

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 April 2011

PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 (APRIL – DECEMBER 2010)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: Safe City, Learning City, Attractive and Inclusive City

**CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES: Delivering Customer Focused
Services, Efficient and Effective Council**

1.0 Why has this report come to Committee?

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee with a performance update relating to the period April to December 2010. This quarter the report includes:

- Progress in relation to the LAA targets and other national indicators
- Results of the annual budget consultation

2.0 Background

2.1 Performance against the national indicators, particularly those identified as priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2010/11 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. The LAA priorities have been a key consideration in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people. In October 2010 the Government announced that it was putting Local Authorities fully in control of Local Area Agreements. Enabling Authorities and their partners to amend or drop any of the current LAA targets without needing ministerial agreement. Where it is chosen to keep the targets, Government will have no role in monitoring them. Local Authorities will not be required to prepare an LAA from April 2011, once the current regime expires. The Government also announced the replacement of the National Indicator set with a single, comprehensive list of all data that local government will be required to provide.

2.2 As a consequence the performance framework is being reviewed to reflect the requirements of the new government's self regulation and improvement agenda as part of the strategic planning process for 2011/12. The new framework will form the basis of performance reports to members from July 2011. This is the last performance report that will focus on the LAA and national indicator performance

2.3 The annual budget consultation took place during October/November 2010. The consultation took the form of a survey followed by participatory workshops which were held across Sunderland with Community Spirit panel members and

representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The findings helped to inform the Council Revenue Budget for 2011/2012 which was approved on 2 March 2011 at a meeting of the full Council.

3.0 Consultation

3.1 The annual budget consultation took place during October / November 2010. It included a survey and workshops, both of which focused on nine areas of priority. These were identified by listening to the views of local people and taking into account other priorities, such as those identified by government or through inspections of council services.

3.2 For each of the nine areas of priority, the questionnaire asked whether:

- The priority has got better, worse or stayed the same in the last 12 months
- It should be a priority for 2011/12
- There is anything else we can do to address the priority area.

3.3 834 Community Spirit panel members took part which represents a response rate of 59%. An additional 32 residents completed the survey online bringing the total to 866.

3.4 Below is a summary of the findings from the survey and workshops and how the council is responding to priority areas.

3.5 Forty-five percent of respondents who expressed an opinion think that facilities for young people have got better over the last 12 months with a similar proportion believing they have stayed the same (42%) and only 13% thinking they are worse. Respondents with a disability are less inclined to think they have got better (31%) and more inclined to believe they are worse (21%). Residents from the North are also less likely to think they have got better (34%). Whereas respondents aged 18-34 are more positive with 61% believing facilities have got better.

3.6 The majority of respondents (78%) agree that facilities for young people should be a priority for the year ahead and only 5% disagree.

3.7 Respondents were asked what, if anything else, can be done to improve facilities for young people and 417 gave responses. The greatest number of responses relate to the need for more activities /facilities in general (75 respondents) with a further 32 responses specifically relating to youth clubs and 29 comments about more sports facilities. Other popular responses relate to:

The need for more / better promotion of activities / facilities	-	39 respondents
Young people hanging around and anti-social behaviour	-	25 respondents
Positive comments around keeping up the good work	-	23 respondents

3.8 All of these aspects were discussed at the workshops. The importance of training was also raised at the workshops and 12 survey responses relate to the need for job and training opportunities.

