

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, CITY LIBRARY AND ARTS CENTRE, FAWCETT STREET on THURSDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 2009 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Stewart in the Chair

Councillors Bell, G. Hall, Snowdon and Tye together with Mrs. P. Burn, Mrs. M. Harrop, Professor G. Holmes and Mrs. C. Hutchinson

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Francis, Kelly, T. Martin, Oliver and I. Richardson and on behalf of Mr. H. Brown, Mrs. D. Butler, Mr. M. Frank, Mrs. H. Kelly and Mr. D. Snowdon

Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 12th November, 2009

The Committee's comments regarding the Young Persons Supported Housing Project had been submitted to Cabinet where they had been noted.

For information, Councillor Hall advised that residents in the area would be holding a public meeting and that a petition had been submitted to the meeting of the Full Council, with the planning application being expected to be heard during January 2010.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee held on 12th November, 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors G. Hall and Tye declared personal interests in Item 6 – Policy Review Recommendations Update : Achieving Educational Inclusion, April 2003

Library Services Pricing Review

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report which provided Members with the outline of a proposed review of the Culture and Tourism Fees and Charges Policy and sought views on the approach to be adopted.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Allison Clarke, Principal Librarian and Ms. Julie McCann, Performance and Resources Manager took Members through the report advising them of the actions that had already taken place to address immediate concerns that had been raised and of the planned next steps for the review to undertake. They explained that feedback from the results of the review would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

Councillor Hall commented that the review was welcomed and reiterated that it was intended that this would add value to the services. He stated that it would be advisable for the Committee to scrutinise the proposed price changes prior to them being agreed and asked for a timescale on a report coming back to the Committee. Ms. Clarke advised that it was their intention to bring a report back to the January meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman commented that it was good that the library service had picked up on the main areas of concern and given some clarity to users of the facilities. He looked forward to receiving the report at the January meeting.

The Chairman referred to a working group the Committee were holding on the 4th January which the report may want to feed in to before the actual Committee and Ms. Clarke stated that they would aim to have a draft report ready for that group.

2. RESOLVED that Members comments on the proposed review be noted and a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, following a draft report being submitted to the working group to be held on 4th January, 2010.

Development of a Sunderland Behaviour and Attendance Strategy

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised Members of the development of a Behaviour and Attendance Strategy for Sunderland and the opportunity for consultation.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Phil Hayden, Extended Services and Attendance Manager and Ms. Angela Noble, Headteacher – Pupil Referral Unit, gave a presentation to Members which set out the purpose and principles of the strategy as well as the key outcomes and priorities which would be targeted by the strategy.

(for copy presentation – see original minutes)

Mr. Hayden went on to present Members with a consultation exercise asking them to review the principles in the draft strategy and suggest any amendments or additions they may wish to have considered for inclusion.

Professor Holmes didn't disagree with any of the principles but felt that it may be difficult to measure the improvements made by this strategy alone as other agencies were working on the same area. He commented that it may be an idea to refine the indicators in a way which could reflect on how the strategy was making a difference itself. Mr. Hayden advised that they were making sure that the targets and measures were sharp and that national indicators would be contributing to outcomes but results would be looked at in more depth.

Councillor Stewart agreed that the principles could not be argued with but felt that it was important to then see how improvements were made at the action plan level. Having children stay on roll at schools and providing PDP's were good but there was a need for more detail and flexibilities to improve schools provision and support.

Ms. Noble commented that there were standard partnership agreements for 14-19 year olds which they were currently getting up and running and that they were looking at relationships with schools in each locality around the city. Ms. Lynda Brown advised that Head teachers were looking at making local partnerships and using the tools made available to them to target and re-engage young people.

Councillor Hall commented that he had been made aware that one of the problems Head Teachers faced with young people from an ethnic background was when they went away for long term holidays to visit extended family and asked how it was intended to get in touch with hard to reach groups and support them in explaining the importance of remaining in school during term time.

Ms. Lynda Brown advised that at present the figures did not show black, minority, ethnic groups being an issue as the majority of persistent absentees were white children. Mr. Hayden added that a piece of work had been started to help address the problem by any young person who has significant continual absences over a length of time being highlighted for action and monitored. They were sharing best practice and lessons learned with other authorities around the country to provide the best service possible.

Ms. Noble then went on to present Members with the second of three consultation exercises asking them to review the offer for children and young people as an entitlement, suggesting if Members felt this was right or if not, what else should be considered. Mr. Hayden suggested that members look at the entitlement as though they were a young person and think if it was the right entitlement.

Councillor Stewart commented that he felt young people would want to deal with one key person and not representatives from each agency they were involved with. He suggested possibly a contact in their School or a Local Authority Officer once they were of school leavers age.

Mrs. Harrop raised concerns over having the resources to support the expected provision in light of the current economic climate and was informed by Ms. Brown that the local authority had a statutory right to provide these and that most were already in place and happening and that they worked across the partnerships to ensure provisions were being made. Ms. Noble commented that they were also sharing good practice that was already in place and Head Teachers were responsive to sharing a 'pool' of resources in their locality.

In response to a query from Ms. Hutchinson regarding a programme for children who were disengaged with their school but quite bright or talented, Ms. Noble advised that they had Gifted and Talented Coordinators but they would try to look at the underlying reasons behind the young people not wanting to be involved. This would be part of the normal assessment process.

With regard to children with multiple or complex needs, Mr. Hayden advised that each young person would be assessed individually and the relevant support package be developed to best meet that child's needs.

Councillor Hall commented that there were varying categories of young people with a range of issues to communicate and queried the validity of the feedback to shape the strategy to address all. Ms. Noble commented that they had engaged and consulted with some young people and would be consulting with more and using the partnerships to help consult harder to reach groups.

Ms. Noble then presented the Committee with the third consultation exercise asking them to review the principles in the draft strategy and suggest any amendments or additions to them they may wish to have considered for inclusion.

Councillor Stewart commented that he was interested in the number of permanent exclusions from schools in the city and Ms. Lynda Brown advised that she did not have the figures to hand but would gather the information and email them to him.

Councillor Bell referred to the target to improve the number of schools as judged as good or better for behaviour by Ofsted and commented that some schools in the city catered specifically for young people with behavioural problems and asked how they could be better judged as it could differ depending on the nature of the pupils on the day Ofsted came to visit.

Ms. Noble advised that it was how to get the individual young person back on track as soon as possible and that inspectors would not be looking at the classroom environment only but at records such as the number of fixed and permanent exclusions and the data surrounding incidents to put support in place to reduce them.

In response to a further question from Councillor Bell regarding allowances being made for schools where children were placed because of bad behaviour, Ms. Lynda Brown advised that Springwell School had examples of good practice. The Inspector would look at the strategies and techniques in place and the youngsters that they catered for.

