

Report to:	Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services
Date:	21 November 2008
Title of report:	Quarter Two (Q2) monitoring report against the 2008/09 Council Plan
By:	Director of Policy & Communications
Purpose of report:	To provide an update on performance against the Council Plan for Quarter Two of 2008/09

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

- 2.1** The following achievements have been noted during this quarter:

- The percentage of 17 year olds participating in education and training rose 2.1% from last year to 79.65% (exceeding the target).
- So far this year, 225 of parent/carer child interaction groups have been held (far exceeding the target of 80). The great success in this area is due to a decision to move the management of parent/carer child interaction groups directly to Children's Centres giving more parents and carers contact with the service. Parent/carer child interaction groups offer parents ideas and activities to use in helping their children learn and grow.

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

- 3.1** Of the 64 indicators due to be achieved this year:

- 52 (81%) indicator targets were scored green;
- 6 (11%) indicator targets scored amber; and
- 5 (8%) indicator targets were scored red.

- 3.2** The exception report at Appendix 1 contains detailed commentary relating the indicator targets that are scored red and amber.

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

CP ref	Policy Steer	Performance Indicator	Target 2008/09	Q1 RAG	Q2 RAG	Q2 Commentary
Children's Services						
5.05a	5.5 Reduce teenage conception rates across the County.	a) Under 18 conception rate The change in the rate of under-18 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 years resident in the area for the current calendar year, as compared with the 1998 baseline rate, shown as a percentage of the 1998 rate. (NI 112) (LAA2)	2007: 35 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 years (change in rate from 1998 baseline - 12%)	A	A	Outturn not available until Q4. Training co-ordinator has now been appointed to start in November 08. Community Sexual Health nurses in post working with our most vulnerable children, including our looked after children and care leavers, providing information advice and support on sex and relationships.
5.06b	5.6 Protect children and young people from harm.	b) Percentage of schools that have a designated Child Protection teacher trained within the last two years.	>97%	G	A	There are six schools with no trained designated teacher (3 new heads this term and 3 with out-of-date training) - of those six, four have now booked on training. There are however over 50 schools whose training will be out of date next quarter - 4 training courses are being run this term but it is possible that there will be an increase in the untrained next quarter.
5.09b	5.9 Develop integrated services for children under 5 and their families through a network of children's centres and increase take up and quality of early years education.	b) Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth. (NI 53) (LAA2)	Prevalence 49.1% Coverage 85.1%	G	A	East Sussex Downs & Weald (coverage: 73.6%) / (prevalence 41.7%) Hastings & Rother: (coverage: 71.9%) / (prevalence 32.3%) County ave. (coverage: 72.8%) / (prevalence 37.0%) It is expected that the Q2 provisional figures will rise - as the Q1 figures did - when the final data is available at Q3. This is due to a backlog of forms and is particularly evident in the Hastings & Rother figures.

CP ref	Policy Steer	Performance Indicator	Target 2008/09	Q1 RAG	Q2 RAG	Q2 Commentary
5.10a	5.10 Continue to raise educational achievement and aspirations at all key stages for children of all abilities, and reduce the attainment gap for children and young people from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds.	a) Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest. (NI 92 – mandatory LAA2 indicator)	Academic year 2008/09 27.75%	G	A	In accordance with the national LAA guidance, the target relates to exams to be taken in the 08/09 academic year (ie July 2009). Final outturns will, therefore, not be available until Q2 next year. The results for July 08 (i.e. academic year 2007/08) indicate a gap of 31.6%, an improvement of 0.6% over the previous year. However, to achieve the target, the July 09 result will need to narrow the gap by a further 3.85%, hence the amber rating.
5.10bi	5.10 Continue to raise educational achievement and aspirations at all key stages for children of all abilities, and reduce the attainment gap for children and young people from	bi) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex (LAA REWARD) (i) % of children scoring 6 points or above, PSE and CLL	85.3% 67.9%	G	R	Targets were not achieved for the July 2008 cohort although there have been some marked improvements against the 2004/05 baseline. ESCC carried out some ground breaking and innovative analysis of the 2007 results. CLL was clearly identified as the area children find most demanding. CLL was identified as the key to unlocking better overall performance for all children. Training through 2007/08 was given to further improve children's development in the assessment scale "linking sounds and letters" (a component of CLL).
5.10bii		bii) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex (LAA REWARD) (ii) % of children scoring 7 points or above, PSE and CLL	72.8% 52.8%	G	R	For the 2008 cohort, the Communicating Matters project worked with 72 reception class children in deprived areas who were deemed to have impoverished language and significant progress was made, particularly with children starting from the lowest point.

