

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 11th MARCH, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Stewart in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Francis, G. Hall and Oliver together with Mrs. P. Burn, Mrs. C. Hutchinson and Mr. S. Laverick

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Kelly, T. Martin, I. Richardson, Snowdon and Tye and on behalf of Professor G. Holmes.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 11th February, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 11th February, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

School Admission Arrangements – September 2011 – Urgent Business

The Chairman reported that a report entitled 'School Admission Arrangements – September 2011' had been submitted to be considered as urgent business.

The Chairman advised that he had agreed to add this to the Committee's agenda as urgent business in accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972 by reason of special circumstances related to the timescales involved for the submission of the admission arrangements to the DCSF and publication for parents.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 - Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – Progress on BSF Wave 2 and Submission of the BSF Wave 2 Strategy for Change (SfC) Business Case

Councillor Bell declared a personal interest in the item as a Council appointed Governor of Castlegreen Community School.

Councillor Oliver declared a personal interest in the item as a Council appointed Governor of Farringdon School.

Mrs. D. Butler declared a personal interest in the item as a Governor of Washington School.

Item 9 – School Admission Arrangements – September 2011

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest in the above item as he had recently gone through the school admissions process for his daughter.

Apprenticeship Opportunities

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided Members with information about apprenticeship opportunities within Sunderland Council.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sue Stanhope, Director of Human Resources and Occupational Development, presented the report advising the Committee of the current position and development within the Council and the targets for 2020 to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities not only in the Council but with partner agencies and in the city overall.

In response to a query from Councillor Hall regarding the overall success rate of apprenticeships, Ms. Stanhope advised that historically there was around a 66% success rate but that they were hoping to see this increase. With the introduction of a central team who could trace apprentices on the completion of their training and the 'grow your own' trainee routes being implemented by the Council, they were hopeful they would start to retain staff following their apprenticeship and the success rate would grow.

With regard to concerns raised by Councillor Hall around young people not in employment, education or training (NEET), Ms. Stanhope advised that they were working with colleagues in Children's Service to address issues around NEET, and especially in relation to looked after children. They were examining how apprenticeship work could be linked with work experience and where if a young person was in a placement, this could be extended to become an apprenticeship opportunity. This area of work was not as well developed as some but they were continuing to target young people who were NEET.

Councillor Francis asked how long an apprenticeship lasted and was informed that the duration of them varied according to where they were studying and the pace at which the individual made progress through the course content, as well as the occupation they were studying.

In response to a further query from Councillor Francis around the definition of a successful apprenticeship, Ms. Stanhope advised that there were two key areas to define, a success for the Council or Organisation providing the placement and a success for the apprentice. With regard to the Council/Organisation, they would see

it as a success if they retained the apprentice as a full time employer following the end of their apprenticeship, allowing them to grow and continue to develop within the organisation. A success for the apprentice would see them being given a good quality of training and development, as well as learning the appropriate skills for them to gain permanent employment in the city or region.

Councillor Francis questioned what qualifications the apprentices were able to get and what these would then lead on to and was advised by Ms. Stanhope that, again it was dependant upon the occupation and subject but that there were a lot of apprenticeships offering qualifications around the NVQ levels. As the Council invest heavily in training and development for employees, support is given to employees wishing to undertake vocational or professional training where possible.

In response to a question from Councillor Oliver around the age profile of people undertaking apprenticeships, Ms. Stanhope advised that the majority of participants were under 25 and that the Council didn't see much movement in trends around this but that she would check and report the information back to the Committee.

With regards to older, more skilled people taking apprenticeship vacancies from younger people, Mr. Laverick commented that the funding for apprenticeships was aimed towards those between the ages of 16-18 and that the funding for 19-30 year olds had been significantly cut back.

Ms. Burn referred to paragraph 3.2 of the report and commented that it was good to see the number of apprentice opportunities having increased since 2006 from 23 to upwards of 170 across Council Directorates and was told this was partly down to the fact that there had been a much more active jobs market since 2006 with the housing transfer to Gentoo and the transition from old style apprenticeships.

In response to a comment from Councillor Oliver regarding areas in which apprenticeships were offered within the Council, Ms. Stanhope confirmed that he was right in that they were still offered in the traditional areas, such as that of the office junior working his/her way up the career ladder but that the majority were in Business Administration, with apprentices working in areas around the Council where administrative services were provided. She advised Members that they were starting to try and map out what the future workforce was going to be and developing young people within the Council to fit these future roles.

Mr. Laverick suggested that the Council should have a procurement policy with their suppliers, whereby they had to commit to take on a number of apprentices. Mr. Moore advised that through the LSP partner organisations were encouraged to promote the use of apprentices within their own organisations.

In response to a question from Councillor Stewart around the progression routes for apprentices currently in the Council, Ms. Stanhope referred Members to paragraph 3.3 of the report and the developments taking place to promote a 'grow your own' ethos which would define routes into progression through the Council for staff. Historically, the Council had looked at employing experienced, qualified staff which has meant always bringing new people into the organisation instead of recognising someone who may have talent and skills to achieve that position with some further

development. They were looking to address this by providing trainee routes into all areas of the Council where possible.

Further to this, Councillor Stewart asked how the positions of trainee would fit with the apprenticeship opportunities and was advised that a lot of the apprenticeship positions created would be the trainee posts so there should be a seamless transition between the two.

Councillor Stewart asked how hard to reach groups and NEETs would be involved and was advised that the Council worked closely with the colleges and Children's Services who were able to identify individuals either already NEET or having the potential to be. The process was not as sophisticated as it needed to be but work was still ongoing around this with Children's Services to understand how best to work with groups or individuals prior to approaching them.

In relation to a query from Mrs. Hutchinson regarding the 'grow your own' model and recruiting and retaining social workers, Mr. Moore advised that for a number of years they had been looking at the progression routes for social workers within the Council. He explained that the qualification was now a three year degree course with a work placement for the second year. The Council offered placements for this year and then helped to support the individual during their third year so that they could return and having already worked within the section they should have a better understanding of the city and any issues. Ms. Meg Boustead informed the Committee that they also helped to support the students through their course by offering work placements during their holiday periods or out of class hours.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for her report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Social Work Roles and Responsibilities

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on developments within social work with children and families both locally and nationally.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Meg Boustead, Head of Safeguarding, presented the report to Members advising them on the following developments:-

- the update on the Integrated Children's System;
- consideration of how social workers spend their time;
- the findings of the Social Work Task Force; and
- the development of the Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Qualified Social Workers in Sunderland's Children's Services.

Ms. Burn referred to the fact that only 13% of the social workers time had been spent on client visits and asked if there was a way for the admin work to be carried out by

other members of staff. Ms. Boustead advised that it was an issue that had been discussed previously as to how best to use the talents of individuals within a service to support the frontline staff and free up professionals to undertake other work.

Councillor Hall referred to the social worker who was less skilled in IT and asked if the Council had training available to help them progress in this area and was advised that there was and staff who needed training were being identified and provided with the relevant course. She explained that one of the issues had been that the service had moved from a paper based procedure to an electronic one and as staff had left and been replaced the training had not been carried on but that this matter was being addressed.

With regards to each workers case load, as raised by Councillor Hall, Ms. Boustead advised that they were working towards ensuring that each worker had a manageable caseload, which at the moment was around 25 cases each. She informed Members there was a lot of difference between individual workers as each case came with a varying level of workload attached. One family could have 5 or 6 children within it which would not create as much work as 5 or 6 separate homes and then there was also the complexity of each case to take into account when looking at workloads so it was not as easy as just ensuring each social worker had the same number of cases.

They were always looking at how to reduce the caseloads of social workers and one way of achieving this would be to work more effectively. The service were working closely with partners to create an infrastructure to work with children earlier and provide more intervention.

Councillor Hall referred to paragraph 5.4 of the report and that the social worker who had been shadowed had spent 71% of their time in the office and asked if the worker needed to have ownership of all of the admin associated with their cases or if this work could be carried out by introducing a supporting admin position. Ms. Boustead advised that the difficulty lay with the administering of the Integrated Children's System (ICS) which was a fundamental role of the job. She advised that one of the criticisms which had come out from the Baby P case was that too much notice had been taken of the family and not of others involved with the family. The ICS contains information from not only the child and family but other agencies involved and holds a chronological history of the case so that anyone accessing it gets a full idea of the situation.

In relation to paragraph 6.4 of the report and none of the 15 recommendations from the Task Force being imaginative solutions to the problem of the national shortage of children's social workers, Ms. Boustead advised that they were interested in seeing if new routes could be found into social work as had been done for the teaching and probation services, whereby individual's life experiences could be taken into account rather than them just completing a degree course. This would allow older people with relevant life experiences to undertake a shorter course to be trained in the profession of social work.

Councillor Bell commented that there was a need to look at how the boundaries were set as to what the social worker did with families and ensuring that all agencies involved with the family were communicated with, especially since the findings of the

Baby P case. Mr. Moore commented that it had caused an increase of pressure on the system but that this had been a positive outcome for Sunderland as they were now receiving more referrals, which could cause a challenge to the service but it was for the professionals to agree as to how best manage this.

Mr. Laverick asked if the service were looking at ways to retain staff and asked if they had looked at other professions which involved high stress levels to see how they relieved the pressure on staff. Ms. Boustead stated that she was not aware of any particular studies into the social work profession but felt it may be something to look into. Mr. Moore commented that the Council had been improving over the last few years and that they were much more pro-active in looking at individual's careers and planning moves for them as appropriate. Schemes were also in place such as flexible working and staff were referred to occupational health if it was felt necessary.

In response to a comment from Councillor Francis regarding promotion opportunities for frontline social workers, Ms. Boustead advised that the Social Work Task Force had recognised that there were lots of other professions where individuals continued to practice as they developed but with social work it seemed that the only way to progress was by taking a management role. Two recommendations from the Task Force had been to create two higher positions than that of the social worker to give staff options for promotion which would still include some frontline work.

With regard to a query from Councillor Francis around tensions which may be caused by staff being competent at their job and the need for qualifications, Ms. Boustead agreed that it could pose a dilemma as individuals did expect to progress through their role but also that it would not be unrealistic to expect current staff to 'top up' any existing qualifications they had. The nature of the job was that it was one of constant learning and reflecting on practices.

Councillor Francis referred to the Victoria Climbié and Baby Peter cases and commented that it must be worrying for staff. He asked if the number of agency staff employed presented any worries for the section and how much, if any, extra management was needed. Ms. Boustead advised that team managers had experienced difficulties in the past with long term sickness of staff but that now there was a consistent cohort of staff in place. She commented that it was the responsibility of the staff to ensure that a level of continuity is kept, even at times of staff shortages, and this could result in more pressure on staff so there was a lot of work ongoing around developing and supporting staff where needed.

Councillor Stewart referred to paragraph 3.5 of the report and the detailed improvement plan for the ICS which Ms. Boustead agreed to circulate to Members for their information, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted and further updates be submitted to the Committee as required.

Change in the Order of Business

The Chairman advised that the urgent business item, 'School Admission Arrangements – September 2011' would be considered at this juncture.

School Admission Arrangements – September 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) appending the Cabinet report of 11 March, 2010, which sought approval of the school admission arrangements for September 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Hall referred to the proposed Published Admission Number (PAN) for Seaburn Dene Primary for 2011 reducing from 45 to 30 and the reason behind this. Ms. Scanlon advised that the school has had a number of surplus places and one way to support the school is to reduce their capacity and the PAN reflects this by being reduced from 45 pupils to 30. The Admissions Team have looked with the school at the projected number of pupils expected to come into the school and reduced the capacity and teaching spaces accordingly to reflect this.

Councillor Bell commented that as part of the school place planning process they looked at the cluster of schools in the particular area and found that the surplus across the number of schools in that area was substantial so places had to be reduced.

Councillor Stewart stated that it was a way of ensuring that schools were available in local areas. By reducing admission numbers, the Local Authority could support schools in reducing their overall capacity to ensure communities continued to have that school.

With regard to a query from Mr. Laverick regarding secondary school admissions policies and the Academies, Ms. Scanlon advised that as part of the Sunderland Model, the Academies had agreed to sign up and share the local authority's protocols on admissions. Preference forms were submitted to the local authority, who would allocate places in line with the set admissions criteria and the Academies would set their own appeals panels to deal with any appeals for oversubscription.