- 3.9 Below is a summary of how we are addressing the priority areas and in particular the issues raised in the survey and workshops.
- 3.10 Facilities for young people is an important priority not only in terms of providing young people with things to do but in terms of community safety and community integration.
- 3.11 We are improving the ways in which we deliver services to young people in areas where there is little or no provision through the mobile youth buses and XL village events. The council has invested £450,000 since 2009 in order to purchase and deliver 180 XL Youth Village events and 225 mobile bus sessions across the city each year. These have led to significant reductions in anti-social behaviour (a reduction of 34% was reported during the first year) and there is a significant reduction in police call outs at times when Village events and mobiles are in operation. The events have also attracted national positive interest and have been very well received by young people. Youth Village events and mobile bus sessions will continue to be delivered in 2011/12.
- 3.12 We have also employed the voluntary and community sector to deliver a minimum of 3 youth sessions in every ward across the city. This presents good value for money since they can attract funding from other sources and we are able to make the best use of existing resources such as buildings and staff without duplication. A full programme of positive activities is available at www.letsgosunderland.com Targeted at young people and their families, the website includes a wide range of information about what's on and where from youth clubs, events, sports facilities and so much more.
- 3.13 2010/11 was the final year of the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund. During this last year we have been able to invest further in 14 different local youth projects. This has included modernisation and refurbishment of several existing buildings as well as developing new and creative ideas to support some of our most vulnerable young people such as those who may have a disability or a learning difficulty. Over the last 4 years more than 15,000 young people have benefited from improved provision by investment of £2.046million in 128 different youth led schemes, projects and initiatives. Although this scheme is now complete we have been able to improve, modernise and develop new youth facilities across the city, which are sure to have a lasting benefit for young people now and in future years.
- 3.14 From 2008 to 2010, the city has benefited under the Play Pathfinder programme for the redevelopment of 28 play areas across the city, providing natural and traditional play opportunities, including the City Adventure Centre at Silksworth. In addition, opportunities to increase young people's participation in sport and physical activity have been extended, through the opening of facilities at Hetton and Silksworth Community Pools. There is also a Sensory Room at Silksworth where disabled children and adults can explore and develop their senses and skills.
- 3.15 Through Building Schools for the Future and Academy Status, six different community schools and colleges offer community access to a range of different sports facilities including 5-a-side football pitches.

4.0 Performance

A full overview of performance can be found at appendix 1. The following section contains an overview of performance.

4.1 Being Healthy

- 4.1.1 The outcomes of the annual National Child Measurement Programme were published in Quarter 3 and show a slight increase in obesity from 11.0% to 11.2% for Reception age pupils and from 20.2% to 21% for Year 6 pupils. 23 primary schools have signed up to school enhancement work with a focus on Healthy Weight and are planning school based interventions, with links being made to the Lifestyle and Activity Food (LAF) programme. LAF supports physical activity levels, improving understanding of healthy eating and weight maintenance. The Child Weight Management Programme and training providers framework has been commissioned to 2013 which supports local commissioning of weight management services for children and young people, offering training and support in the delivery of specific approaches to weight management for at risk, overweight and obese children and young people.
- 4.1.2 93% of schools have a whole school food policy, the same as was recorded the previous year. The implementation and monitoring of policies is now linked to the achievement of Healthy Schools status. In future, the Healthy Schools programme is changing to a “schools led” outcomes focused enhancement model, therefore the onus will be on schools to manage and monitor performance in relation to Healthy Schools status as there will be no central funding for the Healthy Schools Programme. All support available to schools will be through a toolkit which is currently being developed by the central Healthy Schools team, to be shared with schools by this spring term. Efforts are taking place to ensure that as many schools as possible achieve Healthy Schools Standard, which demonstrates that schools are maintaining a level of wellbeing.
- 4.1.3 The percentage take up of primary school lunches continues to improve - from 49.70% at the end of December 2009 to 53% at the end of December 2010. Based on current performance it is anticipated that the target of 51% will be achieved. Improvements in performance are due to better partnership arrangements with individual schools, an increase in the number of theme days, improved user consultation (whether through the School Meals Investigator’s programme or school meals staff attending parent evenings and student councils – all of have informed school specific service improvements), and ongoing menu and product development. The improvements in performance have occurred despite outcomes for December, which are traditionally enhanced by Christmas lunches, being negatively affected by school closures due to severe weather conditions.
- 4.1.4 The percentage take up of secondary school lunches also continues to improve - from 41% at the end of December 2009 to 49.06% at the end of December 2010. Based on current performance it is anticipated that the target of 37% will be exceeded. Improvements in performance can be attributed to better partnership arrangements with individual schools, ongoing menu and product development

based on pupil consultation, specific service developments such as grab'n'go and satellite service points, lunchtime closed gate policies, and reduced length of lunch hours restricting pupils' ability to go off-site. As with primary school the outcomes for December, which are traditionally enhanced by Christmas lunches, were negatively affected by school closures due to severe weather conditions.

