



EVALUATION OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2009-2010

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Vision and strategy

The agreed Charter for Children and Young People in South Gloucestershire remains at the heart of the priorities identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People Plan.

Governance arrangements for the Children's Trust Board have been being reviewed to align with the statutory guidance issued earlier this year. However, clear lines of accountability and reporting have been established. The Local Safeguarding Children Board's oversight was judged to be a strength in our unannounced inspection. This body undertakes the overview of the quality and effectiveness of safeguarding practice across partners and holds them to account, for instance in relation to their individual agency activity to promote preventative work through the Common Assessment Framework. An independent Chair for the LSCB has now been recruited. During 2009-10, Child Death Review Panels have been established and an audit against the findings of the Haringey JAR and the recommendations of Lord Laming's Inquiry resulted in agreed action plans. A serious case review was also undertaken which was judged good. The previous serious case review action plan has been carefully monitored and action completed.

The priorities for the Children and Young People Plan were agreed in early 2009. These were developed through a [detailed analysis using the performance data in 2008](#), specialist advice from those working on the front line and the views from children and young people. A [further analysis to support locality planning](#) was undertaken in 2009. The analysis considered the specific needs in relation to gender, ethnicity, disability, poverty and other aspects of disadvantage. The priorities are identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy and in more detail in the Children and Young People Plan.

We have continued to improve outcomes for children and young people, with a strong focus on safeguarding, improvements in the provision to support children and young people's mental health needs, improvement in provision for the early years and educational achievement at Key Stage 4, a reduction in the rate of teenage conception, and good quality integrated youth support (as judged by Ofsted and the Youth Justice Board) leading to good comparative performance in the rates of young people not in education, training or employment. Additionally, there is a focus across all outcomes on those [children and young people vulnerable to underachievement](#).

The overview evaluation reports have been provided from each of the lead co-ordinating officers relating to the five outcomes of be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, positive contribution and economic wellbeing. The full evaluation report identifies greater detail against each of the planned actions.

Good progress has been made in meeting the actions in each outcome area.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) focuses on improvement in children's health (particularly child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), obesity amongst reception aged children, achievement at secondary, particularly level 3 qualifications at age 19, reducing the Under 18 conception rate, and reducing the numbers of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)).

Be Healthy

Outcomes in this area are good.

- Planning for children and young people's health and wellbeing has been greatly enhanced in 2009/10 by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and associated work streams, which have highlighted a number of issues for children and young people, particularly those in transition to adult services. [Children, young people, parents and carers have participated in consultation](#) to support the JSNA development. Young people have been actively engaged in stakeholder participation in the Children's Community Health and CAMHS Partnership. Participation of parents of children with additional needs has developed over the year through the Our Voice Matters Parents' Forum supported by the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme.
- The Partnership's focus on Priority Neighbourhoods continues to produce innovative projects reflecting the issues raised by local people through the Planning For Real processes. A number of projects have contributed to the Be Healthy theme, e.g. healthy eating demonstrations at Filton market, a homework club for young people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Kingswood, Breakthrough Plus programmes in two Patchway primary schools, and a Family Fun Day in Staple Hill.
- 2008/09 represents a period of substantial planning to move forward integrated working. The opening of the Yate children's hub, and the successful bid for capital to progress hubs in Kingswood and Severnvale in future years represent a significant step forward to achieving our vision of meaningful integrated working at locality level.
- Levels of obesity in children and young people continue to rise, although rates compare favourably (NIs 55 and 56, based on 07/08 data) with both statistical neighbours and England averages. Prevalence also appears to be higher in the Kingswood locality than in Yate and Severnvale. 16% of Year 6 children and 9% of Reception year children are classed as very overweight (2009/10 data return). Unlike the national picture, Reception children in rural areas appear to have higher rates of obesity than in urban areas, although the numbers are small. Tackling obesity through a combination of approaches that include promoting physical activity, healthy eating and promoting breastfeeding has been a major feature of partnership work in 2009/10 and will continue to be a priority for 2010/11. An Obesity Strategy will be developed in 2010/11.
- Children, young people and families in a range of settings, and in universal services, are being offered tailored information, advice and opportunities in developing healthy lifestyles. Capacity to support the programmes has increased in 2009/10. Targets in promoting healthy schools, and in developing opportunities for physical activity and sport in schools are largely being met, with 96% of South Gloucestershire's schools now having achieved National Healthy Schools Status.