Councillor Hall sought clarification that the level of absenteeism by a young person had to reach 20% before any intervention process was started and was advised that the schools have a responsibility to maintain good attendance by pupils and when an absentee hits 20%, additional support from the Local Authority would step in. Schools did monitor absentees and those that showed any potential of hitting the 20% would often be highlighted beforehand, which could see the schools intervening themselves at around 15%.

Councillor Hall commented that 15% was still quite high and felt that targets should be possibly be reviewed to tighten them up further. Mr. Hayden advised that many schools would intervene well before the target but that the issue was in hand for the partnership to consider further.

Councillor Hall referred to the amount of school days missed by pupils due to them taking holidays during term time because they cost less. Mr. Hayden explained that as an authority they had worked closely with travel companies to address this but it was a national problem and costing was due to the market place at that time and could not always be reduced. He advised that the partnership were considering a zero tolerance approach to term time absence. Councillor Stewart felt that the only way he could see to possibly address this would be to stagger the school holidays. He also stated that there had to be clarity over the approach to term time holidays and consistency throughout all the schools in the city.

Mr. Hayden advised that the issue needed wider discussion with the partnership and families and that an audit of authorised absences would show any patterns in schools. He informed Members that the authority would be unable to enforce court action if a school had condoned absences for the pupil.

Finally, Mr. Hayden asked how the Committee would like to be involved in the review of the strategy action plan and outcomes and the Chairman suggested that a draft of the review be submitted to the working group the Committee were holding on the 4th January, which could then be fed back to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman having thanked the Officers for their report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted, including the timescale for consultation and that the Committee's comments and views discussed be included as part of the consultation process and that a draft of the review be submitted to the working group of the Committee to be held on 4th January, 2010.

Policy Review Recommendations Update : Achieving Educational Inclusion, April 2003

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members of the Committee on the progress arising from the recommendation contained within the 2003 Policy Review on Achieving Educational Inclusion.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Lynda Brown, Head of Standards, presented the report to Members advising that the Directorates commitment to educational inclusion had not changed but that the actions around it had and that it was hoped that progress would continue to be made. She also advised that the SEN had been subject to a review and the Committee may wish to see the results of this at a future meeting.

Councillor Stewart noted that there had been significant progress made over the years since the policy review had been held which showed in the major difference presently in relation to the support provided by the service.

He then referred to recommendation 12, regarding discipline committees for pupils out of school enabling governors to have a monitoring role being identified as having yet to be developed and asked for an update. Ms. Brown advised that the mechanisms and monitoring were in place and being carried out with a zero tolerance on informal exclusions now.

Councillor Stewart went on to ask if there were many complaints from parents direct to the Council, which Ms. Brown informed Members rarely occurred. Any complaints received were usually regarding bullying but in the first instance the school would normally have dealt with any parent complaints.

He referred to recommendation 30 and voluntary sector provision and the development of the quality assurance framework, asking for further detail and Ms. Brown advised that a presentation was to be given on the 6th January, 2010 informing providers that 14-19 learning could not be given unless they had achieved the Silver Quality Assurance Award. She informed Members that there was an issue at the moment around ensuring that a qualified learning provider had safeguarding procedures in place and they were having to review the framework to include safeguarding. Ms. Jane Hedley, Senior Solicitor, advised that the Safeguarding Board had had some discussion around this issue. Councillor Stewart asked that Members of the Committee be provided with further information as the framework developed.

Councillor Hall referred to learning provision outside of the curriculum which he had been involved in such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, which has helped to mentor and reengage some young people back into mainstream education, and felt that there was an argument for continuing to provide this in the same way as it was not seen as an academic activity to some young people. Ms. Brown commented that if the scheme was part of the package being delivered for that individual young person than the organisation providing it should have the quality assurance award. The Head Teacher partnership was keen to have this framework in place so that they could have confidence in the provider and ensure parents alike were reassured.

4. RESOLVED that the progress being made on the recommendations from the Policy Review : Services for Children in Care be noted and that further progress updates on the recommendations and Quality Assurance Framework be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Progress Report on Hylton Red House Primary School

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating the Committee on activity and progress at Hylton Red House Primary School that is subject to 'special measures' through an Ofsted judgement.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Members were advised that no formal judgement following the fourth monitoring inspection had been received yet but the service had provisionally been advised that it was very positive in every area, with the school making satisfactory progress. They had commented on the improvements to the curriculum and to engaging and monitoring of pupils, feeling like there was a real enthusiastic atmosphere at the school. A detailed report would be submitted to the Committee once the final inspection report had been received.

Professor Holmes felt that the model used by the authority had shown a real test of the service in getting the level of culture change within the school and expected that it had come at a cost. Councillor Stewart shared his views and felt it should be noted how well staff and the school had undertaken processes to continue improving the Ofsted judgement at the school.

Councillor Stewart also asked that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the work of the Interim Executive Board (IEB) and how they had helped in making the turnaround at the school. The Officer agreed to bring back a further report showing how the roles of the IEB members were set up and the impact they had had.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information and a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the roles and work of the IEB.

Ofsted Inspections – 12 Months Progress

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) inviting Members to consider progress in schools following Ofsted Inspection reports carried out approximately 12 months ago.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

In response to a query from Councillor Stewart regarding staff absences at Wessington Primary School he was advised that the member of staff was now back at work and that a teacher had been seconded from another school who was giving additional support.

6. RESOLVED that the progress in recently inspected establishments be received and noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 December 2009 – 31 March 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 December 2009 – 31 March 2010.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

7. 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)

8. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

Resignation and Appointment of Co-opted Members

The Committee was advised that Mr. D. Snowdon had resigned as a Voting representative on the Committee as he was no longer a Parent Governor of a Local Authority School and Ms. K. Brown advised that Ms. H. Kelly had recently been appointed by Council to the Committee as a Parent Governor Voting Representative and the new vacancy would be advertised accordingly.

9. RESOLVED that the resignation and appointment be noted and the vacancy for a parent governor voting representative be advertised.

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

14th January 2010

COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) REPORTS AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE (APRIL - SEPTEMBER)

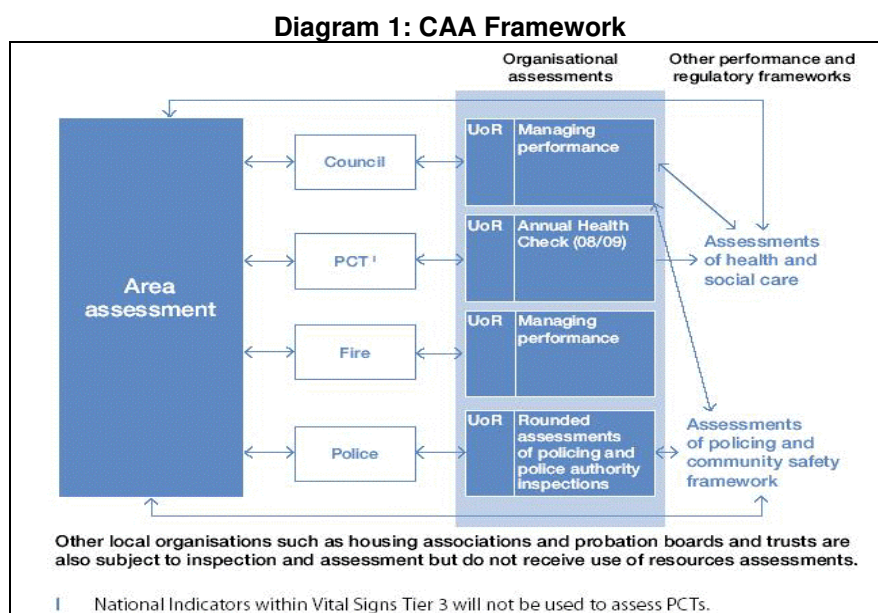
Report of the Chief Executive, Executive Director Children's Services and Executive Director City Services.

