in the Foundation Stage Profile from 67.3% to 68.7% (LAA 3.1.1iia)</p>	<p>Progress in this area of learning is slower than required with an outturn of 68.0% (677 out of 996) rather than 68.7%; direction of travel is positive. The impact of healthy lifestyle projects through changes in foundation stage curriculum provision will continue to raise this outturn.</p>	<p>R</p>	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
3. Enhance the enjoyment and improve the achievement of children and young people (Enjoy and achieve)	3.5 Improve access to and quality of foundation stage learning	3.5d Increase the percentage of children in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas scoring 7 points or above in communication, language and literacy in the Foundation Stage Profile from 45.3% to 47.2% (LAA 3.1.1iib)	This is an ambitious target with attainment of pupils at 7 points. The outturn is 43.9% (437 out of 996). However, the pump priming bid and communication, language and literacy (CLLD) project that come into force from November should secure an improvement in communication skills. Analysis of CLLD nationally shows that it scores lowest of all the areas of foundation stage learning. Responsibility for management of the pump priming bid moves to CfBT once staffing has been appointed. (East Sussex is one of 32 authorities identified for the CLLD project having been identified as having the capacity to improve by DfES).	R	
		3.5e Increase the percentage of children in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas scoring 8 points or above in personal, social and emotional development in the Foundation Stage Profile from 51.8% to 53.1% (LAA 3.1.1iia)	This is an ambitious target with attainment of pupils at 8 points. Outturn is 47.2% (470 out of 996). However the impact of healthy lifestyle projects through changes in foundation stage curriculum provision will continue to raise this outturn. The red judgements in this monitoring form the baseline for the intervention projects listed in the previous foundation stage indicators.	R	
		3.5f Increase the percentage of children in the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas scoring 8 points or above in communication, language and literacy in the Foundation Stage Profile from 28.3% to 30.0% (LAA 3.1.1iib)	This is an ambitious target with attainment of pupils at 8 points. The outturn is 25.6% (255 out of 996), a red judgement as it is still below the bottom of the target shift. However, the pump priming bid and communication, language and literacy (CLLD) project that come into force from November should secure an improvement in communication skills. Analysis of CLLD nationally shows that it scores lowest of all the areas of foundation stage learning. Responsibility for management of the pump priming bid moves to CfBT once staffing has been appointed. (East Sussex is one of 32 authorities identified for the CLLD project having been identified as having the capacity to improve by DfES.)	R	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
<p>Additional comments for 3.6 - The attendance code of practice is being re-drafted. Following positive evaluation the primary attendance project is now being rolled out in seven further schools. All schools have received training and software to implement new national registration codes. The majority of schools have set targets and the remaining schools are currently being contacted. Awaiting information from DfES to confirm targeted schools. An increased number of schools are using the Attendance Panel approach (where the schools invite the parent / guardian to a panel meeting with the pupil and representatives from the school and Education Welfare Service. A formal warning is issued and reasons for poor attendance are discussed) and support is being provided to these schools. Following the meeting, if attendance does not improve, legal proceedings can begin. Evaluation of the impact of prosecutions is currently taking place and a good practice manual to support schools in improving attendance is being developed.</p>					
3. Enhance the enjoyment and improve the achievement of children and young people (Enjoy and achieve)	3.6 Reduce total absence (authorised and unauthorised) in schools	3.6a Maintain the percentage of half days missed due to total absence in primary schools at 5.0%	Provisional data now available showing primary total absence as 5.21%. There is evidence nationally that high levels of illness in the Spring terms led to increased absence across the country. Analysis of data shows that where schools have higher levels of absence than last year this has been caused by illness during those terms in the majority of schools. In primary schools, the Cool Cats attendance project, which aims to make attendance a whole school issue and reward good attendance in order to support primary children in maintaining good attendance, will be rolled-out to a further seven schools during 2006/7. See additional comment for further actions to improve.	R	
		3.6b Maintain the percentage of half days missed due to total absence in secondary schools at 7.3%	Provisional data shows secondary absence as 7.4%. There is evidence nationally that high levels of illness in the Spring terms led to increased absence across the country. Analysis of data shows that where schools have higher levels of absence than last year this has been caused by illness during those terms in the majority of schools. A new Key Stage 3 project is being developed which will be project based work for a week in a school raising the profile of attendance throughout the secondary school including through the curriculum with extra support for first day calling, immediate absence follow up, truancy sweep, late swoop etc. This will be launched during this academic year and will be called 'Get Smart'. See additional comment for further actions to improve.	R	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