- Continued monitoring of our performance in comparison with national averages shows a broadly positive picture. 80% of Be Healthy indicators are in the upper or upper middle quartiles in comparison with national averages (Ofsted Q4). Take up of school lunches (NI 52) is above national averages and substantially above statistical neighbour authorities. Progress is still to be made in secondary schools, where performance is below the national average although still above statistical neighbours. According to the TellUs 4 Survey, responses from young people in years 8 and 10 were better than average for healthy lifestyle advice in the areas of alcohol, smoking, drugs, sex and relationships, staying safe and handling feelings. 78% of young people report that they have never smoked, which again compares favourably. However performance compares less favourably when young people were asked about levels of activity.
- Approaches to support women to breastfeed are showing good progress. Monitoring at 6-8 weeks shows 45% of mothers are breastfeeding at this point (2009/10 provisional data). The PCT has invested additional capacity to promote breastfeeding and has secured recurring funding to re-commission support services in 2010/11. Implementation of the new Healthy Child Programme continues and new growth charts based on growth patterns of breastfed babies have been implemented. These will pick up overweight babies sooner. Implementation of the full Healthy Child Programme will present challenges to universal services and will be a key focus of activity in 2010/11. The PCT will seek to achieve stage 1 of Unicef's Baby Friendly Initiative during 2010/11.
- Additional attention and capacity is required to continue to ensure the health needs of new communities are addressed through local planning processes for new housing developments. 62% of pupils aged 5-16 either walked or cycled to school in 2008/09 (NI 198.) Good inter-departmental working has secured better facilities for disabled children and young people in play and leisure settings.
- Emotional well-being will continue to be a key priority for 2010/11. This year South Gloucestershire has fully commissioned for the four proxies demonstrating effectiveness of a comprehensive CAMHS service (NI 51). Schools are being well prepared for the new Ofsted emotional well-being indicators. Additional resources are being targeted at early intervention services through the comprehensive CAMHS service and through the SEAL programme. The Youth Service is providing an effective communication mechanism for healthy lifestyle messages.
- Tell Us 4 shows that 67% of young people report they are happy, and 94% that they have good friends. Most young people feel they can discuss their worries with parents and friends. Young people feel less confident about discussing worries with an adult other than their parents.
- Monitoring of performance in the CAMHS services is regularly undertaken through the contract management processes for the Children's Community Health and CAMHS Partnership contract. This includes scrutiny of referral data, waiting times, ethnicity etc. Good progress in recruiting to new and vacant posts has been made in most areas, securing additional capacity to support early intervention, Looked After Children and older teenagers in particular. Recruitment to the substantive Learning Difficulty Psychiatrist post remains a concern and the lack of this specialist psychiatric input has inhibited some work in developing care pathways and in progressing the service model for residential short breaks.

- Children and young people in South Gloucestershire prisons receive a comprehensive CAMHS service at least equivalent to that provided in community services, and the quality of the service has been acknowledged in independent and inspection reports. The needs of children and young people in Vinney Green Secure Unit have been analysed by a specific project, and the output of this will be considered by commissioners to inform future service planning. Further work is needed to explore the needs of special schools and this should be a priority for the 10/11 implementation plan.
- The implementation of the local Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme, including the Core Offer, is well advanced. The impact of services has been measured for the first time using the new national indicator, NI54, during summer 2009. South Gloucestershire's overall performance is in the top quartile nationally (though there is only one percentage point between quartiles,) and is above both our statistical neighbours' and national averages.
- Good progress has been made to secure an effective joint equipment service for disabled children. Delay in the publication of the national Continuing Health Care guidance for children and young people has impeded work in this area. In the absence of this guidance, partners have worked well together to develop more joint approaches to assessment and commissioning of packages of care. These approaches will be formalised into a more robust joint commissioning arrangement in 2010/11 now that the framework has been published. NHS spend on continuing and palliative care has increased substantially and is being benchmarked against neighbouring PCTs. Significant work has been undertaken and will continue in 2010/11 to prepare for commissioning of hospice provision.

Stay Safe

Outcomes in this area are satisfactory with good features.

In May 2009, the Government announced a wide ranging package of measures setting out how it will deliver the “step-change” in Safeguarding in response to the majority of Lord Laming’s recommendations, committing a greater openness and public scrutiny of local Safeguarding arrangements supported by investment in training and support for front line social workers. Three strands of integrated yet distinguishable activity have been identified:

- a revision of statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children and their Families” published March 2010
- revised statutory guidance on Serious Case Reviews and their evaluation, and
- transformation of the social work profession through the acceptance of the recommendations of the Social Work Taskforce contained within the final report- “Building a Safe and Confident Future“

Such reforms provide both challenge and opportunity for all agencies and organisations working with children and young people, alongside existing local priorities such as the recommendations of recent serious case reviews and national initiatives including the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), ContactPoint and the requirements of the Independent Safeguarding Authority. This evaluation of Safeguarding activity 2009/10 will inform our planning and priority setting.

Children requiring safeguarding including those in care

Good progress has been made. There is a clear focus on safeguarding through the work and activity of the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (SGSCB) supported by the work of social care workforce and partners as well as the Corporate Parenting Steering Group. The percentage of referrals going on to Initial Assessment illustrates progress although the timeliness of both Initial and Core Assessments has been affected by a substantial increase in demand compounded by recruitment issues and the introduction of the Integrated Children System (ICS). The long term and short term stability of children in care is improving.