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Committee with the findings from the inaugural Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and a performance update which includes those areas identified by the Audit Commission (AC) as being the focus of improvement during 2010.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 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 on the new Oneplace website (www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk) on 9 December 2009.
- 2.2 CAA comprises two main elements namely, an area assessment and an organisational assessment for each of the four main public sector organisations (i.e. council, fire, health and police). This is demonstrated in the diagram below.



- 3.3 Members will recall that a new national 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 and are a key consideration in CAA in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people

3.0 AREA ASSESSMENT

3.1 Process and methodology

3.1.1 The area assessment focuses on the prospects for better outcomes on local priorities and is an annual assessment of the work of the public services in the city by a range of inspectorates. It answers three key questions:

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
- How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for improvement?

3.1.2 Between April and September 2009 the CAA Lead (CAAL) assessed the work of the Sunderland Partnership (SP) as part of the inaugural CAA Area Assessment. This was achieved through a series of workshops, interviews and briefing notes and a review of evidence (e.g. key documents, performance indicators, consultation results, etc.). This was an iterative process and the CAAL shared the findings at regular intervals throughout.

3.2 Findings – good practice and areas for improvement

3.2.1 The area assessment is not scored and does not carry a star rating. It is a narrative report providing an overview of progress against key priorities for the area, overall successes and challenges.

3.2.2 Area assessments may award green or red flags. Red flags highlight those areas where there are significant concerns by the inspectorates about outcomes or future prospects, and where more or different actions are required. Green flags highlight exceptional performance or outstanding improvement in outcomes through an innovative approach, from which others nationally can learn. No red or green flags have been identified for Sunderland.

3.2.3 The fact that Sunderland has no red flags demonstrates that the inspectorates have no significant concerns and that the Council and its partners are clear about what needs to be done and has plans in place to secure the necessary impact on outcomes.

3.2.4 Although Sunderland was not awarded any green flags the report recognises the positive impact the SP is making on quality of life. For example:

- There is a good record of attracting new businesses and investment to the city and this is likely to continue helped by an Economic Masterplan.

- The Sunderland Learning Partnership is helping to improve skills in the city and clear plans are in place for it to continue to deliver improved outcomes.
- There is a good understanding of the health, social care and wellbeing needs of the population.
- Easier access to treatment is reducing some health inequalities and this is likely to continue.
- Access to primary health care at a local level is easier and care services for adults are good.
- Overall crime is lower in Sunderland than similar areas in England and Wales and continues to fall and fear of crime is reducing.
- There are positive outcomes from a range of targeted work including drug treatment programmes, a safer homes programme improving quality of life, youth engagement projects and parenting initiatives.
- Sunderland's local environment is currently ranked joint third best of the UK's 20 largest cities. Social housing and transport are good.

3.2.5 The report highlighted a small number of areas for improvement, which are already priorities for the city, namely:

- To reduce the number of young people in Sunderland that are not in employment, education or training (i.e. NEETs) from the current levels of one in eight young people.
- To meet some key targets around health inequalities, which are not being met, such as reducing death rates for men to nearer the national average; reducing the teenage pregnancy rate; and smoking rates, particularly smoking during pregnancy.
- To continue to address child poverty, which is reducing faster than in other areas but remains high.
- To address the issue of affordable housing in Sunderland, through the implementation of developed plans.
- To ensure that City Region actions deliver improved actions in relation to transport and skills.
- To ensure the Alcohol Strategy delivers the planned outcomes, particularly in relation to alcohol related hospital admissions.

3.2.6 Good practice in relation to the services within the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny committee's remit and the council and Sunderland Partnership's own analysis of where we are at in relation to these improvement areas is contained in section 4 and 5. **Appendix 1** 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.

3.3 Improvement planning approach

3.3.1 The Sunderland Partnership's Delivery and Improvement Board considered the draft area assessment report, and in particular those areas identified as

being in need of improvement at its meeting on 11 November, as part of a wider discussion on improvement priorities for the next year. Delivery Plans are currently being 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 will be presented to Scrutiny committees in February 2010

3.4 2010 approach

- 3.4.1 The CAA Lead has now shared his planned approach to undertaking the evidence gathering for area assessment in 2010, which will differ significantly to the approach undertaken in 2009. There has been an acknowledgement within the inspectorates that the level of resources allocated to the assessment is not sustainable and so a more proportionate approach is now planned.
- 3.4.2 In Sunderland (and the rest of Tyne and Wear) the CAA Lead plans to adopt an approach with two complementary elements, namely:
- A Risk Assessment Matrix
 - A small number of themed probes across Tyne and Wear (the exact nature and subject of the probes have yet to be agreed).
- 3.4.3 The Risk Assessment Matrix will be the primary tool against which the Sunderland Partnership will be assessed and is designed to provide greater clarity and certainty around the final outcome of the area assessment (for example the number of green and red flags that will be awarded in the final report).
- 3.4.4 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, as well as any themes that weren't considered in the first year of CAA that the CAA Lead wishes to explore in 2010 (e.g. mental health).
- 3.4.5 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.

4.0 Audit Commission Findings

- 4.1 In relation to Children's Services the CAA report recognises the following areas of positive performance
- 4.2 The Sunderland Learning Partnership is helping to improve skills in the City. Clear plans are in place for it to continue to deliver improved outcomes. The shared sixth form model is an effective way of helping children and young people to take part in education and learning. A new school at Washington,

and three new academies opened in September 2009. Sunderland College's 'Business Solutions' helps employers by delivering training in the workplace to improve employee skills. The University works with businesses operating in the area, particularly to assist development of new business ideas.