- 4.1.5 Under 18 conceptions remain relatively high; the latest published annual data for 2009 shows no significant change from 2008, representing 288 actual conceptions in 2009 compared to 290 in 2008. NST visit recommendations have been disseminated and a Teenage Pregnancy Recovery Group with monthly meetings has been established. A group has also been established on a time limited basis to look specifically at the C-Card, college provision and SRE. A visioning event for Teenage Pregnancy was held on 15th March 2011 including representation from practitioners, partners, young people and parents; an action plan is being developed. CASH (Contraception and Sexual Health) provision has been reviewed and extended from 2 dedicated sites to 5 (phased programme of implementation). Funding has been secured to implement the electronic c-card system and this is on schedule for implementation 1st April. The c-card will be implemented with a revised protocol and electronic system which will improve monitoring, reporting and stock control. Visits have been held with secondary school head teachers to discuss teenage pregnancy / SRE (Sex and Relationships Education). Funding has been agreed with the PCT for an options counsellor within the CaSH services.

4.2 Staying Safe

- 4.2.1 The number of Looked After Children has remained stable Quarter 3 at 388, compared to 392 at end of 2009/10. The number of children subject of a Child Protection Plan increased during the Quarter 2 months to a peak of 413 at end of September, but during Quarter 3 there has been a sustained reduction each month to 357 at end of December 2010.
- 4.2.2 The proportion of initial assessments completed within timescale is at 81% at Quarter 3, which is significantly above 2009/10 performance and above year end target. The proportion of core assessments completed within timescale is currently below target but above December 2009 performance. Since September, core assessment completion has been transferred from the localities to the newly established CIN / Core team, which has had an impact on performance during this transition period.
- 4.2.3 Challenges to recruitment and retention of experienced qualified social workers continues to be an issue. The overseas recruitment drive has resulted in the appointment and commencement of new social worker recruits from the USA in February 2011.
- 4.2.4 The Safeguarding Service Improvement Board is reviewing the business processes in children's social care and will ensure that systems and processes are effective and efficient, resources are optimally deployed, and that performance is improved. In line with this, Quarter 2 commenced the re-alignment of case management teams. The action is to complete the re-alignment in order to release quality and

performance improvement benefits.

- 4.2.5 The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation at Quarter 2 was below the same period in 2009 but has improved in Quarter 3; from a cohort of 35, 28 (80%) were in suitable accommodation at December. The reasons for the remaining seven young people not in suitable accommodation shows that four have since become classed as living independently and so in suitable accommodation, but care leavers in custody or refusing contact with the leaving care service are resulting in the indicator currently remaining below 100%.

4.3 Enjoying and Achieving

- 4.3.1 The attainment indicators for Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, Key Stage 2, 4 and 5 are annual indicators and unchanged from those reported at Quarter 2. Achievement of 19 year olds at level 2 and 3 will be available from DfE in Quarter 4.
- 4.3.2 The persistent absence rate at primary school has remained at the same rate for the last two academic years at 1.4%, while secondary persistent absence rate has increased from 4.7% to 5.3%, although not all schools and academies were reported across the two years due to closures, so comparisons across the two years do not reflect the same school cohort. Actions to address absence include implementation of the Behaviour and Attendance strategy, to ensure that services within Sunderland are focused on identifying and meeting the needs of those pupils who are persistently absent or are at risk of becoming so. There is differentiated support for individual schools based on PA pupil and identified universal support service for all schools. Individual School Action Plans have been formulated and are reviewed on a termly basis, to outline specific targeted support and to ensure effective use of resources within schools, the locality and the City. Schools are supported to engage with parents and promote strong messages about the importance of their child's good attendance; attendance incentives are utilised with schools and localised campaigns have been devised in partnership with schools which will meet their individual needs. The campaigns will be evaluated to measure effectiveness. The Non Attendance Procedure is utilised across the City to identify parents who are failing to secure their child's attendance. Parental responsibility measures are utilised such as parenting contracts to support parents who need additional help. Statutory powers are used where appropriate to enforce attendance in suitable cases where parents are failing in their legal duty to support children to attend school and monitored through the non-attendance procedure.