In relation to issues raised by Councillor Hall around applications to schools in neighbouring authorities, Ms. Scanlon advised that the local authority acting as a 'clearing house' for all applications to schools for children in Sunderland, so that any applications for schools outside of the authority would still need to come through the Council's Admissions Team who would then liaise with neighbouring authorities and schools. Where schools in other areas were their own admission authorities, such as voluntary aided or faith schools, this could lead to more complexities in dealing with out of authority applications.

She did advise that there had been a small number of issues and errors identified this year with regard to the co-ordinated admissions, whereby a school in another area had supplied the authority with a list of allocations and then amended it without then updating the Council's Admissions Team of the changes. She informed the

Committee that they were currently looking at a number of ways as to how better to liaise with other local authorities and schools. Councillor Stewart asked if a briefing note could be circulated to Members around the issues that had been presented this year and plans for future admission arrangements.

Councillor Francis referred to the reduction in the admission numbers at Seaburn Dene Primary School which had taken place over the last six years and asked if there were plans to redeploy any staff who were at risk. Ms. Scanlon advised that the PAN had been reduced from 90 to the proposed 30 for 2011 to reflect the expected numbers of pupils but that this had resulted in no staff redundancies.

Councillor Hall asked how many surplus school places there were across the city and was advised that there were approximately 13-14% surplus primary and secondary places combined. Ms. Scanlon commented that the Council could comfortably cope with this amount of surplus places if there were evenly spread across the city schools but they were not.

Councillor Stewart asked how parents could find out what the relevant admission criteria was for the schools they were applying for and was informed that all criteria's were included in the primary and secondary schools admissions booklet which was given out to parents of children in years 5/6 and of nursery age, as well as being placed throughout Children's Centres and Council Offices.

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – Progress on BSF Wave 2 and Submission of the BSF Wave 2 Strategy for Change (SfC) Business Case

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on progress made on Wave 2 of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme and on the submission of the BSF Wave 2 Strategy for Change to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) by 12 March, 2010.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

With regard to Farringdon School, Ms. Scanlon advised that one of the main benefits to Farringdon School would be space and the guidance document BB98 determines the amount of space funded in the BSF programme. Some schools in the first wave have found that some of them benefited from having the additional flexibility for the use of space.

In response to a query from Councillor Oliver around lessons having been learnt from the first wave in relation to ICT provision, Ms. Scanlon advised that the same process for ICT provision through a managed service was to be used. She explained that the contracts had been awarded over a five year period and that during the first wave of BSF there had been some early implementation issues. Lessons had been learned and changes would be applied during the implementation process in Wave 2.

Councillor Oliver asked how the managed ICT service had worked with regards to the aftercare service and keeping computers up and running to a good standard within the schools. Again, Ms. Scanlon advised that there had been some issues in the early stages but that in terms of how consistently the ICT was operating she informed the Committee that they would be on site in schools and that the support offered was very good. There was a helpline to call with any problems and they were now familiar with systems and could support the school and its provision.

Councillor Oliver asked if there was permanently someone on site to support the ICT provision and was advised that there was a Network Manager and an ICT Technician.

5. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted and that further updates on the progress of the BSF be received.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 March, 2010 – 30 June, 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider the relevant items of the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 March, 2010 – 30 June, 2010

(for copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the Executive's Forward Plan for the current period be received and noted.

Work Programme 2009/2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching the current work programme for the year 2009-2010.

[\(for copy report – see original minutes\)](#)

7. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted and items as discussed previously in the meeting be added where appropriate.

The Chairman then drew the meeting to a close having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and their contribution to the meeting.

(Signed) P. STEWART,
Chairman.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22nd April 2010

REPORT ON THE PHOENIX PROJECT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive a presentation by John Ord, Watch Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service on the Phoenix project in Sunderland.
- 1.2 The presentation will provide Members with an understanding of the programme and the impact it has on young people who participate. Members will also hear a young person talk about their experiences on the project, as well as having the opportunity to ask questions.
- 1.3 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme, will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priority of Learning City.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 14th January 2010, the Scrutiny Committee proposed inviting a representative from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service to attend the meeting to provide a brief presentation on the Phoenix programme.
- 2.2 The Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee has within its remit the overview of the Children and Young People's Plan, which includes the five Every Child Matters priorities of Being Healthy; Staying Safe; Enjoying and Achieving; Making a Positive Contribution and Achieving Economic Well-Being.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The Phoenix project was originally designed to address specific offending issues related to fire setting and associated anti-social behaviour. Since its implementation the project has captured the attention of young people, has been recognised through various awards, and praised by the media.
- 3.2 The project offers young people an intensive fire fighters course, providing work experience and education in the consequences of fire incidents/malicious fire setting. It provides first hand experience of working as part of a team and tasks include training to extinguish a fire using a hose reel, search techniques and hose running. The course

ends with a passing out parade to which parents are invited, where the young people are presented with several certificates of completion.

- 3.3 Courses have been targeted at specific groups including a course specifically for girls; children looked after by the Local Authority; and for parents who have expressed an interest in learning more about educating their children in fire safety.
- 3.4 The appeal of the project has enabled engagement with some of the most disaffected young people in the City and the project has high attendance rates. There is significant evidence that the project results in increased self-esteem, promotes positive attitudes to education, training and employment and reduces re-offending. Remarkable attitudinal and self-perception changes have been identified through the use of pre and post course testing of those involved with young people.
- 3.5 The Phoenix project has been evaluated by two separate academic studies, one of which found that of 58 young people attending the Phoenix project:
- 50 participants (86%) showed a substantial decrease in the seriousness of their offending.
 - The number of offences committed after completing the course decreased by 70%.
 - Almost half (48%) of the young people who completed the course desisted from offending altogether in the year following their attendance.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The presentation will provide members with an overview of the Phoenix programme and its impact on young people.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members consider and comment on the presentation made by the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

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PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 (APRIL – DECEMBER 2009)

REPORT OF THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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 relating to the period April – December 2009. This quarter report includes:

- Progress in relation to the LAA targets and other national indicators
- Progress in relation to the Alcohol and Young People Policy Review Recommendations
- Results of the annual budget consultation which took place during October / November 2009

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall that a new performance framework was implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators which replaces previous national performance frameworks. As part of this new framework 49 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2009 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. The LAA priorities are a key consideration in CAA in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people.
- 2.2 CAA was introduced in April 2009 to provide an independent assessment of how local public services are working in partnership to deliver outcomes for an area. The first results were reported in the Oneplace website (www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk) on 9 December 2009. Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee considered the findings of the draft Area Assessment report in January 2010.
- 2.3 Members will recall from previous performance reports that the CAA Lead plans to adopt a Risk Assessment Matrix which will be the primary tool against which the Sunderland Partnership will be assessed. The Matrix will incorporate those issues that were identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having the most potential to become red flags and green flags. Once the Risk Assessment Matrix has been agreed, the CAA Lead will use it to monitor progress against the agreed performance trajectory (up until the end of September 2010) for each issue to arrive at his final area assessment judgement for 2010. Progress will be monitored through the Council and the Sunderland Partnership's performance management and reporting

arrangements.

- 2.4 As part of ongoing improvement planning the Sunderland Partnership's Delivery Plans have been refreshed to ensure that the work programme is targeting the right issues, and outcomes can be demonstrated, minimising the risk of areas for improvement becoming red flags in 2010. These Delivery Plans were presented to Scrutiny Committees in February 2010.
- 2.5 The annual budget consultation took place during October / November 2009. 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 purpose of the workshops was to prioritise approaches to addressing the budget priorities that had been drawn from the survey results and also provide attendees with:
- A better understanding of the issues that have to be addressed in the budget setting process and information about the budget priorities
 - An opportunity to hear the viewpoints of others when making judgements about budget priorities

The findings helped to inform the Council Revenue Budget for 2010/2011 which was approved on 3 March at a meeting of the full Council. A summary of how resources will be directed to the top priorities identified in relation to children and young people can be found in section 3.2.

- 2.6 As part of the development of Scrutiny particularly in terms of strengthening performance management arrangements, Policy Review recommendations have been incorporated in to the quarterly performance report on a pilot basis. The aim is to identify achievements and outcomes that have been delivered in the context of overall performance management arrangements to enhance and develop Scrutiny's focus on delivering better outcomes both as part of CAA requirements and future partnership working. Progress in relation to the Alcohol and Young People Policy Review is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.7 **Appendix 2** provides an overview of the position for relevant national indicators and also any local performance indicators that have been retained to supplement areas in the performance framework that are not well covered by the new national indicator set.

3.0 Findings

3.1 Performance

- 3.1.1 In relation to Children, Young People and Learning nineteen national indicators are priorities identified in the LAA. An update is available in relation to 16 NI's in relation to the period April to December 2009. An overview of performance can be found in the following table.

Ref	Description	2008/09 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	Target 2009/10	On Target
NI 50	Emotional health of children	66.90	62.30	▼	69.50	✗
NI 56d	Percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded who are obese	21	20.20	▲	22	✓
NI 57	Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport	New in 2009/10	78	N/A	N/A	Not set
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	67.30	67.10	▼	74	✗
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	-6%	-13.6%	▲	-46.4	✗
NI 72	At least 78 points across Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales	44	53	▲	48.4	✓
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	72	70	▼	73	✗
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	43	45.1	▲	51	✗
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	5.2	4.7	▲	6.4	✓
NI 92	Narrowing the gap - lowest achieving 20% the Early Yrs Foundation Stage Profile vs the rest	42	37.1	▲	36.7	✗
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	83	83.5	▲	87	✗
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	80	82.4	▲	80	✓
NI 99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	80	42	▼	50	✗
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2	93	47	▼	55	✗
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS 4 (with English and Maths)	6	10	▲	20	✗
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	13.2	9.5	▲	9.5	✓
NI 161	Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy	1661	Annual		992	
NI 162	Number of Entry Level qualifications in numeracy achieved	204	Annual		120	
NI 163	NI 163 Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for	68.6%	65.4%	▼	66%	✗

