

Report to: Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services
Date: 14 March 2008
Title of report: Quarter Three (Q3) monitoring report against the 2007/08 Council Plan
By: Director of Policy & Communications
Purpose of report: To provide an update on performance against the Council Plan for quarter three 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 work 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:

- Big Vote 07, the ballot to select the 12 young people who will take up the elected seats on the County's Youth Cabinet, achieved another record turn-out with 16,698 votes cast from an electorate of 33,618 (50%). This is the third highest turn-out in the country, based on 2006 figures.
- Over 12,000 young people also took part in a consultation as part of the Big Vote, identifying the key issues concerning them as 'Places to go and things to do', 'Stop Smoking' and 'Drugs'.
- 72% of schools have now achieved national Healthy Schools Status against a target of 55%. To qualify, a school must collect and present evidence under all four of the programme's themes and also demonstrate how they involved the whole school community in the initiative. Seven schools in the county have now also achieved the higher standard Gold status.
- 59 Families with children identified with complex social, emotional behavioural difficulties are receiving intensive specialist support against a target of 40.

3. Performance against Key Service Targets in Children's Services

3.1 The Children's Services Department has 64 performance measures that it is monitoring from the 2007/08 Council Plan. In quarter 3, 49 (76.6%) of these are scored green, 8 (12.5%) are scored amber and 2 (3.1%) are scored red. A further 5 (7.8%) were scored red from quarter 2.

3.2 Appendix 1 provides a summary of performance measures that have been scored amber or red in quarter 3.

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 work programme.

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Local member: All

Background Documents: none

COUNCIL PLAN QUARTER 3 MONITORING: EXCEPTION REPORT

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Policy Steer	Performance Measure	Target 2007/08	9 months RAG	Commentary
4.8 Establish effective integrated services for children under five and their families	bi) Increase breastfeeding at initiation in Sure Start and Children's Centre areas. (LAA 2.1.1)	81.1%	A	Outturns are Q1 = 77.9%; Q2 = 76.1% ;Q3 = 76.4% The following actions are in place to try and improve outcomes in this area: Community Midwives and Health Visitors continue to actively promote breastfeeding to mothers individually and within antenatal classes. Breastfeeding awareness training is being rolled out to all Children's Centres staff which is enabling them to promote breastfeeding and signpost mothers to appropriate support. A Breastfeeding Peer Supporters Programme, which trains mothers to support others to breastfeed, is being rolled out across the County. A range of Baby Cafes (breastfeeding support groups) function across the area to offer mother to mother support in breastfeeding.
	bii) Increase breastfeeding at 6 weeks in Sure Start and Children's Centre areas. (LAA 2.1.1)	29.4%	A	ii) Q3 outturn at six weeks is 23.08% See the actions in place under 4.8bi)
	c) Number of babies visited in first two months in Sure Start and Children's Centre areas. (LAA 2.1.2)	99.0%	R	This target now sits with the Health Visiting service and all of the teams working with our Sure Start Children's Centre areas. This hasn't been reported on in 2007/08 because the service has been working across East Sussex (and across both PCTs to standardise the Health Visiting Service). This was completed in October 2007 having had to wait for the restructure in the PCTs. It was hoped that this service would be up and running by December 2007 but will not now commence until 1st February 2008.
	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	Data from the Autumn 07 headcount reveals a take-up of 84% in deprived areas; an increase on the Summer 07 headcount (78%). However, children become eligible for Early Years Education Entitlement (EYEE) funded places in the August following their third birthday. It could therefore be seen as inevitable that the Autumn headcount will show a higher level of take-up than the Summer headcount. During the Summer headcount period there will be 3 year olds within the deprived areas that are due to become eligible in the August after the headcount. Data from the final headcount will be available in April.

COUNCIL PLAN QUARTER 3 MONITORING: EXCEPTION REPORT

Policy Steer	Performance Measure	Target 2007/08	9 months RAG	Commentary
4.8 Establish effective integrated services for children under five and their families	f.i.ii) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 6 points or above in CLL (LAA 3.1.1)	Exams 2007 66.3%	R(Q2)	As reported at Q2: 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.ii.i) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 7 points or above in PSE (LAA 3.1.1)	Exams 2007 71.4%	R(Q2)	As reported at Q2: 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 Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 7 points or above in CLL (LAA 3.1.1)	Exams 2007 50.9%	R(Q2)	
	f.iii.i) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 8 points or above in PSE (LAA 3.1.1)	Exams 2007 50.9%	R(Q2)	
	f.iii.ii) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex: % of children scoring 8 points or above in CLL (LAA 3.1.1)	Exams 2007 33.2%	R(Q2)	

