

Report to:	Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services
Date:	28 November 2007
Title of report:	Quarter Two (Q2) monitoring report against the 2007/08 Council Plan
By:	Director of Policy & Communication
Purpose of report:	To provide an update on performance against the Council Plan for the second quarter of 2007/08

RECOMMENDATION

The scrutiny committee is recommended to:

- 1. note the achievements made by the Children's Services Department; and**
 - 2. 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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1. Financial implications

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

2. Notable achievements for this quarter for Children's Services:

- In the last school year (2006/07), the number of days lost through fixed term exclusion from secondary schools in the Excellence Cluster (Hastings and St Leonards) was reduced by 25.9% compared to the previous school year. This equates to a 35% reduction since 2004, far in excess of the target of a 10% reduction. The number of fixed term exclusions was reduced by 15% during the same period and the average length of each exclusion was reduced by 13% from 3.5 days to 3 days per exclusion. This represents a 20% reduction from 2004 against a target of 10%.
- The following bulleted summary on standards is based on information available as at October 2007. It is important to appreciate that data is incomplete and unvalidated at this point in time for Key Stage 3 and 4. Further reports will be produced during Term 2 as additional data becomes available.
 - there have been improvements in East Sussex at all key stages;
 - children in East Sussex made good progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS);
 - at Key Stage 1 this year, there were significant improvements at Level 2+ and level 3 across all indicators;
 - at Key Stage 2, results in East Sussex continued to improve across all three subject areas and faster than the national rate of improvement;
 - at Key Stage 3, East Sussex is closing the gap between the National level 5+ performance in English, following a 2% rise in 2007, mathematics continued to perform above the national average and science level 5+ matched the national figure; and
 - at Key Stage 4, there was significant improvement for both the percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics and 5+ A*-C grades. East Sussex rate of improvement at 5+ A*-C are faster than our statistical neighbours.

3. Performance against Key Service Targets in Adult Social Care

3.1 The Children's Services Department has 54 performance measures that it is monitoring from the 2007/08 Council Plan. In quarter two 38 of these were green, 9 were amber, 2 were amber star (an indication that a request for an amendment to this indicator has been made to Cabinet) and 5 were red.

3.2 Appendix 1 provides a summary of performance measures that have been scored amber or amber star in the second quarter.

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

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COUNCIL PLAN QUARTER 2 MONITORING: EXCEPTION REPORT - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Policy Steer	Performance Measure	Target 2007/08	6 months RAG	Commentary	
4.3 Further develop family support services and continue to improve prevention and early intervention in order to maximise life chances of children and young people	c) Number of family outreach services operating from Children's centres.	10	A*	A review of service provision has been undertaken and a countywide Family Outreach service delivered under the same service specification will be in place cross-county in October 2007. Therefore, the number of services will be able to be reported in Q3. Recommendation: Amend the target from 10 family outreach services operating from Children's Centres to one coordinated team of family outreach services that operate from 10 Children's Centres.	
	d) The number of parents/carers and child interaction groups. (2006/07 outturn = 60)	70	A*	19 parent/carers and child interaction groups took place in the first quarter and 13 in the second quarter. The development of specialist groups means more specialist provision is now available and, as there is alternative provision being made, we no longer need to establish all 70 interaction groups in order to ensure that the overall intention of the target is met. Eastbourne is now particularly well-served with alternative provision and 50 groups will meet the needs of the rest of the County. Recommendation: Amend the target from 70 to 50.	
	f) Increase the number of young carers identified and provided with appropriate support. (LAA 10.2.2)	Baseline of 156 +3%	A	Q2 outturn - 150. There is a drop in numbers due to staff vacancies in Young Carers Service and revised eligibility criteria - service now focuses on those with highest level of need. Number likely to increase as more young carers identified & supported through work with schools.	
4.8 Establish effective integrated services for children under five and their families	bi) Increase breastfeeding at i) initiation in Sure Start and Children's Centre areas. (LAA 2.1.1)	81.1%	A	Reporting for Quarter 1 i) initiation 77%	We are currently negotiating with GO-SE to explain why it is particularly difficult and resource intensive to collect data only for SureStart areas, now that we have extended into Children's Centre areas. Data relating to quarter 2 can be reported in the next quarter.
	bii) Increase breastfeeding at 6 weeks in Sure Start and Children's Centre areas. (LAA 2.1.1)	29.4%	A	Reporting for Quarter 1 ii) 6 weeks 17.9%	
	c) Number of babies visited in first two months in Sure Start and Children's Centre areas. (LAA 2.1.2)	99%	A	With the recent changes in the Health Visiting service countywide and its provision of the Child Health Promotion Programme as part of the Children's Centre core offer, this information in the future will be provided by Children's Health Services. It will be available for Q3.	
	e) Take-up of Nursery Education places by 3 yr olds in Super Output Areas SOAs in East Sussex that fall within the 30% most deprived nationally. (LAA 3.1.3b)	86.5%	A	The data from the Autumn 2007 headcount will be available for analysis to inform Q3 monitoring. Work to identify clusters of where children live who are not taking up Early Years Education Entitlement should begin shortly, taking advantage of the Children's Index reporting tool.	