	females qualified to at least Level 2					
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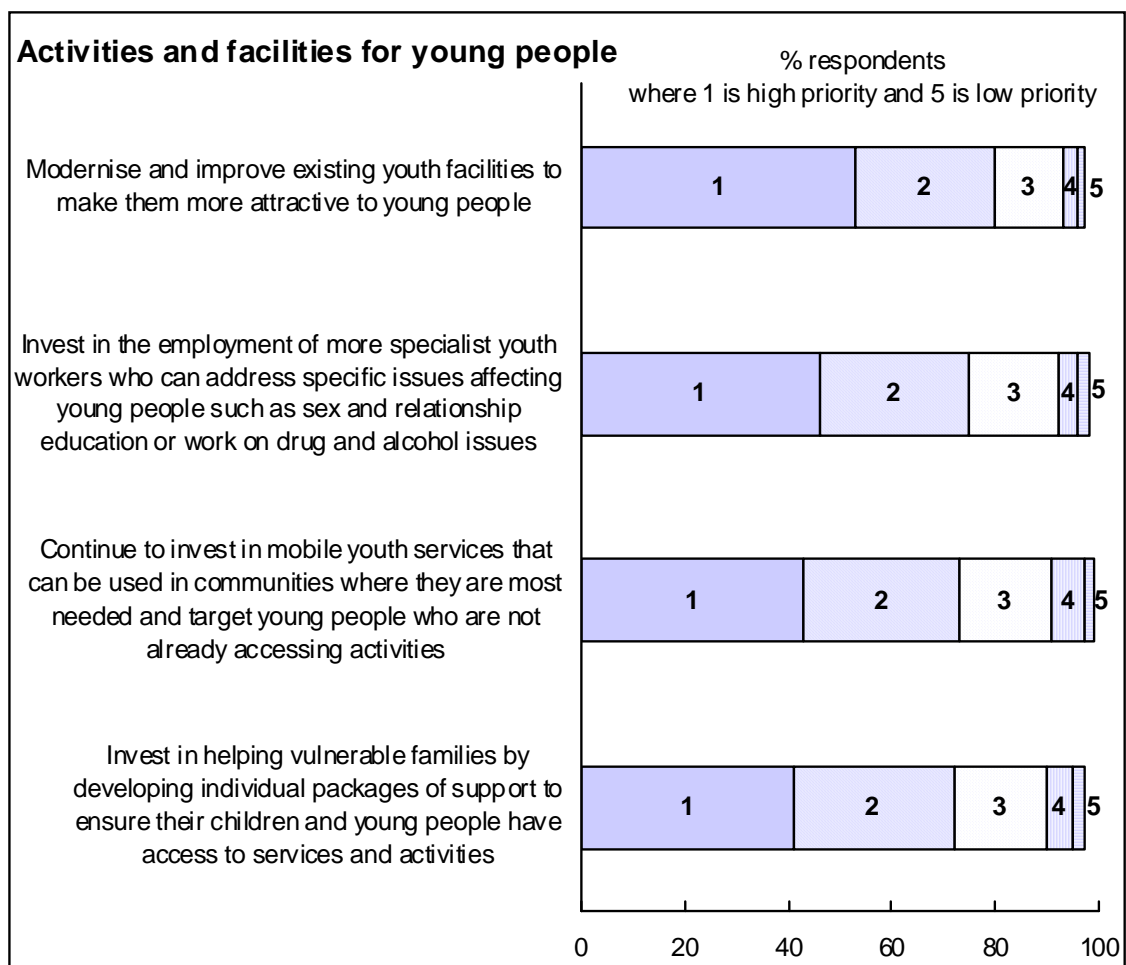
- 3.1.2 The Local Area Agreement (LAA) indicators for Children's Services include ten statutory school attainment and attendance indicators. The performance of these indicators at Quarter 3 reflects the 2009/2010 year end position, relating to summer 2009 pupil performance. Performance of these indicators remains unchanged from reported in Quarter 2 performance report.
- 3.1.3 Indicators that have declined between 2008/09 year end and 2009/10 quarter 3 are outlined below
- 3.1.4 NI 50: Emotional health of children. Indicator is based on the percentage of children with good relationships and is derived from the Tellus 4 survey. This is defined as the percentage of children who answered 'true' to having one or more good friends and answered 'true' to at least two of the statements about being able to talk to their parents, friends or another adult. Although performance in Sunderland has declined over the last two years, between Tellus 3 and 4 surveys, there has been a similar pattern across England. Sunderland's strong performance is highlighted through being ranked 2nd best local authority in England for this indicator in 2009/10.
- 3.1.5 NI 63: Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement. Indicator has declined very slightly from the year end 2008/09 figure of 67.3% to a 2009/10 Q3 performance of 67.1%. This is a rise on the position at the end of Q1 and Q2 and Sunderland compares well with both local and statistical peer group.
- 3.1.6 NI 73: Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and maths at Key Stage 2. Performance 3% points below its challenging target and 2% points below national average. This fall was due mainly to the 2009 English results where there were falls in both reading and writing standards. School Improvement Partners will have a key role in challenging schools on their progress towards agreed school targets and the identification of interventions where required. Specific support focussed on raising English include: promote and develop the use of Support for Writing and Talk for Writing materials; target underperforming schools at Key Stage 2 and implement the Every Child a Writer (ECaW) programme in 30 schools; engage targeted schools, where attainment in writing is low, in relevant development activity
- 3.1.7 NI100: Children in care reaching level 4 in English (NI 99) and level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2. Results this year were substantially lower than previous year due to exceptional performance of children in 2008. There is an overall upward trend in performance over the last three years. Strategies to raise performance in 2010 include supporting every looked after child who is not making the required level of progress with one to one tuition in core subjects. Each child in Years 4 to 7 has also been supplied with an ultra portable laptop including mobile broadband connectivity to support learning in and out of school.

3.1.8 NI163: Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2. The latest available data refers to 2008 through the Annual Population Survey. Reliability of this data year on year has been raised, however Sunderland shows a positive trend, increasing from 60% in 2004 to 61% in 2006 to 65% in 2008. More up to date analysis will be available in August 2010.

3.2 Budget Consultation

3.2.1 As part of the budget consultation a survey questionnaire was completed by 1075 Community Spirit panel members (a response rate of 67%). Sixty-one percent of respondents who expressed an opinion think that activities and facilities for young people have stayed the same over the last 12 months with similar proportions believing they have got better (20%) and worse (19%).

3.2.2 The majority of respondents considered all of the approaches to improving activities and facilities for young people to be high priority (ranked them as 1 or 2) as shown below. The most popular approach was in terms of modernising and improving existing youth facilities.



3.2.3 To explore the issues raised by the survey a series of workshops were held where participants were asked to prioritise a range of approaches to

addressing the budget priorities that emerged from the survey results. Activities and facilities for young people was an important priority not only in terms of providing young people with things to do but in terms of community safety and how communities get along together.

3.2.4 During 2010/2011 the council will allocate additional resources as follows:




An additional £300,000 will be allocated to support the expansion of youth initiatives including the XL Youth Village events which take place on Friday and Saturday nights across the city. The events have attracted many young people who did not previously access youth facilities and have led to significant reductions in anti-social behaviour.

A further £150,000 will be allocated to Mobile Youth Work. Two mobile youth buses will deliver activities to areas across the city to areas with little or no youth provision on Monday to Thursday evenings. They will be accompanied by elements of the Youth Village such as the football cage and Music Marquee.

The Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) were introduced by the Government in April 2006 as a means of developing young people's involvement in decision-making. Since then groups of young people have been supported to access a total of £1,116, 201 funding. More than 11,800 young people have benefited from improved provision and activities, More than 600 young people are managing diverse youth projects as youth leaders, participants and young volunteers, and 81 youth projects in Sunderland have been funded. There is one year left of this Government initiative. In 2010/2011 young people will be deciding on how a total of £375,300 (YOF) and £173,800 (YCF) will be spent on youth-led projects in the areas of most need, with the aim of funding.

3.3 Policy Review Recommendations

- 3.3.1 The recommendations agreed regarding Alcohol and Young People as part of the committees Policy Review will deliver a range of improvement activity. An overview of progress is attached at Appendix 2, the table below provides a summary of the number of each policy reviews recommendations that have been achieved, are on schedule to be achieved or are not on schedule to be achieved.

Policy Review	Rag Key		
	 Green (Recommendation achieved)	 Amber (On schedule)	 Red (Not on schedule)
Alcohol & Young People	0	8	0

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 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.

Alcohol & Young People Policy Review Recommendations - Progress April to December 2009

RAG Key				Current Performance		
★	Green - Recommendation achieved			Recommendation		
●	Amber - On schedule to achieve recommendation			Recommendation		
▲	Red - Not on schedule to achieve recommendation			Recommendation		
Ref	Description	Action	Owner	Delivery Timescale	RAG	Progress
AYP01	Strengthen the evidence base by:	AYP01.01 Recording - all agencies and services involved with the every child matters agenda to develop systematic recording mechanisms to record the incidence of alcohol use among young people	Helen Cruickshanks	Sep-10	●	As part of the review of commissioned services, the Joint Commissioning Team are currently developing a Health Needs Assessment for children, young people and families which will clearly describe the current health outcomes, identified need, along with the views of the target group. This will inform future commissioning intentions, as well as enable specific work programmes and interventions to be delivered in hotspot areas.
		AYP01.02 Analysing - the evidence recorded should be analysed to assess changing patterns of drinking habits and the extent of alcohol misuse in order to help inform the safer Sunderland partnership's alcohol strategy	Helen Cruickshanks	Sep-10	●	
		AYP01.03 Evaluating current strategies - to ensure that what is measured makes a difference, there should be assessment of the impact of neighbourhood interventions such as diversionary activities and youth work	Helen Cruickshanks	Sep-10	●	
AYP02	Further development of alcohol education by:	AYP02.01 Training - work with head teachers to prioritise local training for teachers in alcohol misuse issues and also for this to be prioritised as part of the curriculum	Peter Brown	Jun-10	●	As part of the implementation of the enhanced healthy schools model, work is ongoing with individual schools to determine priority areas. A number of teachers are currently participating in the CPD development programme, whilst a PSHE policy and supporting delivery programme is currently being developed for all schools.
		AYP02.02 Equal access - all children and young people should receive a common core of information and practical skills about alcohol through PSHE lessons	Peter Brown	Jun-10	●	
		AYP02.03 Structured and interactive lessons - delivery of PSHE should be structured to influence and reduce alcohol use and should include external agencies, parents, use of multimedia, and children and young people's perspectives. This could include 'myth-busting' activities in schools	Peter Brown	Jun-10	●	
AYP03	Support for parents by:	AYP03.01 Information - giving parents clearer information about how they can best support messages about alcohol including alerting parents to the dangers in purchasing or providing alcohol for young people	Glenn Riddle	Sep-10	●	The "Your Health" programme is currently being developed and will be launched in September 2010 within all young people's settings. The aim of the programme is to empower, educate and inform young people and their families around a range of health related behaviours, local services and information pathways. Materials will be printed and be available online, whilst five health information points which give out advice, as well as chlamydia screening kits and condoms, are currently being piloted in each of the five college sites enabling the 4,000 16-19 year olds to access appropriate information.
		AYP03.02Involvement - there should be a clear expectation that parents are informed about the timing and content of alcohol education	Glenn Riddle	Sep-10	●	

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
Strategic Priority Healthy City								
Outcome - By 2025 the gap in mental health outcomes between those who do well and those who do not will have been narrowed 90% of children will report good								
Local Area Agreement Indicators								
NI 50	Emotional health of children	66.90%	62.30%	April to Dec	▼	69.50%	✗	Decline from 2009 results; awaiting further data analysis from DCSF
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	67.30%	67.10%	April to Dec	▼	74%	✗	Indicator has declined slightly from the year end 2008/09 figure of 67.3% to a 2009/10 Q3 performance of 67.1%. This is a rise on the position at the end of Q1 and Q2. Sunderland compares well with both local and statistical peer group.
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	-6%	-13.60%	April to Sept	▲	-46.40%	✗	
National Indicators								
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services	16	16	April to Dec	◀▶	16	✓	Representing 16 out of 16 self-assessment score
NI 53a	Percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks (breastfeeding prevalence)	17.30%	22.50%	April to Dec	▲	24.10%	✗	
NI 54	Services for disabled children	new 2009/10	62	April to Dec				new indicator; data not currently available
NI 58	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	12.3	14.3	April to Dec	▼			
NI 59	Percentage of Initial assessments for children's social care carried out < 7 working days	66%	63.40%	April to Dec	▼	76%	✗	Cumulative performance at end of Q3 is 63.4%, a rise on the Q2 position of 62.1%. The overall number of assessments completed in Q1-Q3 of 2009/10 is 6.9% higher than in the same period of 2008/09, and 16.1% higher than in 2007/08. A series of weekly performance clinics are driving up performance.
NI 60	Percentage core assessments for children's social care carried out < 35 working days	74.9%	67.90%	April to Dec	▼	85%	✗	Cumulative performance at end of Q3 is 67.9%. The volume of completed core assessments in the year to the end of Q3 is 3.3% greater than in 2008/09 and 25.2% greater than in 2007/08. The number of completed assessments within Q3 is 40.4% greater than in 2008/09.
NI 61	Timeliness and stability of adoption of looked after children	67.6%	76%	April to Dec	▲	82%	✗	Quarterly monitoring of this indicator can fluctuate due to relatively small number of children involved. The indicator has improved between Q2 and Q3. In comparison between other authorities Sunderland has a higher proportion of older children being adopted and amongst the lowest proportion of younger children being looked after, this will exacerbate the length of time for adoption.
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves	10.2%	9.30%	April to Dec	▲	12%	✓	This is an improving indicator, from 10.5% to 9.3% 2007/8 to Quarter 3. Placement data shows high proportion of Looked After Children are placed in family placements. This Indicator highlights a reduction in episodes of children absconding from placement for more than 24 hours during the year. The indicator has been stable for all quarters in 2009/10.
NI 64	Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more	3.8%	4.10%	April to Dec	▼	4%	✗	There has been a reduction in the proportion of children subject of a Child Protection Plan lasting more than two years, from 7.5% in 2007/8 to 3.9% in 2008/9 to 4.1% at Q3 2009/10. National benchmarks categorise this indicator as Good at Q3, which is the highest banding (<10). The percentage has remained stable across Q1,Q2 and Q3
NI 65	Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	14.9%	13%	April to Dec	▲	12.50%	✗	National benchmarks categorise this indicator as Very Good in 2008/9 and Q3 2009/10. The number of children subject of a CPP continues to rise to 339 at the end of December. At 13% the indicator is in the middle of the top PAF banding (10-15%) and on target.