- 4.3 One in eight young people in Sunderland are not in employment, education or training. This is well above national and local averages and a top priority for the area. A recent comprehensive needs analysis has identified the preferred destination and qualifications for every young person in Sunderland not in employment, education or training. Targeted work with vulnerable groups including young people leaving care and young offenders has increased the number from these groups in employment, education or training to well above national averages. Good links between schools, colleges and employers are increasing the chances for young people to acquire skills. This includes, in 2008, two new 'Sunderland Futures' applied learning centres for 14 -16 young people to be trained with links to employers. There is also the opportunity for all 14 new diplomas and a wide range of courses provided by the sixth form colleges and Sunderland College to be studied. As at 21 December 2009, the NEET outturn was 10.5%. It is anticipated that the final outturn will be further reduced.
- 4.4 Eleven-year old children now achieve at a similar rate to the national average. However, at 70 per cent achieving Level 4 in both English and Maths Key Stage 2 at the end of primary school they remain 3 per cent below those of similar authorities. In 2008/09, results for 16-year old young people are also improving with 43 per cent of young people achieving five or more A* -C grades at GCSE including English and Maths. Achievement is now matching that of similar areas although still being about 4 per cent below national average figures.
- 4.5 There is good information, advice and guidance to enable young people to access relevant learning opportunities. More young people from low income backgrounds progress into higher education through a good range of 'Aim Higher' activities. Young people from minority ethnic groups do as well as others in getting employment, education and training.
- 4.6 Care leavers have good access to suitable accommodation and this enables them to engage in employment, education and training. Achievement of Level 2 qualifications – like GCSEs - by the time people are 19 years old matches the national figure. However, figures are below average for the achievement of Level 3 qualifications – like A levels. Sunderland uses a good range of schemes to encourage young people who are looked after into work.
- 4.7 A Virtual Headteacher has been appointed to support the achievement of looked after children. The LACE (Looked After Children, Education) team and Connexions are now working together to relate educational achievement to progression planning. Each Year 11 looked after child has a personal progression mentor and subsequent plan. In 2008 and 2009, GCSE and equivalent results for looked after children in Sunderland were above national averages.

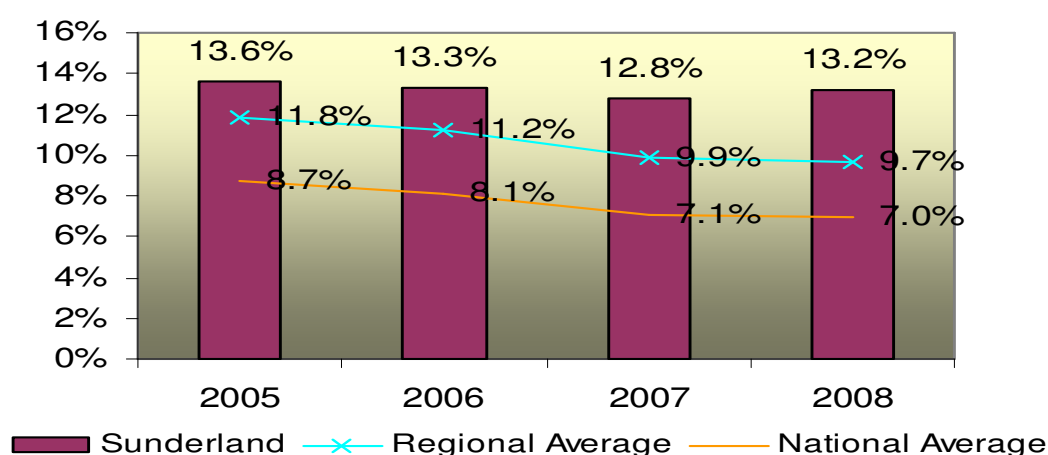
- 4.8 Through the Family Learning, Literature and Numeracy (FLLN) Programmes, people are able to further develop their skills in literacy, numeracy and personal development. Help to all adults who take part in the Adult Learning Programme ranges from crèche facilities, childcare, providing equipment or software such as IT packages to help those with dyslexia. Sunderland College helps improve peoples' basic skills by a 'Test the City' programme, which has enabled more than 6,000 people to gain a Maths or English qualification and attracted 2,500 'Skills for life' enrolments per year. An inspection undertaken by the Adult Learning Inspectorate, in 2009, judged Sunderland's Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) service to be "good" in all areas.
- 4.9 Safeguarding children is a high priority in the area. Families receive timely support to prevent young people entering the care system. When referrals are made to social care, assessments are conducted promptly. However, recent data indicates a higher number of children have been subject to a second child protection plan and there are also some difficulties in completing assessments on time. Looked after children are in stable placements and their reviews are held within the required timescale. Most are placed close to their families and friends.
- 4.10 Teenage pregnancy is not reducing significantly in Sunderland. In the last year the rate has increased to 57.3 per 1,000 females aged 15-17. Partners are taking co-ordinated action, targeted at specific areas and groups, including the expansion of the Healthy Schools Programme to Colleges.
- 4.11 Child poverty is reducing faster than in other areas, but remains high. Fifty one per cent of children in Sunderland are within the Government definition of 'poverty' compared to 44% in the North East and 42% in England. The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is a key part of the plan to move families out of poverty through increasing chances for getting jobs.
- 4.12 Provision for children's health is mixed. Obesity in children of primary school age (11year olds) in 2008/09 was 21 per cent in Sunderland compared to the year national average of 18 per cent. The Council, schools and other partners are tackling obesity levels through the Healthy Schools Programme. During the past two years, 99 schools and 30,000 children have been involved in the Sunderland Food in Schools Programme, which focuses on teaching youngsters the benefits of healthy eating and how to prepare and cook simple balanced meals. There are a good number of children taking school lunches in primary schools. Services to help the mental health of children and young people are good.
- 4.13 Re-offending by young people in Sunderland is lower than similar areas. Youth crime in Sunderland has fallen by 6 per cent in the last year. There has also been a reduction of 18.3 per cent in the rate of re-offences when comparing offending over a 12 month period for young people in 2008 compared to 2005. The Youth Offending Service works well and there are a number of schemes that provide good support and as a result fewer young

people receive a custodial sentence. This includes 120 places on the Fire and Rescue Service Phoenix Project helping young people back into employment. Young offenders in employment, education or training increased from 76 per cent in 2004 to 91 per cent in 2009, well above the national average. In recognition of good work Sunderland City Council and partners were announced as a Beacon Authority for 'Reducing Re-offending' in March 2008.

- 4.14 In addition Ofsted as part of their last annual performance assessment rated Sunderland City Council's delivery of services for children and young people consistently above the minimum requirements for users. The councils capacity to improve, including its management of services was rated as good (APA Grade 3).