Policy Steer	Performance Measure	Target 2007/08	6 months RAG	Commentary	
4.8 Establish effective integrated services for children under five and their families	f.i.i) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 6 points or above in PSE (LAA 3.1.1)	(Academic Year 2006/07) 84.6%	G	Outturn - 84.9% Incorrect academic year target published, correct target is 84.3%	East Sussex has performed better than the national average in all areas of level 6+ learning (children who work securely in an area of learning achieve a score of 6 or more in all scales within that area of learning). In terms of personal, social and emotional development (PSED), Knowledge and understanding of the world, Physical development and Creative development, the county performs better than all of our ten statistical neighbours. In the remaining two areas of learning – communication, language and literacy (CLL) and Mathematical development, the county ranked third.
	f.i.ii) Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 6 points or above in CLL (LAA reward target 3.1.1)	(Academic Year 2006/07) 60.7%	R	Outturn - 61.4% (a rise from the previous year of 0.7%). Incorrect academic year target published, correct target is 66.3%	
	f.ii.i) Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 7 points or above in PSE (LAA reward target 3.1.1)	(Academic Year 2006/07) 68.0%	R	Outturn - 67.8% Incorrect academic year target published, correct target is 71.4%	We are still awaiting national comparator data for the percentages of children scoring 7 points or above and 8 points or above in both PSE and CLL. We are therefore unclear whether our results are indicative of a national downturn. However, it is important to note that the targets for this year are interim targets only and not necessarily an indicator of progress with the targeted cohort which will be assessed in 2008. Significant additional resources are in place to target those who are to be assessed in 2008, though the final outturn is dependent on a significant number of settings across the county making appropriate and effective interventions.
	f.ii.ii) Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 7 points or above in CLL (LAA reward target 3.1.1)	(Academic Year 2006/07) 43.9%	R	Outturn - 43.8% Incorrect academic year target published, correct target is 50.9%	
	f.iii.i) Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 8 points or above in PSE (LAA reward target 3.1.1)	(Academic Year 2006/07) 47.2%	R	Outturn - 42% Incorrect academic year target published, correct target is 55.4%	
	f.iii.ii) Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 8 points or above in CLL (LAA reward target 3.1.1)	(Academic Year 2006/07) 25.6%	R	Outturn - 24.4% Incorrect academic year target published, correct target is 33.2%	

Policy Steer	Performance Measure	Target 2007/08	6 months RAG	Commentary
4.13 Develop and maintain an effective strategy to support vulnerable teenagers	b) Percentage of 16-18 year olds that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), by County, Borough and District. (LAA reward target 5.1.1)	5.5%	A	<p>It is anticipated that there will be an improvement on the previous year but it is unlikely that this very challenging target will be met. The monthly return for August is 8.41%.</p> <p>Key actions taken in Q2: In April, 84 Y11 students at risk of not making a successful transition into EET were identified across most secondary schools & are being given additional support by Intensive Personal Advisors until December. A small project group has been set up to establish sustainable systems & processes in schools & colleges to prevent disengagement & support transition. A mapping exercise carried out in secondary schools to identify students who become NEET identified useful criteria. Plans are at an advanced stage to develop three kinds of parenting courses that will provide education opportunity to 40 young parents currently on NEET register. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have recently provided additional resources to support young parents – planning has begun to target these resources where it will have the greatest impact on EET. Job seeker coordinator appointed for Eastbourne area to support young people into employment opportunities. Plans in place to deliver the Guarantee this Sep by which all Y11 students that left school in June will have an offer of education or training by Sep.</p>
	d.i) The under 18 conception rate by area: East Sussex: (LAA 2.2.1)	33	A	Data for the calendar year 2006 is available in February and will be reported at Quarter 4. County-wide Teenage Partnership Board is providing strategic direction. Reports have now been delivered to COMT, Cabinet, Children's Trust Executive Group and Secondary Education strategic management board outlining the key issues, challenges and progress for teenage pregnancy within East Sussex. Following the reports, Chief Officers and members have agreed to ensure that reducing teenage pregnancy remains a priority within the LA. The strategic management board agreed to continue to make information to support young people in accessing sexual health services available and to circulate posters and media campaigns. Work is also underway to implement the Next Steps guidance for supporting teenage parents. Also developing a new marketing strategy ensuring a consistent approach across all agencies e.g. schools, children's centres and GP surgeries.
	d.ii) The under 18 conception rate by area: Hastings: (LAA 2.2.1)	38	A	Hot spots wards and schools have been identified and intensive prevention programmes are now in place in schools. Action plans are being developed with targeted schools
	d.iii) The under 18 conception rate by area: Eastbourne: (LAA 2.2.1)	35	A	A sexual health co-ordinator is now in post. A Teenage Pregnancy Action group has been set up, and local action plans being developed.