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	96.8%	97.50%	April to Dec	▲	100%	✘	This indicator has improved, from 96% 2007/8 to 98.5% in 2008/9, and at the end of Q3 97.5% of children had their reviews in timescale. National benchmarks categorise this indicator as Very Good at Q3. Sunderland aims for a 100% target; the reasons for a child being reviewed out of timescale are monitored and acted upon; the reviewing unit are aware of the few out of timescale and the circumstances behind this.
NI 67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100%	99.4%	April to Dec	▼	100%	✓	847 out of 852 reviews within timescale; the 5 out of timescale being investigated
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	78.2%	97.10%	April to Dec	▲	88%	✓	In 2009/10 indicator has maintained above target performance in Q3 of 97.1%. This maintains the Q3 internal benchmark of "Very Good". 781 referrals were taken by Children's services in Q3, a 16% reduction compared to Q3 2008/09. This represents a seven quarter low for referral volume (738 in Q4 2007/08). This indicator suggests a more appropriate progression of cases to referral from an initial contact.
NI 69	Children who have experienced bullying	48%	33.30%	April to Dec	▲	Not Set		
NI 70	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to CYP	178.90	153.1	April to Dec	▼	Not Set		
NI 71	Children who have run away from home/care overnight	7	12	April to Dec	▼	15	✓	Indicator self assessment continues to improve by quarter. Protocols are currently under development, but referrals are made whenever a young person is found or presents themselves out of hours. Sunderland is making continuous progress in the self assessment indicator and aims to achieve maximum score, with robust involvement by partner agencies, particularly Northumbria Police.
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	69.4%	54.70%	April to Dec	▼	Not Set		
NI 113a	Percentage of the resident population aged 15-24 accepting a test/screen for chlamydia	6.60%						
NI 113b	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	17.70%	14.50%	April to Dec	▲	25%	✓	
NI 126	Early access for women to maternity services	New in 2009/10	131.20%	April to Dec	n/a	83%	n/a	
Outcome - By 2025 we will have signigicantly increased the numbers of adults and children participating in sport								
Local Area Agreement Indicators								
NI 57	Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport	new 2009/10	78%	April to Dec	n/a	Not Set		
Local Indicators								
LPI 18	% of population volunteering in sport and active recreation	4.3%	Annual			4.56%	n/a	
Outcome - By 2025 we will see a reduction in the percentage of year six children identified as overweight or obese to below 15% and there will be a wide range of								
Local Area Agreement Indicators								
NI 56d	Percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded who are obese	21%	20.20%	April to Dec	▲	22%	✓	Indicator has improved from 22% to 20% over the last two years
National Indicators								

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
NI 52a	Take up of school lunches (primary)	49.4%	49.70%	April to Dec	▲	50%	✓	Despite the effects of the ongoing economic downturn the School Meals Service is confident of reaching their end of year targets. The overall under-performance from April-December includes the quietest time of the year for school meals (April - July) and does not reflect the busy period of January - March (although the full impact of the school closures due to the extreme weather conditions is yet to be identified). The Service has been proactive in engaging school councils and developing better partnership arrangements with Head Teachers (who have been much more enthusiastic in trying to increase school meal uptake due in so small part to greater expectations from OFSTED). There has also been a more structured approach to theme days, and from April 2010 there will be a more structured approach to pupil engagement and consultation, with the launch of the School Meals Investigator's Programme
NI 52b	Take up of school lunches (secondary)	34.2%	41%	April to Dec	▲	36%	✓	The increase in meal uptake is down to better partnership working with schools, an increased number of schools operating closed gate policies at lunchtime, and the refurbishment of facilities at Castlevue and Thornhill
NI 55d	% children in reception with height and weight recorded who are obese	10%	11%	April to Dec	▼	13%	✓	
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	15.90%	12.90%	April to Dec	▲			Indicator has improved from 14.2% to 12.9% over the last two years
Local Indicators								
LPI 20	Number of schools with a whole school food policy as a % of all schools	87%	87.70%	April to Sept	▲	100%	✗	
LPI 26	Number of schools working towards NHSS	98%	99%	April to Dec	▲	100%	✗	
LPI 27	Number of schools that have achieved NHSS	68%	75%	April to Dec	▲	75%	✓	
Strategic Priority Learning City								
Outcome - Ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds have access to cultural activities and are engaged in the design and development of them								
National Indicators								
NI 9	Use of public libraries	41.1%	44%	April to Dec	▲	42%	✓	Interim result to October 2009. Improvement from 41.3% in March 2009, however confidence level is +/- 4.3% so represents no change from 2008 baseline 41.1%
Local Indicators								
BV 117	The number of physical visits per 1,000 population to public library premises.	5489	3673	April to Dec	▼	5600	✗	Below target for year. Quarter 1 impacted by closures at Washington and Silksworth. 4th visitor count week Feb 2010, additional programme and marketing planned.
LPI 1	Total library items acquired per 1000 pop	238	150	April to Dec	▼	179	✓	On target for year
LPI 4	Total number of library requests	42695	33593	April to Dec	▲	42700	✓	On target for year
LPI 5	Total materials stock - audio, visual, electronic and other items (per 1,000 population)	71	71	April to Dec	◀▶	70	✓	On target for year
LPI 6	Total material acquisitions per 1000 pop - Books	228	144	April to Dec	▼	170	✓	On target for year
LPI 7	Total material acquisitions per 1000 pop - Audio, visual, electronic and other items	10	6	April to Dec	▼	9	✗	Below target for year but impacted by trends in CD's / Downloads etc
LPI 8	% take up of available ICT time in libraries	35	30.4	April to Dec	▼	36	✗	Additional 40 PC's now available across service points. Ongoing programme and marketing to raise awareness of new ICT facilities
LPI 9	Number of electronic telephone or mail enquiries	49628	42009	April to Dec	▲	50000	✓	On target for year
LPI 10	Total number of enquiries (libraries)	154489	118206	April to Dec	▲	154500	✓	On target for year

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
LPI 11	Number of books issued (libraries)	1220319	932358	April to Dec	▲	1221000	✓	On target for year
LPI 12	Number of issues of audio, visual, electronic and other items	49491	32325	April to Dec	▼	50000	✗	Below target for year but impacted by market trends in CD's / Downloads etc
LPI 13	Number of active borrowers per 1000 pop	174	178	April to Dec	▲	175	✓	On target for year
LPI 14	% 4-11 year old girls who are library members	66	72	April to Dec	▲	67	✓	On target for year
LPI 15	% 4-11 year old boys who are library members	58	63	April to Dec	▲	59	✓	On target for year
LPI 16	Total materials stock - books per 1,000 pop	1595	1559	April to Dec	▼	1590	✗	An ongoing stock review is concentrating on ensuring that a quality range of stock is available and to ensure promotion and display of new and current stock
Outcome - Adults will be offered learning opportunities that meet their individual needs and the needs of employers with the same focus upon appropriate								
National Indicators								
NI 13	Migrants English language skills and knowledge	New in 200910	Annual			Not Set		
NI 164	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 3	43.4%	43.4%	April to Sept	◀▶			
NI 165	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 4	23.8%	21.6%	April to Sept	▼			
Outcome - All children and young people will be offered the very best preparation and foundation for adult life. They will be offered appropriate personalised								
Local Area Agreement Indicators								
NI 72	At least 78 points across Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales	44%	53.40%	April to Dec	▲	48.4%	✓	Strong improvement for both boys and girls and improvement in all elements of Personal, Social & Emotional and Communication, Language and Literacy at level 6+
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	72%	70%	April to Dec	▼	73%	✗	Performance 3% points below its challenging target and 2% points below national average. This fall was due mainly to the 2009 English results where there were falls in both reading and writing standards. Girls' results fell by more than boys in both areas. SIPs will have a key role in challenging schools on their progress towards agreed school targets and the identification of interventions where required.
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	43%	45.10%	April to Dec	▲	51%	✗	Results continue to improve but rate of improvement is relatively low. Gender analysis shows boys have improved by 3.4% points while girls have remained static at 0.3% point improvement.
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	5.2%	4.70%	April to Dec	▲	6.40%	✓	Persistent absence at secondary level has improved from 5.2% to 4.7% in 2008/09 and has exceeded statutory target.
NI 92	Narrowing the gap - lowest achieving 20% the Early Yrs Foundation Stage Profile vs the rest	42	37.10%	April to Dec	▲	36.7%	✗	Gap has narrowed by 4.9% points this year and is just outside challenging DCSF set target. Gap reduction due to greater rate of progress by lowest 20% of pupils. The average total FSP score has also increased from 83 to 85 points. Gap has closed by more than 5% points for both boys and girls.
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	83%	83.50%	April to Dec	▲	87%	✗	The gap between Sunderland and national figures is not yet known but Sunderland missed its target of 87% by four percentage points. The LA is taking part in the National Priority Learning Local Authority (PLLA) initiative to identify and transfer best practice in maximising pupil progress across primary schools.
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	80%	82.40%	April to Dec	▲	80%	✓	In summer 2009 82% of pupils made two or more levels of progress in mathematics which was an improvement of 2% points from 2008 and 2% points above target. The LA is taking part in the National Priority Learning Local Authority (PLLA) initiative to identify and transfer best practice in maximising pupil progress across primary schools.
NI 99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	80%	42%	April to Dec	▼	50%	✗	Despite exceptional results in summer 2008, where Sunderland was ranked

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2	93%	47%	April to Dec	▼	55%	✗	3rd nationally at KS2 English and 1st nationally in maths, provisional results for 2009 show a decline in performance to level similar to summer 2007.
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS 4 (with English and Maths)	6%	10%	April to Dec	▲	20%	✗	5+A*-C including English and maths remains low at 10% and below target, but improvement on 2008/9
National Indicators								
NI 76	Reduce number of schools where under 55% of pupils achieve level 4 in KS2 English and Maths	6 schools	13 schools	April to Dec	▼	7 schools	✗	Increase in number of schools with <55% level 4+ from 8 in 2008 to 13 in 2009. The LA has targeted ISP support for all schools below the floor target and will make good use of this programme to bring about a level of improvement that will bring those schools above the floor target in 2010.
NI 78	Reduce number of schools where under 30% of pupils achieve 5 A*-C GCSE with English and Maths	3 schools	1 school	April to Dec	▲	2 schools	✓	Indicator affected by inclusion / exclusion of specific academies
NI 84	Achievement of 2 or more A*-C grades in Science GCSEs or equivalent	45%	49.20%	April to Dec	▲	52%	✗	Indicator continues to improve: 4% points improvement in Sunderland, which is just above the national rate of 3.4% points.
NI 86	Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	81.20%	93%	April to Dec	▲	n/a		Improving indicator; only one school categorised as satisfactory. Academies not included.
NI 88	Percentage of schools providing access to extended services	95.00%	100%	April to Dec	▲	100%	✓	Performance at 100% and exceeds national recommendations for 2009 (80%)
NI 89a	Reduce number of schools requiring special measures	1 school	1 school	April to Dec	◄►	0 schools	✗	Hylton Red House primary
NI 89b	Improve time taken for schools to come out of special measures	5 months	Annual			Not Set		
NI 102a	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (KS2)	23%	25.60%	April to Dec	▼	20%	✗	Both FSM and non FSM cohorts have declined at KS2 English this summer. Slight improvement in maths for FSM pupils while static for non FSM pupils. FSM eligibility at KS2 has remained stable at 21% over last two years.
NI 102b	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (KS4)	28%	27.80%	April to Dec	◄►	23%	✗	Gap has remained the same over the last two years
NI 103a	Special Educational Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks excluding exceptions	100%	100%	April to Dec	◄►	100%	✓	
NI 103b	Special Educational Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks	50%	100%	April to Dec	▲	75%	✓	
NI 104	The SEN/non-SEN gap - achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold	52%	53.80%	April to Dec	▲	50%	✓	KS2 gap has widened from 52% to 54%, summer 2008 to 2009. Performance of both SEN and non SEN cohorts has declined slightly. This masks improvement at KS2 maths and decline at English.
NI 105	The SEN/non-SEN gap - achieving 5 A*-C GCSE inc. English and Maths	48%	48%	April to Dec	◄►	46%	✓	KS4 gap has narrowed from 49% to 48%, summer 2008 to 2009. Improvement of both cohorts but with greater rate of improvement of SEN cohort from 5% to 9%; rate of improvement of non SEN cohort has slowed this year.
NI 107	Key Stage 2 attainment for all Black and minority ethnic groups	52%	51.70%	April to Dec	◄►	58%	✗	Narrative for Bangladeshi pupils only, representing only cohort that the LA has to statutorily set targets (>30 pupils per key stage test). KS2 Bangladeshi results remained the same in summer 2009 at 52% level 4+ English and maths. However, KS2 English declined from 83% to 62% while maths improved from 52% to 62%.
NI 108	Key Stage 4 attainment for all Black and minority ethnic groups	23%	37.90%	April to Dec	▲	28%	✓	Narrative for Bangladeshi pupils only, representing only cohort that the LA has to statutorily set targets (>30 pupils per key stage test). Improvement overall at KS4, from 23% to 38% at 5+A*-C including English and maths. However, widening gender gap with boys declining from 28% to 15% and girls improving from 18% to 56%.
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	0.03%	0.05%	April to Dec	▲	not set		Number of permanent exclusions has increased from 13 to 22 over last two years, but remains relatively low
Outcome - By 2025 we will increase the numbers of young people going on to higher education								