5 Areas for Improvement

5.1 *NI117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training NEET*



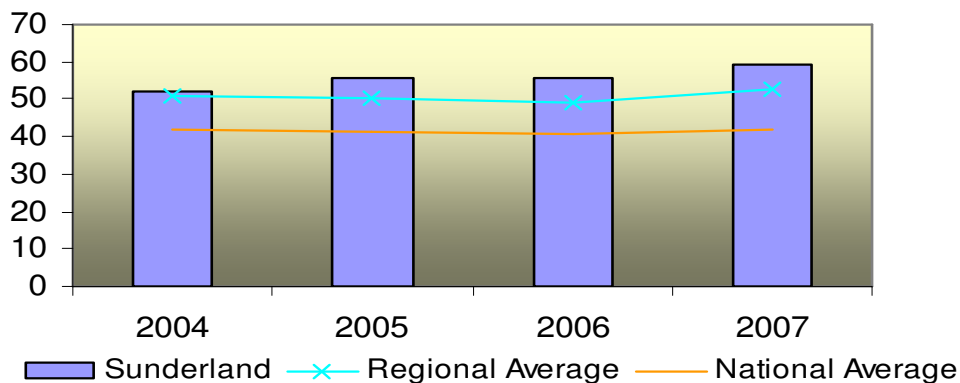
Year	Sunderland	LAA Target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
2005	13.6%	n/a	11.8%	1.8%	8.7%	4.9%
2006	13.3%	n/a	11.2%	2.1%	8.1%	5.2%
2007	12.8%	n/a	9.9%	2.9%	7.1%	5.7%
2008	13.2%	10.8%	9.7%	3.5%	7.0%	6.2%
2009	10.7% (Nov)	9.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

- 5.1.1 As at end of November 2009, 10.7% of the 16-18 cohort were not in education, employment or training (NEET). The number of young people NEET in Sunderland is considerably higher than both regional (9.7%) and national (7%) averages. Performance is currently not on schedule to meet the 2009/10 target of 9.5%, however revision of working practices within Connexions Sunderland has resulted in a 2.7 percentage point reduction on same time last year.

5.1.2 Improvement Activity

- Young people have access to the fullest range of learning and support. Through the Youth Offending Service the Resettlement and Aftercare Programme will engage young people into substance misuse services, the New Direction Scheme will engage long-term unemployed in training and work with custodial settings ensures employment and training programmes are in place.
- Concentrate on NEET programmes with high drop out rates/low rates of progression
- The NEET action plan is currently being refreshed as a consequence of the recent Turning the Curve event and embedded into the 14-19 Strategy and the LAA delivery plan to ensure a consistent approach across the relevant partnership groups.
- Implement multi agency packages to support 'at risk' young people.
- Improve transition from pre to post 16 provision.
- Implement full data sharing/tracking system for all partners.
- Develop Intermediate Labour Market Programme
- Identify skill shortages/gaps in provision.
- Implement a 'clearing house' system where providers get together to coordinate placements for those young people currently NEET
- Develop personalised programmes
- Increase take up of apprenticeships with partners
- Resolve data sharing issue with Job Centre Plus for 18 year olds.

5.2 NI112 Under 18 conception rate per 1000 females



Year	Sunderland	LAA target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
2004	51.9	n/a	50.8	1.1	41.6	10.3
2005	55.9	n/a	50.0	5.9	41.3	14.6
2006	55.5	n/a	48.8	6.7	40.6	14.9
2007	59.3	n/a	52.9	6.4	41.7	17.6
2008	n/a	38.81	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

5.2.1 Under 18 conception data is released quarterly and the latest data available is based on a rolling 12 month period to June 2008. Over the previous 12 months the rate has continued to decrease. At the end of 2007, the rate in

Sunderland was 59.3 per 1000 females, decreasing to 54.5 for the latest 12 months to June 2008. March and June 2008 quarterly figures are the lowest since 2006. Although Sunderland remains above both north east and national averages, the rate of improvement is stronger in Sunderland over the last 12 months, reducing from 59.3 to 54.5, compared to 41.8 to 41.4 nationally and 53 to 50.6 in the north east. The actual numbers of under 18 conceptions for the latest 12 months are 303 (July 07 to June 08) compared to 321 for July 06 to June 07. The LAA indicator is based on the rate of reduction from the 1998 baseline; in Sunderland the rate has reduced by 13.6% since 1998 compared to 11.2% nationally (at June 2008), although this is considerably short of the challenging LAA target of 46% reduction by 2010.

5.2.2 Improvement activity

5.2.3 In addition to a minimum core offer available to all children, young people and families in the strategy delivered within each locality area there will be specific targeted support in relation to both geographic communities and specific groups of children young people and their families including:

- those from marginalised and disadvantaged communities including some black and minority ethnic groups
- those who have ever been looked after by the local authority, fostered or homeless or have moved frequently (LAC and care leavers)
- those with low educational achievement
- those who disengage with education
- those not in education employment or training
- those from disadvantaged areas
- those with emotional and mental health needs
- targeting of teenage pregnancy “hotspot” wards

5.3 NI 116 Child Poverty

5.3.1 In relation to child poverty 51% of children live in low income families compared to 44% in the North East and 42% nationally. Out of a total of 25,074 households with children:

- 36% live in relative poverty (below 60% of median income before housing costs) and of these 60% are lone parent families,
- 19% live in absolute poverty (income less than £867 per month) and of these 70% are lone parent families

5.3.2 Improvement Activity

5.3.2 There are four key objectives linked to improving outcomes to reduce child poverty in Sunderland which focus on:

- A. Targeting education, health and family support services
- reducing the attainment gap
 - targeting child and family service to families most in need

- improving parenting and life skills across the city
 - reducing health inequalities
 - reducing teenage conceptions
- B. Removing the barriers to employment and increasing the numbers in work
- Identifying the particular needs of lone parents to offer additional support
 - Putting in place a targeted approach to reduce the number of young people not in education employment or training (NEET)
 - Engaging the hardest to reach young people
 - Increasing the number of jobs in the public sector / key partners targeting families in poverty
- C. Improving financial inclusion in the city and maximise family income
- Developing a Financial Inclusion Strategy for the city
 - Maximising the take up of benefits
 - Increasing the take up of free school meals
 - Improving debt management skills
 - Supporting the newly unemployed
 - Support the development of credit unions
- D. Raising aspirations and tackling poverty of place in order to break the cycle of poverty
- Raising awareness and actively engaging communities in child poverty through social marketing
 - Improving community capacity in targeted communities
 - Improving the environment in our most deprived areas

A Child Poverty Strategy has been developed to establish these objectives and an action plan is being developed to establish key milestones and accountability

- 5.4 In relation to Children, Young People and Learning sixteen national indicators are priorities identified in the LAA, at the end of the second quarter there was information available against 14 indicators. An overview of performance can be found in the following table.