4.4 Making a Positive Contribution / Achieving Economic Wellbeing

- 4.4.1 Performance indicators for the Youth Offending Service continue to perform well and make good progress. First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17 has been a key improvement indicator this year. In 2008/09, Sunderland was ranked within the bottom quartile nationally, but has made significant improvement, improving the rate per 100,000 of the population from 3180 to 2650 to 1807 over the past three years (representing a reduction in actual numbers from 908 to 770 to 501). In the period April – December 2010, 201 young people entered the Youth Justice System for the first time, which equates to a percentage reduction of 50% (404 to 201) against a target of 1.9% year on year. The rate of FTE's is also

showing further reductions and after 9 months stands at 750 per 100,000 of the population and indications are that the rate after 12 months will be substantially lower than that of 2009/10.

- 4.4.2 Triage and the Youth Custody Support Scheme have been key in diverting young people away from the Criminal Justice System, whilst ensuring any individual needs are met through the referral to specialist services and one to one case work.
- 4.4.3 Wear Kids prevention team continue to educate and work closely with partners to ensure young people who are identified as at risk of future offending/anti-social behaviour are referred into the service in order for them to be assessed for prevention intervention. Quarterly analysis tracks referral sources both in terms of location and agency to identify areas where referral rates are low, in order to improve links therefore ensuring all young people have access to services.
- 4.4.4 The percentage of young people (aged 10-17) sentenced to custody out of all those receiving a conviction in court continues to improve, from 3% at the end of December 2009 to 1.90% at the end of December 2010. Analysis of the Court Satisfaction Survey in 2010 highlighted sustained confidence of the court in YOT sentencing proposals. Sunderland YOS has in place a stringent QA/Gate keeping process for all Pre-Sentence reports to ensure proposed sentences are appropriate to level of risk and vulnerability. Sunderland YOS review all cases sentenced to custody on a monthly basis, with any lessons learnt shared with practitioners. Sunderland YOS delivers regular training to Magistrates to raise awareness of YOT disposals, including alternatives to custody. Upon funding confirmation Sunderland will consider the best delivery model to achieve the best outcomes based on available funding.
- 4.4.5 The percentage of 16 – 18 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has significantly improved this year. The official reporting period and target represents November to January average, which is 8.4% for 2010/11, improving from 9.5% in 2009/10 and 13.2% in 2008/09. A positive impact has been through learning providers bringing forward their January recruitment to December so that young people could still apply for EMA and receive until June 2011. Connexions NEET plan between September and February has involved a full review of all NEET clients to ensure they are given the most appropriate support. The records of all those who have been NEET for more than 9 months are formally reviewed to ensure all actions are being taken to move the young person on, and all joiners to the NEET group are reviewed to ensure that NEET is the most appropriate destination.

4.5 Libraries

- 4.5.1 There has been a slight decline in the number of active borrowers per 1,000 population. From 178 per 1,000 population to 170 per 1,000 population at the end of December 2010. The indicator is below target at end of Quarter 3 but overall the indicator is measured annually as quarterly figures can reflect seasonal variations and impact of service changes.

4.5.2 The number of physical visits to per 1,000 population to public library premises slightly declined when compared to the same period the previous year. From 3,673 per 1,000 population to 3,620 per 1,000 population. The indicator is below target at end of quarter 3 - overall the indicator is measured annually. First visitor count sample is always lowest of 4 taken during year. 2nd visitor count for 2010/11 returned an increase on 2009/10. 3rd visitor count returned decrease. 4th count planned for February with additional programme planned across libraries.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 That the committee considers the continued good progress made by the council and the Sunderland Partnership and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.