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
Local Area Agreement Indicators								
NI 106	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education	n/a	Annual		Not Set			
National Indicators								
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	71%	Annual		74%	n/a		
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	37.1%			39%			
NI 81	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	21.6%			21%			
NI 82	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	53.9%			52%			
NI 85a	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Physics)	64	47	April to Dec	▼	72	✗	
NI 85b	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Chemistry)	84	74	April to Dec	▼	87	✗	
NI 85c	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Maths)	102	129	April to Dec	▲	113	✓	
NI 90	Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas	148	339	April to Dec	▲	398	✗	
NI 91	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training	76.9%	83.60%	April to Dec	▲	82.70%	✓	
Strategic Priority Prosperous City								
Outcome - By 2021 we aim to provide 15000 new homes in the right place at the right price that people can afford through an affordable housing policy enabling								
National Indicators								
NI 46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	99.4%	99.80%	April to Dec	▲	99.50%	✓	The service continues to maintain a high performance against this indicator. In the period April – December 99.8% of all young people ending an intervention or being released from custody where in suitable accommodation. Over the consecutive 9 months this equates to only 1 person of 417 who was not in suitable accommodation.
NI 143	Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end	89.3%	78%	April to June	▼	83%	✗	
NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	88.5%	90%	April to Dec	▲	86%	✓	Partial year monitoring can fluctuate due to very small cohort size; at Q3, 18 / 20 young people were in suitable accommodation.

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
Outcome - By 2025 75% of the working age population will be economically active and the city will be contributing to the national target of ensuring the 89% of								
Local Area Agreement Indicators								
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	13.2	9.70	200910 Annual Out turn	▲	9.5	✘	NEET has improved from 13% at December 2008 to 9.7% in December 2009; target of 9.5% was achieved at January 2010
NI 161	Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy	1661	Annual			992	n/a	
NI 162	Number of Entry Level qualifications in numeracy achieved	204				120		
NI 163	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2	68.60%	65.40%	April to Sept	▼	66%	✘	
National Indicators								
NI 45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training	90.5%	93.40%	April to Dec	▲	90.60%	✓	For the cumulative period April – December 2009 the YOS has once again maintained a performance of 90%+ with 93.4% of all young people ending an intervention in full time EET. This is a particularly challenging indicator to achieve, however, Sunderland YOS continues to sustain this and historically out performs the region and national averages.
NI 109	Delivery of Sure Start Children's Centres	89%	100%	April to Dec	▲	100%	✓	
NI 118	Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	n/a	Annual			17%	n/a	
NI 148	Care leavers in education, employment or training	73.1%	75%	April to Dec	▲	62%	✓	Partial year monitoring can fluctuate due to very small cohort size; at Q3, 15 / 20 young people were in Education, Employment or Training.
NI 165	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 4	23.8%	21.60%	April to Sept	▼	Not Set		
Safe City								
Outcome - By 2025 more people than ever will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children								
National Indicators								
NI 43	Young people within the YJS receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	2.3%	3%	April to Dec	▼	2.30%	✘	Although this figure is slightly higher than the locally agreed target, the rate of custodial sentences for Sunderland remains low and well below the previous YJB target of 5%
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17	766	404	April to Dec	▲	751	✓	The YOS continues to make significant reductions in the number of FTE's, cumulatively April – December 09 a reduction of 26.7% has been made against the 08/09 baseline. This substantially exceeds the target of 1.9% reduction and equates to a difference of 147 people.

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Time Period	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
Outcome - By 2025 no-one will perceive attacks of harassment because of race, colour, religion or sexual orientation as a very serious problem in Sunderland.								
National Indicators								
NI 44a	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (white)	1%	Annual		1%	n/a		
NI 44b	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (mixed)	-0.5%			-0.50%			
NI 44c	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (black or black british)	0.3%			0.2%			
NI 44d	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (asian or asian british)	-0.4%			0%			
NI 44e	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (chinese/other)	-0.5%			0%			
Outcome - By 2025 there will be the lowest ever levels of drug related (Class A) offending and proven re-offending by adult and young offenders								
National Indicators								
NI 144	Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence	40%	42%	April to June	▲	40%	✓	

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 April 2010

PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, INCLUDING TELLUS4 SURVEY

REPORT OF THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: Safe City, Learning City, Healthy City

1. Why has this presentation come to the Committee?

- 1.1 This presentation has come to Scrutiny Committee in order to update Members on the participation activities involving young people, led by Children's Services, including the TellUs4 Survey.
- 1.2 The aim of the presentation is to inform Members of the outcomes from the Tellus4 Survey and the broader strong participation activities across the city for children and young people.
- 1.3 The presentation will cover
 - The outcomes from Tellus4.
 - Expanding on the work of the Participation Strategy Officers.
 - How participation informs policy development.
- 1.4 Judith Hay, Head of Positive Contribution and Economic Well-being, Children's Services Directorate will attend the Committee to present this item and answer questions from Members.
- 1.5 The presentation will identify the links to the Council's strategic priorities, particularly Safe City, Healthy City and Learning City.
- 1.6 The participation of children and young people allows us to identify priorities by local communities and develop services to deliver the Sunderland Way of Working.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee are asked to advise Children's Services on any additional actions that could be taken to increase participation and comment on the content of this presentation.
- 2.2 Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee are asked to contact the presenting officer if additional information is required.

3. Background Papers

- 3.1 Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2025
- 3.2 Draft Children's Services Participation Strategy
- 3.3 Tellus4 Survey Results
- 3.4 Supporting the Health of Children and Young People in Sunderland Survey

Contact Officer: Judith Hay, Head of Positive Contribution and Economic Well-being, 0191 561 1972
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REQUEST TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

For the Committee to consider nominating delegates to attend the 8th Annual Safeguarding Children Forum taking place on Thursday 10th June in central London

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Handbook contains a protocol for use of the Scrutiny Committees budget by members to attend training and conferences relevant to the remit of the Committee.

3. Conference Details

- 3.1 The DCSF is currently making revisions to the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance document. The revisions seek to build on original recommendations from Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, and build on the consultation which closed this month. The Head of the new cross-Government National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will be discussing this guidance at the Forum.
- 3.2 An expert panel of speakers will discuss the latest policy and guidance, share good practice and promote understanding from serious case reviews. The panel includes:
- Adrian McAllister, Chief Executive, Independent Safeguarding Authority
 - Cheryl Coppel, Chair, London Safeguarding Children Board and Chief Executive, London Borough of Havering
 - Andrew Flanagan, Chief Executive, NSPCC
 - Dr Roger Morgan, Children's Rights Director for England
 - Deirdre Quill, Director of Early Intervention and Prevention, Children's Workforce Development Council
 - Heather Brown, Divisional Manager, Social Care Safeguarding, Ofsted
 - DCS Gordon Briggs, Head of Child Abuse Investigation, Metropolitan Police
- 3.3 Delegates will be able to take part in interactive seminars including:
- Safeguarding children across culture and faith
 - Identifying and safeguarding victims of child trafficking
 - Safeguarding children abused through domestic violence
- 3.1 The cost of the conference is £379.00 + VAT per delegate. It is suggested that the Committee nominates the Chair of the Committee, Cllr Stewart and Cllr Bell to attend the Conference and report back to the Scrutiny Committee.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the attendance of two delegates to the above conference to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee.
5. **Background Papers**
Conference invitation

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16-19 EDUCATION AND SKILLS REFORMS – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

**REPORT OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a draft policy review following a review of 16-19 education and skills reforms.

2. Introduction

- 2.2 New arrangements for the planning and funding of education and training for young people will come into effect from April 2010. From this time, the priorities for young people and the responsibility for the outcomes achieved by them will be shared by the local authority, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and the college, schools, and training organisations that work directly with all those aged 16-19 and those aged 19-25 who are subject to a learning difficulty assessment. The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) will be responsible for increasing the number of Apprenticeships for all ages. Local authorities and the YPLA will work with NAS to make sure young people realise their Apprenticeship ambitions.
- 2.3 This is a period of organisational change. It depends on the local authority taking the lead in making sure young people have access to high quality learning opportunities, including entitlements to Apprenticeships. The local authority will become the single point of accountability for all 0-19 Children's Services and key to the planning, coordination and integration of services in the city and across sub-regional boundaries.

3. Aim of Review

- 3.1 The review looked at how the Council was meeting the challenge of the machinery of government changes, announced in 2008, which will transfer the planning and commissioning of 16-19 provision from central government to local authorities with effect from 1 April 2010.

4. Terms of Reference

- 4.1 The terms of reference for the review were to consider the process of change, particularly over the recent months, along with the effectiveness of :
- a) Bringing together provision for children and young people up to the age of 19 years;
 - b) Making sure that education and training for 16-19 year olds meets the needs of all - including the most vulnerable and those who are at risk of becoming NEET;
 - c) Planning education and training that balances learners' choices, employers' needs, and responds to economic trends

5. Membership of the Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 The membership of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee during the 2009/10 Municipal Year is outlined below:

Councillors Paul Stewart (Chair), Graham Hall (Vice-Chair), Richard Bell, John Kelly, Tom Martin, Dennis Richardson, Dianne Snowdon, Philip Tye, Bob Francis, Robert Oliver, and Ivan Richardson

Coopted Members Malcolm Frank, Christine Hutchinson, Marilyn Harrop, Howard Brown, Stuart Laverick, Gary Holmes, Dorothy Butler, Pat Burn, and Audrey Johnson

6. Methods of Investigation

- 6.1 The following methods of investigation were used:
- a) Evidence from the City Council's lead officer was presented to the Committee on 12 November 2009;
 - b) Observation of Machinery of Government Board Meetings held on 2.11.09 and 14 December 2009;
 - c) An evidence gathering session was held with providers and Connexions on 18 December 2009;
 - d) The undertaking of a detailed survey of providers across the city;
 - e) The Committee's involvement in a Stakeholder Meeting held at the Civic Centre on 18 January 2010
 - f) A site visit to the City of Sunderland College on 12 February 2010 which involved meeting with staff and students;
 - g) Members attendance at a North East regional React event on 17 February 2010; and
 - h) Evidence on the City Council's role in relation to Apprenticeships presented to the Committee on 11 March 2010.