- South Gloucestershire is a safe area in which to live compared with many other parts of the country. This is evident in both low casualty numbers per head of population and low casualty rates per kilometre travelled on our roads. The number of fatalities on our roads, 7 was the lowest since South Gloucestershire became a unitary authority in 1996.

- The percentage of Initial Assessments completed within 7 days is 60.4% falling below our own target and performance of statistical neighbours. There has been within the context of a 40% increase in the number of Initial Assessments completed during the year, a 27.6% increase in referrals, recruitment issues and the introduction of ICS.
- The percentage of Core Assessments completed within 35 working days at 69.3% failed to meet our targets. There has been a 3.6% per 10 000 increase in numbers undertaken.
- Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption has improved to 75% from 66.7% in 08/09. Such figures reflect small numbers with 6 of the 8 children being placed within 12 months, the remaining 2 children (a sibling group) were placed within 1 month of the target. We remain confident our adoption processes are robust.
- From a child in care population of 185, 19 (10.3%) had 3 or more placement moves. Analysis demonstrates 16 of these children have complex needs with attendant difficulty in providing stability. Performance exceeded our own target of 11% and that of statistical neighbours at 11.48% (08/09).
- There is evidence of significant improvement in providing long term stability to children in care exceeding 2.5 years with 32 from a cohort of 43 (74.4%) children within placement for over two years. Only 2 children had experienced several moves who have complex needs and at times place themselves at risk through their behaviour. These are being monitored closely and have additional resources provided.
- No children or young people were subject to a child protection plan for more than 2 years during 2009/10. Such good performance exceeds our own target of 2% and that of statistical neighbours of 7.1% (08/09).
- Of 164 children made subject of an initial child protection plan, 9 (5.5%) had previously been subject of a plan. This is below our target and considerably below our statistical neighbours figure for 2008/09. This represents good performance in this area and suggests children are not being removed from a plan prematurely and subsequently requiring further protective services.
- The completion of reviews for Children in Care in required timescales has not met our target. A modest increase of Children in Care and those subject to a Child Protection Plan has impacted on the ability of the Quality Review Unit to meet demand. Increases in resourcing and changes to the management structure are now in place.
- The issues referred to above equally apply to the % of Child Protection cases reviewed within timescale and whilst performance at 97% missed our own target of 100%, it is not far below that of statistical neighbours at 98.8% (08/09)
- There has been 27.6% rise in the number of referrals received during the period 09/10 and a 2.8% percentage point decrease in re-referrals. The number of referrals receiving an initial assessment has grown from 63.4% (08/09) to 69.9% exceeding Authority and statistical neighbour performance. This is good performance.
- The TellUs survey 2009/10 demonstrates that 46% of children having been bullied in school which is second quartile performance and below that of statistical neighbours at 50%

- Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injury to children and young people is decreasing, reduced from 112% per 1000 in 2008/09 to 104.5% this year

Promote the welfare of children and young people so that they feel safe

- TellUs4 2009-10 shows that children and young people in South Gloucestershire feel more safe in their area, on the school journey and in school than others nationally.
- The Safeguarding Board is well established with strong partnership commitment and participation from members. The scrutiny function of the Board has been strengthened, informed by a risk register and an overarching quality assurance framework. Additional resources have been secured and targeted to support this aspect of work. An Independent Chair is currently being sought to further promote and support effective challenge and scrutiny.
- The Serious Case Review (R and K) has been evaluated as good by Ofsted with “outstanding features”. The associated action plan evidences progress in all identified areas and remains subject to oversight and scrutiny from both the Safeguarding Board and the recently established Children’s Trust Board.
- A second further Serious Case Review was completed within statutory timescales and led to a number of recommendations all of which were adopted by the Board. An accompanying action plan has been developed to address the recommendations. This has also been judged by Ofsted to be good.
- New multi-agency policies in respect of the resolution of professional differences, allegations management, information sharing and unexpected child death review processes have contributed to the development of broader understanding and awareness of the safeguarding agenda.
- South Gloucestershire continues to lead on the Shared Procedure Initiative that has in the recent past agreed policy guidance by way of example in relation to, Concealed Pregnancy, Managing Dissent at CP Conferences, Working Across Boundaries, Missing Children and Working with Neglect. The steering group has prepared pro-actively for the requirements of the revised Working Together (2010). For this reason a Regional Conference is to be held in July 2010 to raise awareness of the website and the amended procedures.

Building capacity within universal services to recognise and address wellbeing and early risk indicators.

- Anti-Bullying activity has been strengthened with additional representation on the Anti-Bullying Partnership and joint development of a clear strategy. The TellUs4 Survey 2009-10 scores South Gloucestershire at 48% which is within in the second quartile nationally, a significant improvement from the previous year. The e-safety sub group has a strategy which

includes raising the awareness of professionals and parents to the safeguarding issues relating to the internet and mobile phone technologies.

