

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

8th September 2011

Performance Report Quarter 4 (April 2010 – March 2011)

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee with a performance update against the former national indicators relating to the period April 2010 to March 2011.

2.0 Background

Performance against the national indicators, particularly those identified as priorities identified in the former Local Area Agreement (LAA) have been reported to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2010/11 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. This report provides the end of year position.

In October 2010 the Government announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for council's to produce an LAA. In 2010/11 the Government also announced the demise of the National Indicator set and a move towards self regulation and improvement with an emphasis on reporting against local priorities.

As a consequence the performance framework of Sunderland City Council is being reviewed. A new framework is being developed that focuses on local priorities and the achievement of outcomes relevant to the people, place and economy of Sunderland. The new framework will form the basis of future performance reporting to scrutiny.

3.0 Performance

The following section contains a summary of performance against the key outcomes for children and young people of Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution and Achieving Economic Wellbeing. There is also a performance summary of the use of libraries in the city.

A full overview of performance can be found at appendix 1.

3.1 Being Healthy

Prevalence of breastfeeding (NI 53) has improved between Quarter 3 to 4 from 21.5% to 23.3%, although remains below target. At 95.9% breastfeeding coverage (percentage of infants for whom breastfeeding status is recorded), the 2010/11 target has been met. Work is continuing toward achieving stage 2 of the UNICEF Breastfeeding Friendly Status and there is a continued programme of training with

maternity staff, to ensure they are trained to UNICEF standards. A specialist lactation clinic has been established, which provides specialist support and advice for mothers who are experiencing difficulties with feeding. Whilst mothers discharged on a Thursday or Friday are not receiving midwifery visits until the following Monday the Health Care Assistants who have a focus upon breastfeeding are visiting breastfeeding mothers over the weekend to ensure they receive support and to check the feeding is going well. The 24 hour phone call follow up for mothers discharged is also due to be extended over the weekend period, to ensure continuity of provision.

During Breastfeeding Awareness week (20th June) a number of interventions and promotional opportunities have taken place, including 'The Big Breastfeed' at The Bridges, the launch of the Baby Buddy Guide to Sunderland which has lots of useful information about breastfeeding and details of where you can go to feed, change and breastfeed your baby when out and about. A survey of women attending ante-natal appointments during the week (between 500-600) has been carried out to glean information about their planned choices for feeding and information they have been given from midwives. 3 Focus groups have been held with new mothers to explore their decisions around feeding, what influenced them, their views on breastfeeding and what support would have helped them to consider and try breastfeeding. One of the focus groups was targeted at Dads. The findings from the focus groups are currently being analysed.

Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year (NI 55) has increased slightly from 11.0% to 11.2% compared to 9.8% nationally. **Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 (NI 56)** has increased slightly from 20.2% to 21.1% compared to 18.7% nationally. This annual survey has been reported previously to Scrutiny during Quarter 2. Actions to note at Quarter 4 include the LAF Programme (Lifestyle, Activities and Food), which commenced April 2010 and has had 92 children complete the programme between May 10 to July 11. Sunderland's LAF Programme consists of healthy lifestyle sessions aimed at encouraging and supporting families to eat well, move more and live longer. The LAF Referral Programme is for families of children aged 5-15 who have been identified as overweight; live in Sunderland and registered with a Sunderland GP. Work has also commenced to develop a training package for health visitors and school nurses on the issue of obesity, to support weaning interventions and improve practitioner knowledge

A Kaizen event was held in May for the National Childhood Measurement Programme, which identified a number of actions to ensure timely and complete submission of data and better engagement with parents, including rewording the parental letters to ensure they are more 'parent friendly', changing the consent process to increase uptake, and also improving the data collection process to ensure a more speedy process for issuing letters to parents with results.

Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people (NI 70) has reduced from 162 per 10,000 in 2009/10 to 193 in 2010/11. Hospital admissions data for intended and unintended injuries is now monitored through a sub group of the Safeguarding Children Board. The Safe at Home Scheme continues to run, although RoSPA funded ended march 2011 and

will be reviewed within the scope of Sure Start early Years Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) review. A gap analysis undertaken against recent national Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance and local data and future priorities identified as water safety, secondary schools and young drivers.

The latest available quarterly data for **under 18 conception rate (NI 112)** as at March 2010 shows a slight reduction. Data available for the latest four quarters shows a reduced rate per 1,000 pop from 53.3 to 52.8 (288 conceptions).

The Electronic C-Card System has been developed and training is underway which covers the system, sexual health, substance misuse and Chlamydia screening. 90 people have attended training as at June 2011. A total of 43 outlets are now live and after the first week there were 126 new registrations, 1202 condoms issues, 32 Chlamydia screens issued. The c-card was launched mid July which involved schools and community outlets. The promotional branding and literature includes a C-Card key fob and z-cards with all the relevant information for young people. The system will be set up to allow an automatic re-stocking of outlet condoms when they reach a low level.

Risk and Resilience Board have completed an audit to identify training needs of young people's workforce. A Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) training package is under development for roll out in September (core and enhanced offer). Funding has been agreed for a young persons contraceptive nurse and options counsellor, to be operational within Contraception and Sexual Health (CaSH) services.

The percentage of 15 – 24 year olds screened for Chlamydia (N113) has reached 31% (11,744 screens) which although below the 35% target is above the previous year percentage screened (27.2%). NECA have been commissioned for 12 months to co-ordinate Chlamydia screening activity across Sunderland, and have identified targets for a range of outlets. Promotional drives will continue within colleges and other key settings. Sunderland Voluntary Youth Sector have been commissioned to increase Chlamydia screens and are working in conjunction with NECA to achieve this. Chlamydia screening has been embedded within the new C-Card Scheme and now operates as an 'opt out'.