7. Setting the Scene

The scale of the challenge

- 7.1 This is a huge programme of change. Despite best ever school results and college success rates there are still significant numbers of young people who drop out and too many are disengaged. Each individual young persons needs should be met within this new arrangement whatever their abilities and aspirations. Employers need candidates with basic and generic skills. A high quality vocational route driven by employers is the challenge.
- 7.2 The Public Service Agreements (PSA) with targets specifically in respect of the young people are:
- a) PSA 10 Increase the proportion of young people achieving:
 - i. Level 2 at age 19 to 82% in 2011 (from 73.9% in 2007);
 - ii. Level 3 at age 19 to 54% in 2011 (from 48.0% in 2007).
 - b) PSA 14 Reduce the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training by 2 percentage points by 2010 (from 9.7% in 2004).

- 7.3 Planning for increased participation rates will be done in the context of demographic change in the city and will need to reflect travel to learn patterns. While total population is projected to increase slightly, the 16-18 age group is projected to decline by 13% between 2009 and 2015. This is a faster rate of decline than is projected nationally and one of the highest rates of decline in the north east. The local authority faces a number of challenges in delivering this new arrangement and the decline in the population of young people adds to this challenge.
- 7.4 Reduced learner numbers is financially significant however the sector will need to deliver full participation through the entitlement while overall numbers of young people reduce.
- 7.5 Together, the challenges of demographic change, the raising of the age of participation, the new curriculum framework, and the need to secure maximum value for money in a time of spending restraint, the local authority has a considerable challenge and will need to review the pattern of local provision. Carrying through such an undertaking will be a major task, and implementing the outcomes will pose major problems in an environment made up of largely autonomous providers.

Variations in the learner population

- 7.6 Young people exhibit a huge diversity of need. High quality Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) will be critical in helping identify and meet those needs.
- 7.7 Many young people face considerable and complex barriers to engaging in learning. 32,300 young people in the North East – around 20% of the young population live in areas ranked among the 10% most deprived in England (compared to 12% nationally). Multiple issues are experienced by young people in the area young people including use of illicit drugs, and alcohol, high numbers of young people claiming benefits, and having one of the highest levels of teenage pregnancy in the north east.

The characteristics of the learning environment

- 7.8 The stakeholders, in addition to the young people, who are particularly affected by the changes are those currently in receipt of LSC funding.

Within the Council they are:

- a) 16-19 Team;
- b) ITEC/Riverside;
- c) Family, Adult and Community Learning;
- d) Workforce Development;
- e) Tyne & Wear Care Alliance; and
- f) European Social Fund (ESF).

Within the City they are:

- a) Sunderland College;
- b) Specialist Colleges;
- c) Work Based Learning (WBL) Providers (providing learning for 2,664 young people in the current year);
- d) Sixth Forms; and

- e) Voluntary and Community Sector.

The impact of the recession

- 7.9 The recession has created particular challenges in youth unemployment and in employers' ability to offer apprenticeships.
- 7.10 The youth claimant count rose by 3.18% between February 2008¹ and October 2009. While numbers are now falling (2.79% change by December 2009) youth unemployment remains a considerable issue².
- 7.11 Providers confirmed that employed apprenticeships have been affected, with some industries significantly affected. Many employers are unable to afford the cost of a learner and at the same time young people choose to go to college instead of work-based learning, giving double impact to a reduction in the number of placements. Additional funding has been available through the WNF but youth apprenticeship programmes remain at a reduced level.

Strategies to provide 16-19 learning

- 7.12 The City Council's 14-19 Strategy has been developed to contribute to the achievement of local targets to:
- a) Increase the number of learners achieving GCSE 5+A* to C grades including English and Maths;
 - b) Increase the number of young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education; and
 - c) Reduce the number of 16-19 year olds not in employment education or training.

The full range of targets from the 14-19 strategy are attached as Appendix A.

- 7.13 As the 14-19 Agenda continues to grow with the new arrangements the challenge is to ensure that there is sustainable funding to support a central 14-19 Partnership team to deliver on the priorities.
- 7.14 The 14-19 Strategy has been in place for some time and will need to be revised in light of the new arrangements. The NEET action plan is also being refreshed and embedded into the 14-19 Strategy and the LAA delivery plan to ensure a consistent approach across the relevant partnership groups.
- 7.15 The local authority will be responsible for producing a 14-19 commissioning plan including an assessment of apprenticeship needs. This will sit within coherent governance arrangements between the 14-19 partnership, the Children's Trust and the Sunderland Partnership. This integration of 16-19 with the wider Children's Services agenda is the missing piece of the jigsaw.

Early transitional changes

- 7.16 The year 2009/10 has been a year that required planning, administration, partnership working across travel to learn areas, staff transfer, consultation and

¹ February 2008 - the lowest point on the UK claimant count series - is used here as the initial measurement point to take into account the extended duration of the recession.

² The youth claimant count rate is calculated as a percentage of all young people aged 16-24

communication. 2010/11 will be a further transition year with the year 2011/12 expected to fully operate fully with the National Commissioning Framework (NCF).

- 7.17 This review has observed activities during the 2009/10 year and talked to stakeholders on their perceptions of the implementation over the next two years.
- 7.18 The local authority has a pivotal role in the transition process. Local authorities were able to organise their own structure and roles to take forward the new arrangements from April 2010.
- 7.19 In this transition year the LSC has worked closely with the local authority, Sub-Regional Groups and the Regional Planning Group to trial key elements of the NCF which will come into effect for 2011/12.
- 7.20 Sunderland is part of a sub-regional grouping (SRG) comprising the Tyne & Wear authorities and Northumberland with North Tyneside as the lead authority for the SRG. The submission made a robust case for the establishment of an SRG which reflected travel to learn patterns and the SRG is aligned with the governance structures of the City Region MAAs. SRGs will come together in a Regional Planning Group with other key players such as RDA, GONE, Young People's Learning Agency and the new Skills Funding Agency as part of a Regional Planning Group (RPG).

8. Findings

Complexity of structures

- 8.1 Structures and procedures will be set within the National Commissioning Framework (NCF). The NCF was out for consultation at the time of producing this report and will be produced by the YPLA in April 2010 for the commissioning process in the 2011/12 academic year. At the time of the review, the status of the NCF as a consultation document means that no firm commitment could be given to the proposals.
- 8.2 The new architecture involves:-
 - a) Schools, colleges and other providers
 - b) Local authority consortia
 - c) 14-19 Partnerships and Children's Trusts
 - d) Local Authority (key powers and duties)
 - e) Sub-regional groupings
 - f) Regional planning groups
 - g) YPLA (and SFA)
 - h) DCSF (and DBIS)
- 8.3 During the national consultation process concerns were expressed by stakeholders about what is perceived to be excessive complexity of structures and systems described in the NCF. Questions were raised about the need for four geographical tiers in the system; three sponsoring agencies for performance management of providers; and the complexity of the arrangements for commissioning apprenticeships, academy places and European Social Fund (ESF) provision.

- 8.4 Locally, Members found there were similar concerns expressed about the perceived complexity and lack of clarity around roles, responsibilities and accountability. There are concerns that the sub-regional grouping may lead to bureaucratic forums which could delay decision making.
- 8.5 The Committee found that the regional and sub-regional structures reflect key relationships and provides the opportunity to support delivery of the 16-19 changes within the Multi-Area Agreements (MAAs). Elected Members felt they should be involved at this crucial strategic level to oversee the employment and skills arrangements in the sub-regional area as well as directly, within the local authority area, working with the Executive Director of Children's Services.

Limiting the amount of bureaucracy for providers in administering the new system

- 8.6 A strong feature of promoting the new arrangements is that the system will be more coherent and simple. However, Members found that perceptions about over-bureaucratic systems were a strong concern. Providers do not feel they have had adequate communication on how bureaucracy will be managed. In the course of participating in stakeholder events, providers were given an assurance that they would not notice any additional complexity or administration and if there was any additional complexity it would be at sub-regional level. This gives rise to additional concern about adding extra administration costs and possibly taking resources away from delivery.
- 8.7 At this time it is no more than a perception that the reforms will bring complexity and bureaucracy to the system but this was a strong theme running throughout the evidence from stakeholders.

Meaningful consultation and involvement of stakeholders

- 8.8 Providers expressed a view that little direct consultation had taken place i.e. they felt they had not been able to directly feed in their views and influence the transfer arrangements. The SRG is aware that there needs to be ongoing dialogue with providers about provision from 2011/12 onwards. Some providers felt that there had been little dialogue as yet.
- 8.9 One option is for providers to be considered as partners in the arrangements as they hold the intelligence about current and emerging patterns of demand, rather than simply as providers from whom provision is procured. The counter argument to this position is that involving providers in the SRGs and RPG would represent an unacceptable conflict of interest in the commissioning process. In addition to provider engagement there is a need to ensure that regional and sub-regional structures effectively engage the views of employers and learners. It is therefore important to establish the strategic engagement of provider and employer whilst minimising the risk of conflicts of interest emerging.
- 8.10 The Committee found that there were some acute concerns about the commissioning arrangements from 2011/12 and reassurance was sought. 2010/2011 will be business as usual and will form the baseline of allocation. The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) seemed unsure that a procurement exercise would be required from 2011/12. Given the range of provision to be procured it seems there

would almost certainly have to be a procurement exercise under NCF from 2011/12. This seemed to be an emerging picture and requires a conversation.

Clarity about the relationship between the YPLA, the SFA, the NAS, and the local authority

- 8.11 In the new system there will need to be interactions between the local authority, the YPLA and the SFA, where the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) will be located. Providers were informed about the changes as they were set out in the NCF but did not have enough information about how the balance of responsibilities would be delegated for them to be able to be reassured about how this arrangement would operate. Information about the practicalities of how contracting will take place and what is expected from them was unclear. For example, while 21st century IT solutions are promised, the Management Information System used for funding claims was designed around the LSC system. There was concern expressed that the supportive relationship they have previously experienced with the LSC would change to a one of micro-management with a local authority funded arrangement.
- 8.12 One of the strong themes of the new arrangements is the opportunity to provide a more integrated approach to 0-19 education and to Children's Services in general. However, evidence to the Committee from providers indicates that it is not clear that, even with the creation of the YPLA, that provision would not become fragmented.
- 8.13 The Committee heard providers' concerns that at all the levels in the system (local, sub-regional, regional, and national) there might be delays in the decision making process with decisions being passed between the Non-Departmental Public Bodies before being made and communicated to providers. Providers need clarity sooner rather than later.

Planning in a demand-led system

- 8.14 There is a potential tension between the learner being at the heart of the new framework and a fully planned, top-down system. Providers asked for clarification about how a demand-led system will operate and where information on the demand from both employers and learners will come from to inform the best choices.
- 8.15 Although providers were informed that for the 2010/11 academic year there would be a hand over of the same volume and funding methodologies as had been operational in 2009/10 so that their immediate plans and delivery could be business as usual, providers were concerned that from that from 2011/12 onwards funding provision could dry up and they are unable to plan.
- 8.16 It is clear to Members after listening to providers that there is a particular lack of clarity around the future of work-based learning provision. The local authority is aware that existing providers should not be disadvantaged by the transfer. An assurance was given that in the first year (2010/11) the process will not be opened up to competitive tender unless there are gaps in provision. The longer term is clearly more uncertain and it cannot be avoided that some providers will deliver less or more provision than now.

- 8.17 There are considerable opportunities for providers in the new arrangements. The challenge is the impact funding changes may have on their ability to plan due to the uncertainties of volume of demand. The response to providers was that this could be addressed through ensuring that learners are well informed and advised to be able to make the right choices.