- A self-evaluation tool for schools on safeguarding was devised and completed by all maintained schools, alongside other awareness raising activities. As a result a higher percentage of primary, secondary and special schools have been judged good or above for safeguarding practice than for comparative authorities and nationally.
- The West of England Child Death Overview Panel is established across the former Avon area. 123 deaths were reviewed last year, 3 of which were assessed as being preventable; none were within South Gloucestershire.
- Multi-agency training underpins both the recognition of child abuse and the identification of children, young people and families requiring early support. 47 multi-agency training events have taken place with 1800 attendees. An integrated training team is being put in place to ensure seamless delivery and improved systems are being developed for identifying training needs of individuals and evaluating the impact of training.
- The Road Safety Team, in conjunction with Avon Fire and Rescue Service, have provided extensive training and awareness raising to children and young people in a number of settings, with a focus on driver road skills and safer routes to schools. The number of children seriously injured in road accidents remains low with a fall in the total number of 15-17 year old casualties for all road user groups for the second year.
- The Youth Concessionary Travel card has been developed to incorporate for all users CitizenCard ID. This will assist in addressing statutory obligations that anyone who supplies alcohol will have an 18 age verification policy as from 1st October 2010, help reduce alcohol, tobacco and knife sales and the associated health and anti-social behaviour concerns.

Promote multi agency preventative support for those children and young people identified at an early stage of being at risk of social exclusion including homelessness.

- The Domestic Violence sub group of SGSCB is now chaired by the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and has renewed Terms of Reference. There have been 156 new Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences in the previous year, at which the needs of more than 200 children have been considered and support strategies identified. A process to share domestic violence reports with schools is nearing agreement.
- The 14 Sure Start children's centres offer has developed significantly with the core offer in place in all centres. 2,947 children and 4,438 parents/carers are registered across the three localities. Outreach services for vulnerable families are being established and links with health visitors and midwives are becoming stronger to facilitate better and earlier identification of vulnerable families.

- [Common Assessment Framework \(CAF\) processes](#) were revised and re-launched in April 2010, with over 300 attendees from a range of statutory and voluntary services. The event was used to reinforce and embed joint approaches. 88 CAFs were completed in the last year, 35 of which were presented to a Preventative Panel. The voluntary sector is well engaged in the CAF process as are schools who have agreed to use CAFs as a tool for assessment prior to referral elsewhere. Since Sept 2009, when a new trainer was appointed, 245 staff have been trained in information sharing, CAF awareness, CAF processes and chairing the Team around the Child meetings. Embedding the CAF process remains a shared priority.

Provide a robust response to the protection of those children and young people identified as at risk of significant harm or neglect or having complex needs.

- Social Care assessments demonstrate best practice in ensuring children and young people are seen as part of their assessments and are consulted in decision-making about services made available to them. Advocacy services are provided for children and young people subject to child protection plans and children who are looked after.
- The number of referrals received by Children's Social Care throughout the year remained steady with improvements in the percentage of repeat referrals at 23.3% exceeding our target of 25%, and below that of statistical neighbours (25.3%). Similarly, there is positive progress with regard to the percentage of referrals going on to initial assessment at 73.8%, exceeding our local target of 60% and that of statistical neighbours 64.7%.
- The percentage of Initial Assessments completed within 7 days is 60.4%, falling below our own target and the performance of statistical neighbours (08/09). This is within a context of a 40% increase in the number of Initial Assessments completed during the year, a 27.6% increase in referrals, recruitment issues and the introduction of ICS. Timeliness of Core Assessment also remains a stubborn concern with particular capacity issues within the Kingswood Locality having a significant impact. Actions to address these issues and support this team are underway and carefully monitored.
- Numbers of children in care have remained consistent during the period of this plan, (start of year 178, currently 180). The number of placement moves has risen in the second half of the year, although performance has improved against that of the previous year and exceeds that of statistical neighbours. For children having three placements or more, performance was 9.4% against a target of 11%. Performance for children in care for more than two and a half years and in the same placement for two years is 77.3% exceeding our local target of 60% and nudging that set by government at 80%.
- Training for foster carers has been evaluated by participants as "good" with 292 safeguarding training attendances in this period.

- The integrated children's system is now being used across the locality teams following a pilot and the authority is ICS compliant with regulation. The project plan is closely monitored to enable effective roll out, however, issues remain affecting performance and reflecting national challenges.
- The Secure Estate sub group contributed to a national independent review of restraint in the secure estate and has widened its membership to include Reliance who are responsible for transporting young people between Courts and Secure Establishments at times of particular angst and vulnerability.
- External Inspection of Vinney Green Secure Unit during February 2010 identified safeguarding practice to be good.
- Allegations management awareness continues to be developed leading to 34 cases being considered in the last year; an increase of over 50% from 2008/09. 3 cases were referred to the Independent Safeguarding Authority for consideration of vetting and barring.

Enjoy and Achieve

Outcomes in this area are good overall.

This report is based upon the evidence gathered from a range of stakeholders. The summary has to be placed against a background of revised provision within Sure Start Children's Centres, changes to the Ofsted framework for inspecting schools and the proposals in the new White Paper around the enhanced role of the School Improvement Partner and support for schools.