3.2 Staying Safe

At the end of March 2011 there were 411 Children Looked After (CLA) by the local authority (72.2 CLA per 10,000 local child population), compared to 387 at the beginning of the financial year. The **Looked after children stability indicator for number of moves (NI 62)** as at the end of March 2011 is in line with the national target and there has been an improvement against the length of placement (NI 63) indicator with 72.5% living in the same placement for at least 2 years as at March 2011 compared to 69.6% as at March 2010.

Initial assessments within timescale (NI 59) have improved from 66.5% at the end of financial year 2010 to 81.3% at the end of 2011 and performance has exceeded the target. **Core assessments with timescale (NI 60)** have also improved from 76.7% to 79.7% but performance was below target.

At the end of 2010/11 there were 400 children subject to a Child Protection Plan which represents 70.3 per 10,000 local child population. A total of 439 Child Protection Plans were commenced during the year, and of those 73 commenced for a second or subsequent time. The percentage figure for those **who became subject to a CP Plan for a second or subsequent time (NI 65)** was 16.6% against a maximum target of 12.5% and deterioration against the 2009/2010 figure of 13.3% outturn.

Care leavers aged-19 suitable accommodation (NI147) has exceeded the 86% target and improved on the previous year; whilst care leavers in suitable education, training and employment (NI 148) did not meet the 67% target and deteriorated on the previous year. There are particular challenges in enabling this group of young people to obtain and sustain EET with issues of offending behaviour, poor levels of engagement and poor attainment within the context of the current economic climate and the impact of this on opportunities.

3.3 Enjoying and Achieving

Performance for attainment for 2010/11 relates to summer 2010 results. Provisional summer 2011 results show that National Curriculum performance at primary school age has improved at all assessments. Early Years Foundation Stage Profile has improved in 2011 (NI72) and continues a four year upward trend although the rate of progress has slowed this year. Performance at Key Stage 1 has improved this year in each subject; both reading and writing are at their highest levels for the past five years with also strong improvement in maths. Percentage of pupils achieving Key Stage 2 level 4+ in both English and maths (NI73) is at its highest level over the last five years at 74% and has matched national results for the first time. KS2 Maths is above national performance.

A separate report providing a full breakdown of attainment will be provided to scrutiny.

3.4 Making a Positive Contribution / Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Performance indicators for the Youth Offending Service continue to perform well and make good progress. An excellent performance has been achieved both in relation to preventing children and young people entering the criminal justice system (First Time Entrants) and preventing those who have offended from re-offending.

In 2008/9 Sunderland was ranked within the bottom quartile nationally for **the rate of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System (NI 111)**, but has made significant improvement, improving the rate per 100,000 of the population from 3180 to 2615 to 1763 over the past three years (representing a reduction in actual numbers from 908 children and young people to 758, down to 501). This significant performance improvement has been achieved through partnership working with Northumbria Police to deliver effective diversion intervention and focused targeting of the Wear Kids Prevention programme. Triage and the Youth Custody Support Scheme have been successfully implemented in Sunderland to divert young people away from the criminal justice system whilst ensuring any specialist needs are met

through referral to specialist services and one to one case work. Building on the success of these initiatives Sunderland YOS has obtained funding to become an Arrest Diversion Pathfinder, enabling these schemes to be enhanced and expanded. The Wear Kids Prevention programme continues to work with partners to ensure that children and young people at risk of offending are identified and provided with specialist intervention. During 2010/2011 Sunderland YOS has undertaken work with partners to ensure effective referral and assessment processes to ensure that referrals are proportionate with geographical areas of higher first time entrants.

Over the LAA period 2008 – 2011 a reduction of 17.3% has been made in relation to **the rate of youth re-offending (NI 19)**. This has been achieved through a reducing re-offending strategy aimed at tackling the risk factors that national research has shown to be linked to offending. These include having a suitable accommodation (former NI 46) and being actively engaged in education, training and employment (NI 45). An excellent performance has been achieved against both these indicators as at March 2011.

The **percentage of young people (aged 10-17) sentenced to custody out of all those receiving a conviction in court (NI 43)** continues to be maintained at a low level. The performance of 1.9% represents just 13 young people and for a second year the Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has written to the Chief Executive of Sunderland Council congratulating Sunderland on this performance. This performance has been achieved through the delivery of effective alternatives to custody such as the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Scheme that have the confidence of the local courts.

The percentage of not in education, training and employment (NEET) young people (NI 117) for the statutory reporting period has reduced from 9.4% in 2010 to 8.4% in 2011 and the target has been met.

3.5 Libraries

The percentage of 4-11 year olds who are library members (LPI014 and LPI015) has improved from March 2010 to March 2011 and has exceeded target. **The number of overall active borrowers across Sunderland (LPI013)**, however, has fallen from 50,735 (181 per 1,000 population) during 2009/10 to 47,128 (167 per 1,000 population) during 2010/11, which is below target. **The number of physical visits to public libraries (BV117)** has fallen from 1,397,795 (4,962 per 1,000 population) to 1,375,681 (4,884 per 1,000 population), 2009/10 into 2010/11 and is also lower than the projected target of 1,605,690 (5,700 per 1,000 population). There is an ongoing programme to encourage active borrowing and reading including continued development of reading groups, author visits and promotions such as World Book Day, National Children's Book Week, Summer Reading Scheme and Six Book Challenge. There is an ongoing programme of activities and promotions aimed at increasing the number of visits to public libraries including outreach at non-traditional venues outside libraries (e.g. a reading group at a local pub). **The total number of items, including books and audio-visual material, issued within public libraries (LPI062)** was 1,211,951 in March 2011 which is below the projected target of 1,288,500. External factors including trends in downloading music and films are considered to have had a negative impact on issues of sound and vision material.

4. Recommendation

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.