Ref	Description	2008/09 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	Target 2009/10	On Target	National Average
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	67.30	69	▲	74	✗	66.87
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	-6%	-7.6%	▲	-46.4	✗	-9.41%
NI 72	At least 78 points across Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales	44	53	▲	48.4	✓	51.22

Ref	Description	2008/09 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	Target 2009/10	On Target	National Average
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	72	70	▼	73	✗	71.82
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	43	44.8	▲	51	✗	50.05
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	5.2	6	▼	6.4	✓	5.61
NI 92	Narrowing the gap - lowest achieving 20% the Early Yrs Foundation Stage Profile vs the rest	42	37.2	▲	36.7	✗	33.69
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	83	83	◀▶	87	✗	83.84
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	80	82	▲	80	✓	76.28
NI 99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	80	42.1	▼	50	✗	Not calculated
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2	93	47.4	▼	55	✗	Not calculated
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS 4 (with English and Maths)	6	10	▲	20	✗	Not calculated
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	13.2	10.7 (Nov 2009)	▼	9.5	✗	6.92
NI 163	NI 163 Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2	68.6%	65.4%	▼	66%	✗	69.4%

5.5 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 2 reflects the 2009/2010 year end position, relating to summer 2009 pupil performance. Early Years attainment indicators have shown strong improvement this year across all elements of Personal, Social & Emotional and Communication, Language and Literacy (NI72), exceeding DCSF target. The gap between the lowest achieving 20% and the rest at Foundation Stage Profile (NI 92) has narrowed by almost 5% points and is just outside the challenging DCSF set target, due to accelerated progress of the lowest 20% pupils. Focussed support includes development of the Early Years Quality Improvement Support Programme; improved support through the 0 – 7 Partnership to ensure smooth transition of children

between settings; programmes to improve the level of parental engagement in children's learning.

- 5.6 Primary school attainment has improved in maths but has declined in English. Performance of pupils achieving level 4+ in both English and maths (NI73) is 3% points below its challenging target and 2% points below national average. This decline was due mainly to English results where there were falls in both reading and writing standards. School Improvement Partners (SIP) will have a key role in challenging schools on their progress towards agreed school targets and the identification of interventions where required. Progress indicators between Key Stages 1 and 2 show continued strong improvement in maths (NI 94), exceeding DCSF target. The Authority 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. Secondary school attainment has continued to improve at Key Stage 4, with the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C grades at GCSE (NI 75) the highest ever achieved in Sunderland this year. Sunderland's relative progress, however, has slowed compared to other local authorities; this is due to static performance improvement by girls. LA support: implementing actions identified in the National Challenge Local Authority plan; strengthening subject leadership in English and maths departments; intensive support offered to National Challenge and Gaining Ground schools through Consultant-School Agreements. Persistent absence at secondary school (NI 87) has declined from 5.2% to 6.0% but remains relatively low and has exceeded statutory DCSF target.
- 5.7 NI 163 Proportion of the population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2

Improvement strategies: Family and Adult Community Learning (FACL) service are currently offering an additional 150 NVQ full level 2 courses to local residents in Youth Work, ICT, Playwork, Construction, Youth Development and Site Safety. These are progression opportunities identified by both learners and providers. FACL, in association with the City of Sunderland College are also offering qualified teacher, learning and skills qualifications to support the professional development of tutors in the lifelong learning sector.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 That the committee considers the continued good progress made by the council and the Sunderland Partnership, as described in the CAA reports, and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

7 Background papers

Area assessment report – Sunderland
Organisational assessment report – Sunderland City Council
Use of resources report – Sunderland City Council

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	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 emotional health and well being and those who do not will have early and excellent support systems in place							
Local Area Agreement Indicators							
NI 50	Emotional health of children	66.90	n/a	n/a	69.5	n/a	Data not yet available from Tellus 4 Survey
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	67.30	69	▲	74	✗	Stable at end of Q2 compared to 2008/09. Sunderland compares well with local and statistical peer group
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	-6%	-13.60%	▲	-46.4	✗	Latest available rolling quarterly data to June 2008 shows rate has continued to decrease. At the end of 2007, the rate in Sunderland was 59.3 per 1000 females, decreasing to 54.5 for the latest 12 months to June 2008. March and June 2008 quarterly figures are the lowest since 2006. Rate has reduced by 13.6% since 1998 compared to 11.2% nationally (at June 2008).
National Indicators							
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services	16	16	◀▶	16	✓	Representing 16 out of 16 self-assessment score
NI 53a	Percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks (breastfeeding prevalence)	17.30%	n/a	n/a	not set	n/a	Data not currently available
NI 54	Services for disabled children	new 2009/10	n/a	n/a	not set	n/a	New indicator for 2009/10 data not currently available
NI 58	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	12.3	13.6	▼	not set	n/a	Data not yet available from Tellus 4 Survey
NI 59	Percentage of Initial assessments for children's social care carried out < 7 working days	66	61.9	▼	76	✗	Cumulative performance at end of Q2 is 61.9%. The overall number of assessments completed in Q1 and Q2 of 2009/10 is 17.3% higher than in same period 2008/09, and 35.8% higher than in 2007/08. A series of weekly performance clinics are driving up performance so that at the end of October 64.4% of Initial Assessments had been in timescale since April 2009, with a completion rate within October itself of 85%.
NI 60	Percentage core assessments for children's social care carried out < 35 working days	74.9	67.6	▼	85	✗	Cumulative performance at end of Q2 is 62.5%. A series of weekly performance clinics are driving up performance so that at the end of October 64.7% of Core Assessments had been in timescale since April 2009, with a completion rate within October itself of 80%.
NI 61	Timeliness and stability of adoption of looked after children	67.6	72.2	▲	82	✗	Quarterly monitoring of this indicator can fluctuate due to relatively small number of children involved. The number of adoptions completed up to the end of Q2 has increased to 20 (6.0% of Children looked after for 6 months or more), compared to 17 (4.9%) in 2008/09.
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves	10.2	9	▲	12	✓	This is an improving indicator, from 10.5% to 9% 2007/8 to Quarter 2. National PAF benchmarks categorise this indicator as Very Good. 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 both quarters in 2009/10.
NI 64	Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more	3.8	3.7	▲	4	✓	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 3.7% at Q2 2009/10. National benchmarks categorise this indicator as Good at Q2. Indicator should remain stable for the next 2 quarters as there are currently only 3 children with a CPP who have been subject of a plan for more than 2 years who could potentially be added to indicator.