- Support for EYFS settings and provision in schools has resulted in just two settings deemed inadequate. Although it is still below the national average the quality of childcare is improving. Further improvements are expected following the completion of the [Quality Improvement Framework](#) and a self evaluation toolkit for the PVI sector. Effective use of the Local Authority EYFS profile data has resulted in improvements in the quality of assessments. The number of children with a good level of development has remained in the 2nd quartile and we have further narrowed the gap between the LA average and lower quintile. This is in part due to the improved outcomes for the bottom 20% of children and our performance is within the top quartile. There are early signs of impact following the introduction of the Social & Emotional Aspects of Development (SEAD) to over 100 settings. All 11 Phase 2 Children's Centres have completed their Self Evaluation Forms (SEF).
- Performance of primary schools continues to be good. At the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 outcomes are mostly above the national average and often in the upper quartile. Whilst the performance of the most able is strong at the end of Key Stage 2, at the end of Key Stage 1 outcomes are at best around the national average. There have been increases in the numbers making two levels progress over Key Stage 2 in English and mathematics; both of these outcomes are now 2nd quartile. The number of schools below the floor target for combined English and mathematics has reduced from 3 in 2008 to 1 in 2009. Primary schools deemed to be performing poorly continue to receive support as outlined in our School Improvement Policy; this has included a particular focus on the Improving Schools Programme. As a result we continue to have no primary schools in Ofsted categories and an improvement of 14% in the proportion of good and better schools since September 2009, with 13 out of 18 schools judged good or better for the capacity to improve. Inspection outcomes also closely mirror schools' own self evaluation.
- GSCE results show good improvement (12.6%) over the 3 years from 2007 to 2009 for 5A*-C, satisfactory improvement (3.8%) over the same period including English and mathematics, with this measure moving from 3rd to 2nd quartile, and no school below the floor target. The effective deployment of secondary Advanced Skills Teachers, Leading Practitioners and Leadership Coaches is beginning show an impact on the self evaluation process. Despite the recent Notice to Improve categorisation of one of our secondary schools the general trend in Ofsted outcomes has been improving with two out of six schools inspected during

2009 receiving overall outstanding judgements, although as with primary schools the overall picture of good or better schools is still below the national average. Once again school's self evaluation judgements generally match those of inspectors. [The Personalisation Project](#) began in three schools and analysis of early data shows that each has seen good improvements in the rates of progress of pupils in some subjects and changes made in order to make these improvements more widely spread. 8 out of 9 targeted schools have achieved compliance with the Aim Higher programme; the other is working towards. There is improved employer engagement with vocational and Diploma courses. Vocational audits have been completed and support brokered for the year.

- All secondary schools are working towards embedding Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme, alongside Personal, Learning & Thinking Skills (PLTS) and the use of Pupil Attitude to Self and Schools (PASS) to provide data on student emotional health and well-being, resulting in a significant reduction of around 20% in fixed period exclusions. Permanent exclusions have continued to show a year on year reduction over the past 5 years. Patchway Community School has been recognised nationally for its work in SEAL. In the Tellus 4 survey few pupils say that lessons are disrupted by their peers. The proportions of pupils in the Tellus 4 survey who say they have been bullied is in line with the national average and lower than statistical neighbours. In the same survey 60% of pupils say that their school deals with bullying well or it is not a problem at all. The proportion of secondary schools judged good or better for behaviour has now risen from 73% to 79%; for primary this figure is 98%. The overall levels of persistent absence are very low and remain in the top quartile in both primary and secondary.
- The Local Authority is engaged in a range of national and local [programmes to support outcomes for pupils](#), including those most disadvantaged, but it is currently too early to see the impact in overall performance. The achievement gap between pupils entitled to Free School Meals and their peers has reduced at the end of Key Stage 4, moving from 3rd to 2nd quartile, but it remains above the national average at Key Stage 2 and has increased from 2008. The gap in performance at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2009 of pupils with Special Educational Needs widened from 2008 although it is still an improvement from 2007. At the end of Key Stage 4 the SEN/non-SEN gap for 5A*-C narrowed and is now in the top quartile. Work is developing to move to two consortia to deliver the 14-19 curriculum, including supporting the Gateway 4 submission process. This will help ensure the 2013 Entitlement is met. Employer networks have been established and they will support L2 Diplomas. Work has not begun on the strategic plan for post-16 LDD provision.
- Around one third of primary and special schools and half of secondary schools are using the audit tool to plan their work with the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service. Most are making good progress in their support for BME pupils. As a result Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) pupils' performance is broadly in line with the national average at the end of Key Stage 2 with increases from 2008 in mathematics, science and combined English and mathematics. In particular there were significant increases for White Other and Mixed Heritage pupils. Although the performance of BME pupils at Key Stage 4 fell in 2009 for 5A*-C and 5A*-C (E&M) there was an increase in 5A*-G and the average uncapped points score; the performance of White Other is top

quartile. Currently attainment, retention rates, attendance and secondary transfer of Gypsy, Roma & Traveller pupils show improvement in 2009 from 2008; attainment for the end of Key Stage 4 is top quartile. Whilst the performance of Children in Care at the end of Key Stage 2 fell in English it rose in mathematics, science and combined English and mathematics. At the end of Key Stage 4 fewer of these students achieved 5A*-C and 5A*-C (inc. E&M) in 2009; but there was an increase in the number with 5A*-G and the uncapped average points score. The Home Access Project for Children in Care is being implemented and equipment distributed appropriately. The e-safety guidance has also been agreed.