CP ref	Policy Steer	Performance Indicator	Target 2008/09	Q1 RAG	Q2 RAG	Q2 Commentary
5.10biii	and young people from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds.	<p>biii) Foundation Stage Profile Attainment by children in the 30% most deprived SOAs in East Sussex (LAA REWARD)</p> <p>(iii) % of children scoring 8 points or above, PSE and CLL</p>	<p>56.6%</p> <p>34.8%</p>	G	R	<p>LAA (2008/11) includes NI 72 (achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least six in each of the scales in PSE and CLL) and NI 92 (narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Foundation Stage Profile and the rest).</p> <p>Both indicators show a positive trend, NI 72 improved from 48.4% in 2006 to 55.6% in 2008 and NI92 from 33.7% in 2006 to 31.8% in 2008. Results for both are better than the national average and compare very favourably against statistical and geographical neighbours.</p> <p>Baseline data, targets and results are included in Appendix 1.</p>
5.10g	5.10 Continue to raise educational achievement and aspirations at all key stages for children of all abilities, and reduce the attainment gap for children and young people from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds.	g) Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and maths at Key Stage 2. (NI 73 – mandatory LAA2 indicator)	<p>Academic year 2008/09</p> <p>78%</p>	G	A	<p>In accordance with national LAA guidance, the target relates to exams to be taken in the 08/09 academic year (ie July 2009). Final outturns will, therefore, not be available until Q2 next year.</p> <p>The combined 2008 result for L4+ in English and Mathematics nationally is 72%. In East Sussex in 2008, 70.5% (71%) of children achieved at this level, which represents a 3% improvement over 2 years. However, this is still some way below the 2008/09 target.</p>
5.10n	and young people from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds.	n) Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths. (NI 75 – mandatory LAA2 indicator)	<p>Academic year 2008/09</p> <p>52.2%</p>	G	A	<p>In accordance with national LAA guidance, the target relates to exams to be taken in the 08/09 academic year (ie July 2009). Final outturns will, therefore, not be available until Q2 next year.</p> <p>The combined 2008 result for L4+ in English and Mathematics nationally is 72%. In East Sussex in 2008, 70.5% (71%) of children achieved at this level, which represents a 3% improvement over 2 years. However, this is still some way below the 2008/09 target.</p>

CP ref	Policy Steer	Performance Indicator	Target 2008/09	Q1 RAG	Q2 RAG	Q2 Commentary
5.10ui	5.10 Continue to raise educational achievement and aspirations at all key stages for children of all abilities, and reduce the attainment gap for children and young people from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds.	ui) 5+ GCSEs at A-C including English and maths in i) Eastbourne	Academic year 2008/09 i) 46%	G	R	The results for Eastbourne were 45% 5 A*-C inc Eng & maths overall. Only ETC remains below the 30% floor target whilst significant improvements took place at Ratton +6%, Causeway +9% and Bishop Bell +3%.
5.10uii		uii) 5+ GCSEs at A-C including English and maths in ii) Hastings.	Academic year 2008/09 ii) 34%	G	R	Of the five secondary schools in Hastings, two schools significantly improved on this threshold indicator by the following figures: Filsham Valley - +9%, Helenswood +5%. William Parker, The Grove and Hillcrest all experienced significant declines of 9%, 12% and 5% respectively. Early indications are that this was due in all three schools to severe issues in staffing in mathematics. The overall Hastings 5 A*-C inc Eng & maths was 28%.
5.11e	5.11 Increase the choices for vocational learning opportunities for children and young people aged 14-19 and reduce the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).	e) Percentage of 16-18 year olds that are NEET, by County, Borough and District. (LAA REWARD)	5.20%	A	A	July 08 NEET: 6.8% for East Sussex with the number of young people NEET reaching 755. The sub area data based on 14-19 Local Area Partnership Boards (LAPB): Eastbourne Downs 6.95%; Hastings 10.96%; Lewes Coastal 6.47%; Lewes Rural 6.06%; Rother 8.14% and Wealden 2.28% Although the number of young people NEET has risen slightly since the all time low in June, it is lower than for the same period last year (i.e. 869, 7.98%). A range of initiatives are planned to take place over the coming 6 months and over the next quarter it will be become evident whether the various initiatives to increase provision, remove barriers and develop skills and capabilities amongst young people NEET have impacted on the LAA NEET target of 5.2% by November.