Fair, Transparent and Value for Money

- 8.18 Providers sought assurances about how the arrangements would be fair for providers and asked about appeals and complaints processes. Concerns were that the local authority should commission fairly and transparently from those providers who have a reputation and record of delivering high quality provision. Apprehension was expressed that certain providers would be favoured over others despite a track record of successful outcomes and quality provision.
- 8.19 Some in the existing local provider network informed the Committee they felt threatened by the new commissioning process, particularly around how the local authority will manage foundation learning and whether the college and schools will dominate provision.
- 8.20 There is also the potential for conflict of interest when the local authority is the commissioner and the provider. There is a concern that commissioning should support area priorities in the LAA and MAA.
- 8.21 The challenge for the local authority will be to support the existing quality providers within the system but also attract new provision. Alongside this the local authority must align learner and employer demand. Providers thought that there should be more planning and commissioning conversations than they have now and asked for further reassurance around the single commissioning conversation.
- 8.22 Some providers commented that they were not sure that with so many different groups vying for business that the level of quality of provision could be judged differently in each local authority area, which may lead to potential inconsistencies and not a level playing field.
- 8.23 Providers were assured that local authorities must take into account the principles of the NCF which sets out the basis for consistent and provider-neutral commissioning. SRGs will review and challenge the 16-19 commissioning plans of the local authorities in their group. As an additional safeguard against partial decision making the YPLA will be able to review the balance or diversity of provision.

Expertise within the local authority

- 8.24 Transferring the responsibility for funding to local authorities also includes the transfer of LSC staff into the local authority. Despite this, concern was expressed that the local authority may not have the capacity to take on this new responsibility and would need support to build the appropriate understanding of demand and supply information.
- 8.25 Providers informed Members that their relationship with the LSC had been supportive with local managers meeting with providers on a regular basis every 6 to

8 weeks. Having a dedicated LSC partnership manager for providers made managing contracts easier. While there will continue to be a one-to-one relationship with each provider there was concern that under the new arrangements each account manager would have a larger number of training providers to manage which would result in a less hands on approach.

- 8.26 Some providers were concerned that decision making within the local authority would not be strategic, meaning that decisions could be taken without real time information about demand / performance which does not create a viable or stable environment for providers to continue and grow.
- 8.27 For the local authority to be able to make informed decisions about providers in their area and to ensure they commission to reflect patterns of participation and advocate effectively for resident learners in other areas they need to be clear on the quality and performance of individual institutions to be able to provide an appropriate entitlement. Data is needed to ensure the system can supply the right data at the right time so that the local authority has a sound understanding of matching provision to demand.

Impact on NEETs

- 8.28 Raising participation towards 100% means that those young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) will need to be engaged in the process. The proportion of young people who are NEET has fallen recently, reflecting concerted efforts locally but the proportion of young people who are NEET remains higher than the national average at 9.8% (1 in 8 young people). The YPLA aims to reduce the number of young people who are NEETs by 2 percentage points.
- 8.29 Young People who are NEET are a priority identified in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). As such, this is a priority for the city. The LAA also aims to increase the number of young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education, which will have an impact on NEET.
- 8.30 A strong selling point of the new arrangements has been that the integrated approach could potentially help to engage NEETs. Evidence shows concern that inadequate funding for Foundation Learning programmes will impact on the long established E2E programmes, crucial training for some of the most disengaged young people.

Apprenticeships

- 8.31 By 2020 there is a national commitment to double the number of apprenticeships. Apprenticeships will be managed by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) which will be part of the SFA. Apprentices will be given employment status - a job with training. The apprenticeship programme is ahead of other MOG changes and had been operating for 9 months at the time of this review. Apprenticeships are critical in the context of raising the participation age and reducing youth unemployment. But the fiscal deficit is placing a question mark over adult skills and higher education funding.
- 8.32 Providers felt that they will be disadvantaged by what they perceived was a less flexible system and expressed disappointment that the Programme-Led

Apprenticeships (PLAs) would have no status as the ASCL Act gives apprenticeships employment status. Considering the relatively high proportion of PLAs currently delivered, providers were concerned about how they will move towards delivery of a fully employed status programme.

- 8.33 There was an assurance from the new agencies that there would be consultation on PLAs and there would be no change until August 2011. It was confirmed however that PLAs will not be expanded even if there is greater demand for apprenticeships.
- 8.34 Providers viewed PLAs as a valuable way for young people to start their apprenticeship qualification without being in full-time employment; particularly helpful when there is a contracted jobs market. There is concern that PLA's will become a second class option and the apprenticeship framework seems to provide no scope for individualism and flexibility, particularly useful for the NEET cohort, whereas PLAs provide the flexibility for individual need.
- 8.35 Apprentices are key in the new skills agenda and Members had concerns about how the very stretching target could be reached, particularly in a time of recession and massive pressures on public spending. There is a shortfall in the numbers of 16-18 apprenticeships and the target requires considerable work by the YPLA, NAS and the local authority. Effective communication would be essential to ensure the effective engagement of young people and adults. The NAS has identified the public sector as a key growth sector for apprenticeships and evidence was taken on the opportunities available for apprentices within the local authority.
- 8.36 The numbers of apprentices within the Council has increased considerably with one apprentice for every 79 members of staff and there is a 66% success rate into employment (although not all placements have been tracked). The Committee felt that progression for each placement is important and a central delivery team should be able to track and monitor progress more thoroughly. The local authority is training young people now for jobs that can be anticipated in 5-10 years with 60 additional posts being created across the Council, rather than just the traditional apprenticeships. In addition, the Strategic Partnership has been asked to promote the use of the apprentices across organisations within the partnership.
- 8.37 Despite the increase in the opportunities for apprentices, the Committee feels there is much still to be done. The solutions lie partly in large public sector organisations looking broadly at staffing needs, and looking beyond the traditional apprentice roles. The Council could also consider how the network of organisations it works with use apprentice opportunities.

Accountability

- 8.38 The responsibilities with local authorities give rise to new lines of accountability for achievement in participation, attainment and targets through local, regional and national structures.
- 8.39 Providers were uncertain about clarity of ownership and rights of appeal and complaint within the new structure.
- 8.40 They see the potential for fragmentation of responsibility for performance management. The local authority will be responsible for issues that the new

agencies will performance manage. The existence of a number of agencies involved in the local commissioning process has the perception of confusing accountability.

8.41 Accountability relationships will exist between

- a) The Children's Trust;
- b) 14-19 Partnership;
- c) Local providers;
- d) Partner organisations;
- e) Other councils;
- f) Employers; and
- g) YPLA and SFA.

8.42 The new arrangements should allow the local authority flexibility in their commissioning but providers commented that there is a need that they are held to account for the outcomes they deliver.

8.43 Some didn't know who they were supposed to be dealing with - the new agencies or the local authority. At this stage, the new agencies seem remote and separate from local issues and providers' business.

8.44 To compare quality provision effectively would require the same criteria across providers and clear and measurable set of targets implemented across all providers to ensure fair decision-making and good information for young people.

9. Conclusions

9.1 The Committee concluded:

- a) That clearly much has been put in place to enable the local authority to take on their commissioning role from 1 April 2010. However, notwithstanding this commitment to making the process work, on the basis of the evidence received there are clearly some important concerns from providers about how the system will operate;
- b) That the challenges ahead are significant and the transfer has huge potential for improvement and integration but some of the evidence showed that there were concerns that the proposals were overly complex. The retention of the expertise and commitment of LSC staff will be a considerable asset; and
- c) The process being put in place for 2010/11 through the NCF will be broadly similar to the processes operated by the LSC. While this will provide some reassurance during a period of transition, there will need to a considerable amount of work before the local authority and providers move towards delivering full participation. As yet, they have not won the hearts and minds of providers.

10. Recommendations

10.1 The Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee has taken evidence from a variety of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of

recommendations. The Committee's key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below and apply to the transition period 2009/10 and 2010/11:-

1. That Elected Members be involved at strategic level to oversee the employment and skills arrangements in the sub-regional area as well as directly within the City Council;
2. To provide a clear and transparent decision-making structure that is consistent with commissioning guidance received to date;
3. That consistent and easily understood communications are regularly shared with stakeholders;
4. That in order secure stakeholder ownership and buy in, the City Council should more effectively engage with key stakeholders such as providers, employers, by providing for a broad and inclusive partnership approach, which draws on the collective expertise across organisations and sectors;
5. That the role of apprentices across the City Council and with partner organisations be further developed and encouraged.

11. Acknowledgements

Lynda Brown, Head of Standards, Sunderland City Council
Helen Hunter, Senior Area Coordinator, Connexions
Dick Ellison, Chief Executive, ETEC
Denise Wilson, Chief Executive, Springboard
Ian Gardner, ITEC / Riverside Training
Janice Eigheten, Regional Director, Key Training
Derek Freeman, Managing Director, Milltech
Angela O'Donaghue, Stuart Laverick, City of Sunderland College
Michael Gilbey, YPLD, LSC
John Taylor, YPLD, LSC
Helen Radcliffe, NAS
Sue Stanhope, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Sunderland City Council

12. Background Papers

Prosperity for all in the global economy – world class skills December 2007 Leitch's Review of long terms skills needs

White Paper - Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver DCSF, DIUS March 2008

Machinery of Government Changes Regarding 16-19 Learning Cabinet Report 3 December 2008

Raising Expectations: Tyne & Wear and Northumberland Sub-Regional Group Submission February 2009

Machinery of Government	Cabinet Report 11 March 2009
Youth Commissioning	Scrutiny Committee report
16-19 Sub-regional commissioning for learning provision	Cabinet Report 3 February 2010
Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act	November 2009
National Commissioning Framework	DCSF November 2009

13. Glossary

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (ASCL Act) is intended to promote excellence in schools, colleges and work-based providers and create a more customer-driven skills and apprenticeship system.

14-19 Partnership

Partnerships formed between schools, work-based learning providers, colleges, local authorities, LSC and other stakeholders to collaboratively plan and provide the full 14-19 offer.

Apprenticeship

The Apprenticeship is a structured programme of training which gives an individual the opportunity to work for an employer, learn on the job and build up transferable knowledge and skills. A successful Apprentice will achieve an occupationally specific qualification alongside qualifications in basic skills and in a broader vocational area.

DBIS

Department for Business Innovation and Skills

DCSF

Department for Children, Schools and Families

E2E Entry to Employment

An entry to Level 1 work-based programme for 16-18's not ready to enter an apprenticeship, employment or further vocational learning opportunities.

ESF European Social Fund

Set up to improve employment opportunities in the European Union and so help raise standards of living. It aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them better skills and better job prospects.

FE College Further Education College

An education establishment for post secondary education offering anything from basic skills to A Levels, Higher Nationals and Foundation Degrees.

GONE Government Office North East

The transfer of funding from the LSC to local authorities means that there will be no single line of accountability for the achievement of key participation, attainment and

PSA targets from provider through local, regional and national structures. Government Office already has a key role carrying out progress checks and supporting and challenging local authority performance. This role will become even more important to ensure the new delivery arrangements achieve the range of improved outcomes envisaged for young people.

IAG Information, Advice and Guidance

This is the provision of impartial advice and guidance on learning and skills. IAG providers include the Connexions Service for young people and IAG Partnerships and LearnDirect advice for adults.

LLDD

Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

LSC Learning and Skills Council

A non-departmental public body responsible for planning and funding high quality education and training for post-16 learners in England, other than those in Universities.

MAA Multi-Area Agreements

MAA are cross local authority boundary arrangements to bring together key players in flexible arrangements to tackle issues which are best addressed in partnership at regional or sub-regional level.

MOG Machinery of Government

This is the term used to explain the changes to established systems of public administration.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS – part of the SFA)

Will procure the right number and type of apprenticeship places to meet the needs of each sub region.

NCF National Commissioning Framework

Guidance on the process for planning and commissioning learning provision for young people in England for the academic year 2011/12 to ensure that the system provides better opportunities for learners to participate and progress in learning.

NDPB: Non-Departmental Public Body

These are public bodies that are not an integral part of a Government department but are ultimately responsible to Parliament.

NEET

Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training.

PLA Programme Led Apprenticeships

Programme Led Apprenticeships enable employers who may not be able to support apprentices through a whole apprenticeship framework to offer training opportunities. A PLA contains at least one of the major qualifications that are included in an approved Apprenticeship or Advanced Apprenticeship framework, i.e. an NVQ or the Technical Certificate (sometimes referred to as a programme led pathway).

Provider

The provider is an institution or organisation that delivers training and education in return for receiving public and/or private funds.

PSA Public Service Agreement

This details a Government department's aims and objectives for the next three years explaining how these targets will be achieved and how performance is measured.

Raising the Age of Participation

The Education & Skills Act 2008 makes local authorities responsible for ensuring that all young people up to the age of 17 are engaged in education, training or work with training by September 2013, and up to 18 by 2015.