- Good progress in the improving the number and quality of play spaces within and outside schools, including the Outdoor Play and Learning Programme (OPAL) and PlayPods. There has been a significant increase (6%) in the use of parks and play areas between TellUs 3 and TellUs 4 and remains 2nd quartile. We are on track to meet our targets for the Healthy Schools Plus programme.
- An LA Action Plan is being written to address the gaps identified by the IAG audit. No major concerns have been found. A Local Authority Strategy is also planned. The TellUs 4 survey shows that pupils' appreciation of the help they receive in this area is in line with the national picture.

Positive Contribution

Outcomes in this area are good overall

The areas covered in this section of the Children and Young People Plan are concerned with ongoing national priorities relating to active citizenship. This includes the extent to which young people are engaged in democratic processes, their engagement in positive activities and evidence that young people are making positive decisions about how they behave and the lifestyles they choose. The majority of young people in South Gloucestershire are doing well with consistently low levels of antisocial behaviour and offending, low levels of teenage pregnancy (against national average) and effective involvement in a wide range of democratic and decision making opportunities. Young people and their families can access quality information on a wide range of subjects important to them (including positive activities) through the Children and Young People Information Service (CYPIS), Connexions Services and the Youth Unltd website which is now receiving approx 120 hits per day. Priorities include marketing the Youth Unltd website to maximise its use. Further quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the website is an area for development.

- Some excellent youth provision for disabled young people is now delivered in the Yate and Severnvale localities with further plans for Kingswood alongside voluntary sector provision. Young people from a range of other vulnerable groups including young mothers, young carers, Children in Care and BME groups are also accessing youth provision due to targeted support, encouragement and access to Youth Opportunity funds (Big Stash).
- The youth service has begun to develop Friday night and Saturday provision although the TellUs 4 survey indicates that a lower percentage of young people (against national averages) access and/or are happy with what is on offer.
- An Ofsted Survey Inspection of Integrated Youth Support in February 2010 found: *'The impact of integrated arrangements on the range and quality of young people's learning and development through participation in youth work and positive activities in the community is good' that 'Targeted Support is good' and that 'progress ...in implementing an integrated approach to youth support is good'*
- All of our 6 Priority Neighbourhoods include centre based youth provision and targeted detached and project work.
- The structures enabling young people to influence decision making have strengthened with the Youth Board and UKYP members actively involved in a wide range of local, regional and national issues and campaigns. Representatives have attended strategic fora including Select Committees, Cabinet, CYP Strategic Partnership and LSCB engaging in topics such as Sex and Relationships, the Participation Strategy, Bullying, Transport, the Youth Service Strategy and Youth Housing Strategy. Three Locality Youth Fora have now been established.

- The wider community of children and young people have been engaged through voluntary sector activities, school councils, Youth Summits, recruitment, facilitating training and activities led by a wide range of partners including Health, Police, Fire and Rescue, SG Council departments and Town + Parish Councils.
- The aspiration to provide affordable transport for young people has progressed as planned. Young people continue to be very engaged in this initiative with young people leading on the consultation and over 1000 young people responding. The preferred scheme is currently being piloted.
- Young people are able to access the support they need. The number of young people 16-18 who are NEET, whilst slightly increased, has remained low despite the economic climate. The number of young people in jobs without training has reduced. The number of CAFs relating to teenagers has remained steady. Parenting Support Advisers now work in all but one secondary school. Tools to enable early identification of need are being explored.
- A high percentage (provisional data for 2009/10: 84.6%) of children and young people in care contribute to the decisions that affect their lives engaging in their reviews and care planning. This remains a priority to achieve at least the target of 90%.
- A Children in Care Council (CICC) is currently being developed with two care experienced young people employed to consult with children currently in care. The CICC is due to be in place during the first planning quarter of 2010.
- The Youth Offending Service remains one of the highest performing in the country, as evidenced by consistently high performance and external inspection. The new 'Scaled approach' is on target and will enable an even more personalised approach to meet the needs of young offenders and support them to positive outcomes. SLAs with key agencies are helping to ensure these young people are a high priority and receive the support they need at transition points.
- Indicative data shows a reduction of 46% in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system.
- The re-offending rate of 0.25 after 6 months continues to be very low. This figure compares very favourably on the same period last year – a reduction of 65.8% and against the 2005 baseline figure of 0.73 – a reduction of 65.7%
- At Qtr 3, 74% of young people leaving YOS supervision were engaged in EET. This is slightly above national average and last year's performance but lower than the 90% local target and remains a priority.
- Delivery of the [Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Strategy](#) is good including a high uptake of outreach services in schools, improved local branding of services and the continuing popularity of the No Worries! C-card Scheme
- Under 18 conception data for 2008 show a substantial decrease in the rate of conceptions compared to 2007. The overall target based on a percentage decrease on a low baseline (below national average) remains challenging and a priority.