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
NI 65	Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	14.9	12.5	▲	12.5	✓	National benchmarks categorise this indicator as Very Good at Q2. Number of children subject of a CPP continues to rise to 292 at the end of October, with 266 new plans in the 12 months to September. At 12.5% the indicator is in the middle of the top PAF banding (10-15%) and on target.
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	96.8	99	▲	100	✗	At the end of Q2 99% of children had their reviews in timescale. National benchmarks categorise this indicator as Very Good at Q2. 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	100	◀▶	100	✓	This indicator consistently operates at 100% in Sunderland; each child subject of a Child Protection plan at the end of the year was reviewed within the required timescales.
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	78.2	95	▼	88	✗	Indicator has increased from Q1 performance of 81%, to 91% and now meets the "Very Good" internal benchmark.
NI 69	Children who have experienced bullying	48	n/a	n/a	not set	n/a	data not yet available from Tellus 4 Survey
NI 70	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to CYP	2.21	n/a	n/a	not set	n/a	data not currently available
NI 71	Children who have run away from home/care overnight	7	9	▼	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	n/a	n/a	not set	n/a	Data not yet available from Tellus 4 Survey
NI 113a	Percentage of the resident population aged 15-24 accepting a test/screen for chlamydia	6.60%	n/a	n/a	not set	n/a	Data not currently available
NI 113b	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	17.70%	n/a	n/a	25%	n/a	Data not currently available
Outcome - By 2025 we will have significantly 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	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Local Indicators							
LPI 18	% of population volunteering in sport and active recreation	4.3 (Sept 07 - Oct 08)	n/a	n/a	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 family based interventions across the city Levels of initiating smoking in young people particularly young women will have reduced to under 10%							
Local Area Agreement Indicators							
NI 56d	Percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded who are obese	21	n/a	n/a	22	n/a	Data not yet available for 2008/2009 academic year Height and Weight survey
National Indicators							
NI 52a	Take up of school lunches (primary)	49.4	47.5	▼	50	✗	September meal uptake figures reflect only two weeks trading, mainly due to the 7 weeks summer break. This, and the graduated intake of nursery and reception pupils, has resulted in the reduced % uptake of meals at this time. However, these Q2 figures are recorded at 3.4% higher than the same period last year and reflect that meal uptake has been sustained, partially, as a result of the price freeze and partially as a result of continued satisfaction of the school meals service.

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
NI 52b	Take up of school lunches (secondary)	34.2	32.6	▼	36	✗	The figures shown above include the cashless system returns from only four schools as the remaining three are experiencing difficulty in presenting concise reports from the recently implemented biometric system, introduced in September. However Q2 shows that meal uptake is on a positive upturn, which is as a result of the price freeze for a school meal, and individual schools retaining more year groups on site during the lunch periods. A more accurate picture should be seen in Q3.
NI 55d	% children in reception with height and weight recorded who are obese	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Data not yet available for 2008/2009 academic year Height and Weight survey
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	15.90%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Data not yet available from Tellus 4 Survey
Local Indicators							
LPI 20	Number of schools with a whole school food policy as a % of all schools	87	87.7	▲	100	✗	The Food in Schools Team continue to support schools in their implementation of these policies and thus toward achieving Healthy School Status. Work of the Team this term is centred around working with ten specifically selected schools based on levels of obesity in areas of socio-economic deprivation. The Team work in close liaison with these schools and have developed their sessions to link in with the curriculum
LPI 26	Number of schools working towards NHSS	98	98	▲	100	✗	Strong progress towards achieving target by year end
LPI 27	Number of schools that have achieved NHSS	68	69	▲	75	✗	Strong progress towards achieving target by year end
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 (Sept 07 - Oct 08)	43 (March 2009)	▲	42	✓	
Local Indicators							
BV 117	The number of physical visits per 1,000 population to public library premises.	5489	2477	▼	5600	✗	Below target - programme planning, marketing and promotion ongoing for remaining visitor count weeks
LPI 1	Total library items acquired per 1000 pop	238	110	▼	179	✓	
LPI 4	Total number of library requests	42695	22817	▲	42700	✓	
LPI 5	Total materials stock - audio, visual, electronic and other items (per 1,000 population)	71	71	▲	70	✓	
LPI 6	Total material acquisitions per 1000 pop - Books	228	106	▼	170	✓	
LPI 7	Total material acquisitions per 1000 pop - Audio, visual, electronic and other items	10	4	▼	9	✗	Service provision currently under review
LPI 8	% take up of available ICT time in libraries	35	31	▼	36	✗	Dip in performance in quarter 2 due to increase in available ICT time (40 additional PC's introduced at Washington and Silksworth). Ongoing programme and marketing to raise awareness of new ICT facilities
LPI 9	Number of electronic telephone or mail enquiries	49628	27275	▲	50000	✓	
LPI 10	Total number of enquiries (libraries)	154489	77475	▲	154500	✓	
LPI 11	Number of books issued (libraries)	1220319	640604	▲	1221000	✓	
LPI 12	Number of issues of audio, visual, electronic and other items	49491	22219	▼	50000	✗	Service provision currently under review
LPI 13	Number of active borrowers per 1000 pop	174	179	▲	175	✓	
LPI 14	% 4-11 year old girls who are library members	66	n/a	n/a	67	n/a	
LPI 15	% 4-11 year old boys who are library members	58	n/a	n/a	59	n/a	
LPI 16	Total materials stock - books per 1,000 pop	1595	1575	▼	1590	✗	The review has concentrated on ensuring that a quality range of stock is available and to ensure promotion and display of new and current stock

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
Outcome - Adults will be offered learning opportunities that meet their individual needs and the needs of employers with the same focus upon appropriate curriculum, sufficient support and accessible places to learn							
National Indicators							
NI 13	Migrants English language skills and knowledge						
NI 164	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 3	43.4%	43.4%	◀▶	not set	n/a	
NI 165	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 4	23.8%	21.6%	▼	not set	n/a	
Outcome - All children and young people will be offered the very best preparation and foundation for adult life. They will be offered appropriate personalised learning programmes, high quality advice and guidance and the opportunity to learn in creative environments							
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	▲	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	▼	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	44.8	▲	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	6.5	6.0	▲	6.4	✓	Persistent absence at secondary has declined from 6.5% to 6.0% and remains within Good performance category and has exceeded statutory target. (These figures represent the Autumn/Spring term)
NI 92	Narrowing the gap - lowest achieving 20% the Early Yrs Foundation Stage Profile vs the rest	42	37.2	▲	36.7	✗	Gap has narrowed by 4.8% 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	◀▶	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	▲	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	42.1	▼	50	✗	Despite exceptional results in summer 2008, where Sunderland was ranked 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. 5+A*-C including English and maths remains low at 10% and below target, but improvement on 2008/9
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2	93	47.4	▼	55	✗	
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS 4 (with English and Maths)	6	10	▲	20	✗	
National Indicators							

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
NI 76	Reduce number of schools where under 55% of pupils achieve level 4 in KS2 English and Maths	6	13	▼	7	✗	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	3	◄	2	✗	Indicator affected by inclusion / exclusion of specific academies
NI 84	Achievement of 2 or more A*-C grades in Science GCSEs or equivalent	43	47.7	▲	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	81.2	93	▲	n/a	n/a	Improving indicator; only one school categorised as satisfactory. Academies not included.
NI 88	Percentage of schools providing access to extended services	95	100	▲	100	✓	Performance at 100% and exceeds national recommendations for 2009 (80%)
NI 89a	Reduce number of schools requiring special measures	1	1	◄	0	✗	
NI 89b	Improve time taken for schools to come out of special measures	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
NI 102a	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (KS2)	23	26	▼	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	27.6	▲	23	✗	KS4 gap has widened from 28% to 29% this summer. Improvement by both cohorts but greater rate of improvement by non FSM, widening the gap.
NI 103a	Special Educational Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks excluding exceptions	100	100	◄	100	✓	Performance at 100% for quarter 1 and 2
NI 103b	Special Educational Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks	50	79.8	▲	75	✓	Performance at 100% for quarter 1 and 2
NI 104	The SEN/non-SEN gap - achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold	57	53.9	▲	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	◄	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	51.7	▼	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	37.9	▲	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	▼	not set	n/a	Number of permanent exclusions has increased from 13 to 22, but remains relatively low