React

Funded by the DCSF, React's role has been to support councils through this challenging process. The React Programme is based within the LGA and supported by experts in local authorities. The team supports local authorities in building capacity to ensure the smooth transfer of commissioning and funding responsibilities from the LSC.

Regional Planning Group

Regional oversight of the commissioning of 16-19 learning provision, support and challenge to local authorities, and their SRGs, to help them make collaborative commissioning decisions that meet regional learning, economic development and skills priorities and are coherent across travel to learn patterns;

SFA Skills Funding Agency

Will route funding to colleges and other providers for learners aged 19 and over and will performance manage further education colleges. In future, FE colleges and other providers will receive an annual funding envelope based on previous performance and will draw down funding as and when students enrol, working with a dedicated account manager at the SFA across the whole range of their adult skills training.

Sub-regional groupings

Providing a forum for local authorities to work and plan together to build a picture of demand, which will include analysing data to understand travel to learn patterns and cross border flows, how well the current curriculum is delivering for young people and what the future curriculum entitlement will mean for learner demand.

Travel to Learn

This is a term used to explain the distance travelled to the learning establishment by each individual learner.

WBL Working Based-Learning

Learning which takes place predominantly in the work place. It includes Government Supported Training; Advanced Apprenticeships; Apprenticeships; Entry to Employment (E2E); and NVQ training.

YPLA Young People's Learning Agency

Will set a national framework for 16-19 commissioning; control the overall national budget for 16-19 and ensure that sub-regional plans work; provide strategic data analysis to support commissioning; allocate funds to councils to meet their plans for education and training. It will also fund and performance manage academies.

DRAFT

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 April 2010

ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To approve the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall scrutiny annual report 2009/10 that is to be presented to Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 In previous years each scrutiny committee has published an individual account of the work conducted by the Committee in an annual report, and was presented to Council. The annual report reflected the committees work programme and included achievements, highlights and policy review work.
- 2.2 This year for the first time the annual report will be a single combined report of all seven Scrutiny Committees. The annual report will outline the development in the scrutiny function and provide snapshots of the outcomes achieved during the last year.

3. Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee 2009/10

- 3.1 The draft Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee report is attached at Appendix 1 for member's consideration. The report provides a brief snapshot of the some of the main work undertaken by the Committee during 2009/10. It should be noted that the report is written from the perspective of the Chair of the Committee reflecting over the year.
- 3.2 Some of the main themes covered in the annual report revolve around the following issues:
 - Schools Performance
 - Children's Safeguarding
 - Behaviour and Attendance
 - Library services
 - Policy Review: 16-19 Education and Training.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Committee has delivered another ambitious work programme in 2009/10, which is reflected in the annual report. The Scrutiny Committee has worked well with Council Directorates, stakeholders and partner organisations to deliver the work programme and the Scrutiny Committee has tackled a number of key issues throughout the

year and looked to work with officers and stakeholders to provide solutions and improvements to services delivered across the city.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members approve the Children, Young People and Learning report 2009/10 for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 2009/10 Agendas

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APPENDIX 1: ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report: Children, Young People & Learning Scrutiny Committee 2009/10

Chair: Cllr Paul Stewart **Vice-Chair:** Cllr Graham Hall

Committee Members: Councillors Richard Bell, John Kelly, Tom Martin, Dennis Richardson, Dianne Snowdon, Philip Tye, Bob Francis, Robert Oliver, Ivan Richardson. Co-opted Representatives Malcolm Frank, Christine Hutchinson, Marilyn Harrop, Howard Brown, Stuart Laverick, Gary Holmes, Dorothy Butler, Pat Burn, Audrey Johnson.

As ever, the scope of the Scrutiny Committee gets broader and the landscape of children's services ever more challenging. Inevitably this year there were many more issues that members were keen to include in the work programme for a scrutiny focus but we have to be selective.

We started the year by questioning the Director of Public Health about the implications for Sunderland's schools caused by an outbreak of measles in a neighbouring authority. 11,000 children and young people had not been vaccinated mainly as a consequence of the now discredited concerns regarding the potential side effects of the MMR vaccine.

I am pleased to note that our revised remit brings libraries back under our scrutiny. We held a meeting in the central library and scrutinised the review of fees and charges including the concessionary rates and entitlements to them. We will be seeking to be consulted on further reviews to the fees and charges.

This is a transition year for major changes in the provision of 16-19 education and training and we have been monitoring the transition process to assess how ready we are for the changes. While this is a tremendous opportunity for a fully integrated service, at this stage there are still uncertainties and anxieties about what the future holds.

We have started to negotiate a new role for scrutiny members in monitoring how the local authority supports schools causing concern. Members will now receive termly summary reports based on known concerns, shared intelligence and Ofsted inspections.

The Committee is consulted on a number of statutory plans and this year set up a working group which involved members in the development of those plans at an early stage. We looked in detail at the development of a Behaviour and Attendance Strategy and attended consultation events on the revised Children and Young People's Plan.

A key role for the Scrutiny Committee has been to receive briefings on the roles and responsibilities of the safeguarding team. The Committee reviewed the actions taken by Sunderland Children's Trust to the Laming Report in taking forward the recommendations. We also received a detailed report on support for children in care which re-opened out earlier discussions on the

capacity of social workers and the pressures faced following the recommendations in the Laming report.

Youth Work provision from 2010 to 2013 to the value of £2.25m is being commissioned this year and there were twenty-four contracts out to tender. For the first time, members were involved in the commissioning process and helped in the appointment of contracts.

Young people's accommodation continues to be a cause for concern, in particular, the use of bed and breakfast accommodation, and support for homeless young people. The Committee asked the Children's Trust to consider the policy used to identify suitable housing for young people and to review the criteria used to make decisions.

We were very pleased to note that the targets for NEETs had been achieved for the first time. This was achieved through intensive and collaborative work and we congratulate all those involved in their efforts. It was noted that the number of permanent school exclusions has increased from 13 to 22. Although it was appreciated this is still very low, the Committee will be carrying out scrutiny of this area in the next year.

Our co-opted members continued to play an active and valuable role in the Committee and, more so than ever, their insights are valued when we are considering external plans and strategies. The City of Sunderland College hosted a visit by members of the committee to meet senior staff and talk to students which helped provide useful background and context to our review of 16-19 education.

We have tried to balance the work programme across the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan to reflect a broad review of strategic priorities. In the next year we will be seeking to clarify our accountability role in relation to other Boards and Forums in the City which have responsibility for delivering the priorities for children and young people.

Cllr Paul Stewart

Chair of the Children, Young People & Learning Scrutiny Committee

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2010 – 31 JULY 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 April – 31 July 2010.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 In considering the Forward Plan, members are asked to consider only those issues which are under the remit of the Scrutiny Committee. These are as follows:-

General Scope: To consider issues relating to children and young people, and learning for all ages.

Remit: Children & Young People's Plan Outcomes: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Positive Contribution; Achieve Economic Well-Being and Adult Learning, Libraries, Youth Justice.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The relevant extract from the Forward Plan is attached.
- 3.2 In the event of members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the current period.

5. Background Papers

Forward Plan 1 April – 31 July 2010

Contact Officer : Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer
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Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/May/2010 to 31/Aug/2010
Items which fall within the remit of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01374	Agree the procurement of therapeutic services for children who have experienced abuse with effect from 1 October 2010	Cabinet	09/Jun/2010	CS Joint Commissioning Team, TPCT, Corporate Procurement	Face to face meetings	Via the contact officer by 21 May 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning	Service specification relating to previous contract	Nick Murphy	5663235
01383	To consider the recommendations of the Children, Young People & Learning Scrutiny Committee following a review of 16-19 machinery of government changes	Cabinet	09/Jun/2010	Work-based learning providers, Children's Services	Evidence at Scrutiny Meetings	Via Contact Officer by 21 May 2010 - Children, Young People & Learning Scrutiny Committee	Scrutiny Committee Minutes	Karen Brown	5611004
01360	To agree the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 funding from the Learning Skills Council to the Local Authority in April 2010	Cabinet	09/Jun/2010	LA in sub regional group, 14-19 Partnership	Meetings and distribution of draft reports for comment	To the contact officer by 21 May 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning	ASCL Act, November 2009, REACT Briefing notes	Lynda Brown	5611410
01401	To recommend Council to adopt the 2010-2011 Youth Justice Plan, prior to submission to the Youth Justice Board	Cabinet	09/Jun/2010	Youth Offending Service Board	Meetings of the Youth Offending Service Board	To the contact officer by 14 May 2010.Children - Young People and Learning	YJB Guidance, Sunderland Strategy, CIP	Kelly Davison - Pullan	5663048

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

22nd April 2010

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to receive the updated work programme for 2009/10.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects issues raised during Scrutiny Committee meetings as the year has progressed. An overall summary of the work of the Committee is presented in the annual report set out elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.2 Since the last Scrutiny Committee meeting a working group of Committee members has met on 25th March to discuss progress and issues on the Behaviour and Attendance Strategy and considered good practice, consultation with heads, officers and young people, local data and national guidance.
- 3.3 The working group was informed that key targets for further action in developing the Behaviour and Attendance Strategy are :-
- A targeted reduction in multiple exclusions, targeting key vulnerable groups with specialist support and focusing fair access procedures and managed moves to support this action and incorporating the further education and voluntary/independent sectors into the delivery of support programmes;
 - Targeting support and intervention on high-excluding primary and secondary schools;
 - Further refinement of data analysis and sharing to enable more precise management decisions to be made.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That Members note the information contained in the updated work programme.

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

	JUNE 18.6.09	JULY 9.7.09	SEPTEMBER 17.9.09	OCTOBER 15.10.09	NOVEMBER 12.11.09	DECEMBER 10.12.09	DECEMBER 18.12.09	JANUARY 14.1.10	FEBRUARY 11.2.10	MARCH 11.3.10	APRIL 22.4.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy reviews (KB)	Scope of review – Commissioning 16-19 learning Looked After Children – Progress on recommendations			16-19 Learning – Setting the Scene (LB)	Achieving Educational Inclusion (MF)	Evidence Gathering Meeting – 16-19 Changes	Youth Work Commissioning (AN)	YOS Improvement Plan (JH)	Apprenticeships (SS)	Final Report – 16-19 changes
Scrutiny	Workforce Innovation & Reform Strategy consultation (PC/PT) Health Notice : Measles Outbreak (KM)	Laming Report Action Plan (KM) Health Notice : Swine Flu / Measles Outbreak (NC)	Library Plan (JH) HRH Primary – Improvement Plan (SM/MF)	Ofsted Inspection Framework / Schools Performance 2008/09 (LB)	Young Persons Supported Housing Project (PB)	Library Services Pricing Review (JH) Behaviour & Attendance Strategy (PH)		Schools Concerns Policy (LB)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (MB) Library Services Pricing Review (JH) HRH Monitoring Visit	Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities (MB) BSF Wave 2 (BS) School Admissions 2011/12 (BS)	Phoenix Project (Fire Service) Tellus4survey (SM)
Scrutiny (Performance)	HRH Primary – Improvement Plan (SM/MF) Ofsted 12 months progress Plains Farm Primary	Castle View Monitoring Visit (MF)	Provisional KS Results (MF/AB) Performance & Vfm Annual Report (SM)	Complaints Annual Report 08/09 (SM) LDD Strategy (SF)	Audit Commission School Survey 2009 (SM)	HRH Primary Improvement Plan (MF/SM)		Performance Q2 April – Sept 09	Attainment of C&YP inc Gender (LB)		Performance Framework Q3
Cabinet	Article 4: Youth Justice Plan 09/10 (JH/GK)							Strategic Planning Process	Article 4: CYPP 2009-11 LSP Delivery Report		
Committee Business	Work Programme 2009/10 (KB) Children's Homes Inspections Parenting Strategy	Libraries Conference	Ofsted Safeguarding Inspections Final Draft Work Programme	Co-opted Review (KB)	Libraries Conference Feedback (GH/TM)			CCfA revisions			Annual Report (KB) Conference Attendance
CCfA/Members items/Petitions											

At every meeting: Forward Plan items within the remit of this committee
Work Programme update