- The most recent (2008/9) Youth Service Survey revealed that 77% of those users who replied (303) know where to access information about contraception & sexual health, showing an increase of 8% since the previous year.
- The proportion of young mothers in education, employment and training has increased from 35.7% in January 09 to 38.1% in Jan 10.
- The Youth Service strategy has now been agreed and begun to be implemented. The joint Yate town Council / SGC Yate Café project is progressing rapidly with the overall design agreed, planning permission secured and young people actively involved. Developing the rural strategy and articulating the Youth Offer are both priorities for future developments.
- Antisocial behaviour is being effectively addressed. *Provisional* figures indicate that 9% of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts were breached (against a target of 10%) and the number of Antisocial Behaviour Orders made against young people remains comparatively low (5 individuals in 09/10). A range of agencies work in partnership on projects and initiatives to encourage young people to take up positive activities including the successful 'Friday Night Project' and stakeholders have been effectively engaged, including a well received ASB conference in February 2010.

Economic Well-being

Outcomes in this area are good overall

The areas covered in this section of the Children and Young People Plan are subject to a number of important national priorities. In particular there are a number of imperatives associated with the recent Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (for example the raising of the participation age, transfer of responsibility for commissioning 16-19 from the LSC to Local Authorities). Following recent House of Lords decision, revised protocols are in place between housing and social care to ensure that all homeless 16 and 17 year olds are assessed and accommodated under section 20 if appropriate – this is in place now and procedures have been distributed to all relevant staff. A steering group has been established to monitor this practice.

- Work on monitoring the impact on young people of the national economy and developing relevant targeted strategies to support those at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues. The percentage of young people who were [NEET in January 2010](#) was 4.4% (4.6% previous year) and compares favourably with national figures and statistical neighbours (top quartile nationally, top half of statistical neighbours comparison group). This is particularly good when looked at in conjunction with the very low rate of 'not-known's' in the Authority (2.3% - top quartile against national and statistical neighbours)
- The proportion of young people In Learning in January 2010 was 95.9%, second against statistical neighbours and 2.6% points higher than for 2008. This places South Gloucestershire in the top quartile against statistical neighbours. 98% of 16 year olds and 89% of 17 year olds had an offer of education or training via the September Guarantee in 2009. Into EET panels meet regularly to discuss individual NEET young people and progress towards the January Guarantee. Partnership arrangements are in place between schools and Connexions which include information sharing and identification of those young people at risk of becoming NEET.
- Significant work is ongoing in Priority Neighbourhoods, raising aspirations and dealing with family poverty. This is being strengthened by ensuring families receive best benefits, employment and childcare information and advice so that they maximise household incomes. A recent survey of families worked with on this aspect indicated that 94% of respondents found the service useful. In particular, family learning initiatives (whilst relatively new) are beginning to impact positively on young people and their families. Good progress is being made to ensure all relevant agencies know where to signpost parents of disabled children for advice. Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families is slightly above that of statistical neighbours, and national (Ofsted Local area children's services performance profile quarter 6, 2010)

- There has been good progress in supporting and extending childcare provision. The publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has identified the key priorities in South Gloucestershire to meet the needs of parents within their local communities. An additional 25 childminders have registered with Ofsted. Family learning provision has been boosted by a £132,720 LSC grant and 41 courses are planned for approximately 250 family learners and family learning champions.
- In responding to the voice of young people, a youth concessionary travel scheme has been approved and will be implemented by April 2010.
- Successful work has been carried out with eight targeted secondary schools to increase the number of young people from under represented groups who progress to Higher Education. The target anticipated that, in 2008/9, the % difference between the progression of students from low income families to Higher Education (HE) and those from higher income groups would be 27%. The out-turn data shows that the actual difference was only 20.8% - i.e. students from low income families did better than had been anticipated.
- High quality and impartial Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) is supporting young people in the choices they make at key transition points at aged 14 and 16, raising aspirations and increasingly enabling young people to follow appropriate progression routes. The audit against the National IAG Standards has been undertaken and the outcomes from this and from National IAG Strategy will be included in the IAG Action Plan. Independent audits by Ofsted (for the Kingswood Partnership of schools) and IGEN (for the Concorde Partnership of schools) indicate that IAG provision is at least good across the LA. Ofsted 'Tell Us 4' survey indicates students feel that they are provided with better information for their future career choices than is the case nationally or against statistical neighbours. However, there is still work to do regarding ensuring of impartiality and the accuracy of information that young people have access to in an era of rapidly developing curriculum change ([source: draft Post 16 review, Northern Education](#)).
- Homelessness issues are being tackled through an intervention scheme which aims to identify and address problems in families before breakdown and the use of B&B accommodation. Cases of youth homelessness are showing a strong downward pattern. Actual homeless duties accepted for 16/17 year olds in 2009/10 totalled 7, compared with 52 for the whole of 2008/09. B & B occupation reduced from 8 at 31 March 2009 to 1 at 30 September 2009. Care leavers in suitable accommodation were reported at 100% in the quarter 4 monitor of Local area children's services by Ofsted.
- A South Gloucestershire Action Plan has been developed in conjunction with the National Transition Support Team to improve transition pathways for LDD children and young people. There has been an improvement in the proportion of 16 to 19 LDD young people in education, employment and training compared with a year ago (88.3% against 87.9%). There have been improvements in [teenage mothers and care leavers in EET](#) compared with a year ago and the percentage of youth offenders leaving supervision to employment, training and employment is lower than last year but higher than other similar areas. The availability and accessibility of provision for teenage mothers is being assessed and gaps in provision identified. The percentage