COUNCIL PLAN QUARTER 3 MONITORING: EXCEPTION REPORT

Policy Steer	Performance Measure	Target 2007/08	9 months RAG	Commentary
4.11 Increase participation in a wider range of learning activities through partnerships with and between schools, employers, colleges and other agencies	b) The percentage of 17 year olds participating in education and training.	79.5%	A	<p>Current outturn: 76.94%, this is an increase from the 2006/07 outturn of 70%. The September Guarantee (for 16 year olds) as of Oct 2007: 85% in learning; 1.89% offer accepted (yet to start); 6.35% offer refused; 6.6% no offer made. The September Guarantee will be extended to 17 year olds in 2008. Work is underway regionally and locally to plan and implement this development. January start courses are now on offer at all Further Education (FE) colleges. The offer is considerably wider than in 07. Awaiting data on uptake of courses in January.</p> <p>Early leaver data from 2006/07 has been analysed and work is underway on data from this year to date. An audit has shown that all post-16 institutions carry out exit interviews and Personal Advisors (PAs) are involved in the process, but there are differences in practice and effectiveness across institutions. Q4 action will include standardising of procedures and improving practice. Work to reduce number of unknowns is ongoing. Priority has been given to increasing Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) applications and improving take-up. This will continue in Q4. Current figures show a three year trend of improved take-up, which indicators show is likely to continue in 07-08 (take-up to Nov 2007=4556 (93% of total take-up for 2006/07. WBL (Work-based learning) & Education to Employment (E2E) take-up tends to occur later in the year).</p>
4.12 Maintain a Children's Services capital strategy, ensuring alignment with priorities	a) Number of feasibility studies on a range of primary and secondary schools to determine priority investment needs in advance of eligibility for Building Schools for the Future funding and Primary Capital Programme.	Agree roll out of the studies	R	Work on Thomas Peacocke Community College feasibility has not proceeded as quickly as hoped while the relationship with Hastings College of Art and Technology's 16/19 plans are negotiated. The target is unlikely to be met by 31/3/08, as the feasibility is only just about to be commissioned - but will hopefully be met by summer 2008.
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 5.1.1)	5.5%	A	<p>End of Nov 07 adjusted NEET figure was 7.88%: Eastbourne 7.6%, Hastings 12.3%, Lewes 7%, Rother 8.4%, Wealden 3.5%</p> <p>Key actions taken in Q3: - Part time Job Seeker Coordinator recruited to support vulnerable young people into work in Eastbourne area. Part time post will be recruited for Hastings/Rother area in Feb. - Collecting & disseminating vacancy information to young people who are NEET has resulted in over 20 moving into employment. - Tracking early leavers to provide support as soon as they drop out & re-engage if possible. - The implementation of September Guarantee resulted in 85% going into learning. The process has identified need for better processes in schools & better links between schools & colleges. - 90 year 11 students identified last Jan as at risk of dropping out were supported into Education, Employment and Training in Sept. - Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Local Intervention and Development funded provision targeting young mothers, young people with Learning difficulties and Disabilities, early leavers will commence Jan. - Pre Education to Employment (E2E) engagement programme will commence in Jan providing up to 10 separate 2 week long courses of activities targeting 100 young people who are NEET. - Activities will be coordinated & evaluated by a NEET Reduction Group comprised of managers from Childrens Services Authority (CSA) & LSC. The Group will provide a strategic steer & report to the 14-19 Partnership.</p>

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4.13 Develop and maintain an effective strategy to support vulnerable teenagers	d.i) The under 18 conception rate by area: East Sussex: (LAA 2.2.1)	33	A	The final 2005 data, which replaces the provisional statistics released in February 2007, includes rebased conception rates using revised ONS population estimates. For East Sussex, our 2005 rate is now 37.3 (per 1000) with an overall 6.4% change in rate between 1998 and 2005. Data for the first two quarters of 2006 have now been released and suggest an improvement although the third and fourth quarters tend to see an increase due to seasonal variations in conception rates. The release of Qtr 1 and 2 data had been delayed this year due to ONS problems in processing online birth registration data. Data for the third and fourth quarters of 2006 will be released in February 2008, along with provisional annual data for the year 2006.
	d.ii) The under 18 conception rate by area: Hastings: (LAA 2.2.1)	38	A	Action plans now in place. Two schools - one in Bexhill and one in Rother will be offering onsite sexual health services in schools. Data available in February 2008.
	d.iii) The under 18 conception rate by area: Eastbourne: (LAA 2.2.1)	35	A	Teenage Pregnancy Sexual Health group have now met and an action plan has been agreed. Data available in February 2008.