4. Ensure that children and young people make a positive contribution to society (Make a positive contribution)	Additional comments for 4.1 - New funding from the Youth Justice Board has been allocated to a range of early intervention programmes and recruitment to new posts is on track. A joint strategy to reduce offending by looked after children has been launched and approved by the Corporate Parenting Panel and is now being implemented. Restorative justice training has been provided to foster carers and specialist fostering staff and is being used for the staff teams for the new residential units				
	4.1 Prevent offending by children and young people	4.1a Increase the percentage of young offenders in education, employment and training from 77% to 80%	<p>The current outturn is 71% (137 out of 193). The definition for this indicator changed for 2006/07 (after the target had been set) and young people in part-time provision can no longer be counted. Performance is still holding up well against the national figure (68.3% at Q1). The proposed amendment is 15% below the national target. The Youth Justice Board is consulting about whether the national target should be changed in light of the definition change and the fact that national outturn is currently way below target.</p> <p>Recommendation: Amend the target from 80% to 75% to reflect the definition change.</p>	A*	
	4.1 Prevent offending by children and young people	4.1b Increase the percentage of young people who have received a final warning and have an ASSET score (an assessment profile which can be used to predict the likelihood of a young offender re-offending) of 12 or above who have an intervention programme from 81% to 95%	<p>87.5%. Low numbers in cohort (7 out of 8) due to change in definition from 2005/06 causing greater statistical variance.</p> <p>Recommendation to note challenging target due to low cohort numbers and possible non-achievement at year end. No further action necessary.</p>	A	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
4. Ensure that children and young people make a positive contribution to society (Make a positive contribution)	4.1 Prevent offending by children and young people	4.1c Increase the percentage of young offenders with mental health needs who access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services promptly (within 15 working days of assessment) from 89% to 90%	66.7%. Low numbers in cohort (4 out of 6) distorting overall performance. Recommendation to note challenging target due to low cohort numbers and possible non-achievement at year end. No further action necessary.	A	
	4.2 Enhance family support and ensure effective transitions to Adult's services	4.2a Increase the number of children reached through the Children's Centre programme from 2805 to 8216	There are currently ten operational centres open and delivering services. All of these have received designation status from Ofsted. Phase 2 projects received Cabinet approval on 19th September 2006. The reach for Q1 & Q2 increased to 5111 (182%). The target of 8216 (293%) was set before the catchment areas for Phase 2 had been defined. Phase 2 has now received Cabinet approval (18th Sept) so the catchment areas are now defined and we now know the number of children associated with each project. Recommendation: amend the original reach target of 8216 (293%) to 7778 (277%) as a result of the Phase 2 plans being agreed.	A*	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
5.Improve the economic wellbeing of children and young people (Economic wellbeing)	5.1 Improve the quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of childcare	5.1b Increase the stock of childcare places for children aged 0 - 5 in disadvantaged areas as defined by Local Partnerships for Children (LPC) by 30% from 2219 to 2514 (LAA 3.1.3)	<p>This performance measure was inappropriately expressed. Although we are unable to amend it this year it is useful to note that a more appropriate measure for this year would read:</p> <p>Increase the stock of childcare places for children aged 0 - 5 in the Local Partnerships for Children (LPCs) that include the 30% (nationally) most deprived super output areas (SOAs) from 3619 in 2005/06 to 3800 in 2006/07 (an increase of 5%).</p> <p>Against this more appropriate measure, we have achieved a net increase of 405 places which takes us from the baseline of 3,619 to a cumulative total of 4,024. The recent opening of three Children's Centres is a major factor behind the unusually large increase this quarter. There is a changing emphasis in childcare legislation from increasing childcare provision to meeting local need and, therefore, constant increases are no longer appropriate.</p> <p>Recommendation: LAA target, note amendment proposal to GOSE.</p>	R	

Key objective	Key Service Target	Performance measure	Q2 Commentary	Q2 RAG	
Children's Services					
5. Improve the economic wellbeing of children and young people (Economic wellbeing)	5.2 Reduce numbers of 16+ not in education, employment or training (NEET)	5.2a Decrease the (adjusted) percentage of 16-18 yr olds who are not in education, employment or training from 8.1% to 6.4% (report figures for county, borough and district) (LAA 5.1.1)	<p>The Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) reduction strategy has been produced and will be presented to all Local Area Partnership Boards. All secondary schools and colleges have signed the Connexions Partnership Agreement for the coming year which sets out how they will work together to deliver an integrated service to students. Local Area Partnership Boards have committed to address the NEET issue and the activity will be co-ordinated by the Connexions team and 14-19 Development Managers to ensure consistency of approach and development across the county. Data is being provided for those groups highlighting not only the numbers of NEET but the characteristics of young people who are NEET in the local area. Activity will focus upon specific groups eg mothers, carers. Provisional outturn for August is 8.19%. Sub-area outturns (not yet approved by DfES) are:</p> <p>Eastbourne Downs = 9.23% Hastings = 12.37% Lewes = 6.38% Rother = 7.12% Wealden = 3.83%</p> <p>Recommendation to note challenging target and possible non-achievement at year end. No further action necessary.</p>	A	