of teenage parents in EET for November 2009 was 4% higher than for the same period last year – this was the twelfth consecutive month where the previous year's figures were surpassed.

- Funding for the buddy schemes coordinated by the voluntary sector Inclusive Play Advisor is resulting in more opportunities for disabled children and young people to access mainstream play settings and activities, as is the training offered by the Advisor.
- Educational outcomes post-16 is a priority and an external review into post-16 provision and standards has been commissioned. For 2008/9 A level and equivalent examinations the average points score per candidate placed South Gloucestershire in the 3rd quartile nationally, whilst the average points score per entry place the authority in the 4th quartile nationally. Targeted interventions have been planned to improve the range of courses at levels 1 to 3 with the aim to encourage more young people to stay in learning and experience success.
- The outcomes for 16 year olds who finished an alternative programme for students at risk of underachieving and disengaging with education and training are very positive with 90% in EET in September 2009.
- The Outline Business Case for the Yate International Academy building has been approved by Partnerships for Schools and the scheme is progressing to programme.
- Three new sports halls are under construction and due to complete in 2010, which will provide high quality sports facilities for pupils and the school community.

Prioritisation

The priorities of the plan are linked to the resources plan and children's services budget planning, so that resources link to priority areas. Additional resources have been allocated by the council during the year to address the increased pressures for children's social care and looked after children. Currently, strategies to provide intensive multi-agency support to families are beginning to reduce the need for expensive out of authority placements. Early preventative family support has also increased and in some areas appears to halt the progression for some to more specialist social care support.

Value for money is good, with South Gloucestershire a low funded authority with costs benchmarked well below national and comparative authorities. Joint commissioning arrangements are advanced with agreements with health and budgets monitored carefully, the CYPP priorities are costed across agencies. The Children's Services budget was overspent by the amount already identified in the 6 month monitor report in relation to escalating children in care costs in 2009/10.

Commissioning

A self analysis was undertaken in the Autumn 2009 using the Children's Trust Commissioning self analysis and planning exercise, focusing on commissioning governance framework, commissioning activities and commissioning capacity and competence. As a result of the strengths and weaknesses identified and ensuing discussions at the Children's Trust Board a plan has been developed to define the arrangements for joint commissioning, develops the framework and guidance for outcome based joint commissioning activity to encompass both jointly owned commissioned activity and joint pooled budget commissioned activity. Particular emphasis is on joint commissioning for children and young people with complex needs and locality commissioning in a universal setting and as a preventative service.

Workforce development

The workforce strategy was refreshed in 2009, using the CWDC workforce audit tool, and approved by the Children's Trust Board. Development is particularly significant in relation to the three integrated locality teams, with commissioned tailor made training for middle managers through partnership with the University of the West of England commencing later this year. Clear pathways to services have been identified for service users with the basis of the Common Assessment Framework and defined thresholds for single agency involvement. The recent unannounced inspection identified areas of strength in relation to, supervision, training and action to respond to staffing difficulties.

Retention and recruitment of staff has been an area of focus in relation to social care and health. Successful strategies which have enabled the recruitment of permanent and well qualified staff. induction and supervision practice are designed to enhance the competency and skills of all staff.

The multi-agency training programme offers a range of training in relation to safeguarding, safer recruitment, managing allegations, mental health, sexual health and relationships, common assessment and information sharing. Training needs, entitlement, provision and take up are reviewed annually to ensure the programme is fit for purpose.

Performance management and quality assurance

All plans are linked to the LAA and the Children and Young People's Plan. Performance is benchmarked and reviewed at regular intervals by the Children's Services Senior Leadership Team. Within teams, performance is monitored within an explicit schedule and provides the evidence for the 6 monthly reports to the Children's Trust Board and the annual evaluation report. More detailed scrutiny of specific aspects are undertaken by the steering groups associated with vulnerable groups and specific outcomes. A programme of targeted audits has been established within children's social care.