Outcome - By 2025 we will increase the numbers of young people going on to higher education

Local Area Agreement Indicators

NI 106	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Data not currently available
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National Indicators

NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	71	n/a	n/a	74	n/a	Data not currently available
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Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	37.1	n/a	n/a	39	n/a	Data not currently available
NI 81	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	21.6	n/a	n/a	21	n/a	Data not currently available
NI 82	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	53.9	n/a	n/a	52	n/a	Data not currently available
NI 85a	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Physics)	64	49	▼	72	✗	
NI 85b	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Chemistry)	84	77	▼	87	✗	
NI 85c	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Maths)	102	125	▲	113	✓	
NI 90	Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas	148	325	▲	398	✓	
NI 91	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training	76.9	79.6	▲	82.7	✗	Participation improved from 78% to 79.6%, October 08 - October 09

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 everyone to access the housing market

National Indicators

NI 46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	99.4	100	▲	99.5	✓	
NI 143	Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end	89.3	78 (June 09)	▼	83	✗	
NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	88.5	80	▼	86	✗	Partial year monitoring can fluctuate due to very small cohort size; at Q2, only 5 young people within indicator and 4/5 in suitable accommodation.

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 adults are qualified to at least level 1 in literacy, 81% to at least entry level 3 in numeracy and 79% to at least a full level 2

Local Area Agreement Indicators

NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	13.2	13.25 (July 09)	▼	9.5	✗	Details of improvement work is contained within the main body of the report
NI 161	Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy	1661	n/a	n/a	992	n/a	
NI 162	Number of Entry Level qualifications in numeracy achieved	204	n/a	n/a	120	n/a	
NI 163	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2	68.60%	65.40%	▼	66%	✗	

National Indicators

NI 45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training	90.5	91	▲	90.6	✓	
NI 109	Delivery of Sure Start Children's Centres	89	100	▲	100	✓	
NI 118	Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	n/a	
NI 148	Care leavers in education, employment or training	73.1	60	▼	62	✗	Partial year monitoring can fluctuate due to very small cohort size; at Q2, only 5 young people within indicator. 2008/9 performance classed as Very Good national benchmark banding
NI 165	Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 4	23.8%	21.60%	▼	not set	n/a	

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	2.7	▼	2.3	✗	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	324	▲	751	✓	

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	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. Feelings of safety amongst vulnerable groups will more closely reflect those of other residents across the city							
National Indicators							
NI 44a	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (white)	1	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	
NI 44b	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (mixed)	-0.5	n/a	n/a	-0.5	n/a	
NI 44c	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (black or black british)	0.3	n/a	n/a	0.2	n/a	
NI 44d	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (asian or asian british)	-0.4	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	
NI 44e	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals (chinese/other)	-0.5	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	
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 (June 09)	▲	40	✓	

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 January 2010

TERMLY SUMMARY REPORT FROM CONCERNS, SHARED INTELLIGENCE AND OFSTED INSPECTIONS

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 Following the presentation to Scrutiny Committee in October 2009 on the Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools in England from September 2009, it was agreed that Members would receive a termly summary report from the Head of Standards.

2. Background

- 2.1 Concerns Policy: Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 outlines the provisions relating to schools causing concern in England. The section builds on existing statutory powers and good practice to ensure that every pupil is provided with the education and opportunities they deserve. Local authorities can make full use of the powers provided by the Act to tackle school under-performance so that it does not become entrenched and lead to formal school failure, to ensure that effective support and challenge is provided immediately when an unacceptable standard of education is identified, and to secure decisive action if a school in special measures fails to make sufficient improvement. Supporting Success in Schools, 2008 provides Sunderland's guidelines in relation to this responsibility.
- 2.2 Shared Intelligence: This is the means by which Children's Services accumulate information from the Concerns Policy, and from other sources within Children's Services and the wider Council to identify schools in need of support and intervention. These schools are RAG rated.
- 2.3 Ofsted Inspections: The evaluation schedule of judgements for schools inspections under section 5 of the Education Act, 2005 was revised in September 2009. The detail of the new inspection framework was the subject of a presentation to Scrutiny Committee in October 2009.

3. Current position

3.1 Concerns Policy

Fifteen schools were identified with LA designated concerns in the Autumn term 2009. Of these, 11 were primary schools, two secondary and the Pupil Referral Units for behaviour and returners.

Date Joined Concerns: of the fifteen schools currently on the concerns register, they were identified as causing concern in academic years:

2005-06	four schools
2007/08	seven schools
2008/09	two school
2009/10	two schools

Current levels: in relation to current levels of concerns six schools are at level 2 and six at level 3. There are currently two notices to improve and one school in special measures.

Reasons for escalation: The predominant causes of these school becoming a concern are standards and/leadership and management. Other factors include teaching and learning, assessment, staffing and safeguarding.

Anticipated Exit from concerns: For some schools a satisfactory Ofsted will signal an exit from concerns whilst other schools may remain in concerns despite satisfactory Ofsted. For schools in categories, the timescale for the exit from that category is dependent upon Ofsted. For other schools, an improvement in standards that is deemed to be sustainable will result in an exit from concerns.

3.2 Shared Intelligence

	Red	Amber	Green
Nursery	0	2	7
Special	1	1	5
Primary	12	17	53
Secondary	1	3	10

The reason for a school to be identified on the shared intelligence matrix may reflect an issue that is impacting upon the school, and so is not necessarily a matter relating to leadership and management or performance.

- 3.3 Ofsted Inspections: Four schools have inspected under the new Ofsted Inspection Framework. Two of these schools received notices to improve.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members of Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this report and provide comment on content for future termly reports.

5 Background Papers

Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006

Supporting Success in Schools, 2008

Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools In England, 2009

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**STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS 2010/2011
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: ALL

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES: ALL

1.0 WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO COMMITTEE

- 1.1 To apprise Committee of the proposals for the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and the role of the Committee in the Process.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The council undertakes an annual Strategic Planning Process to identify service improvement actions that will contribute to the delivery of its improvement priorities, to achieve improved outcomes for Sunderland residents.

- 2.1 The Process is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that it is fit for purpose and:

- Focuses on priorities, improving performance, value for money and meeting local needs
- Communicates improvement objectives and priorities
- Focuses on budget planning and service planning activities – supporting the alignment of resources to priorities
- Ensures outcomes are customer focused.

- 2.2 The Process is of particular importance in respect of:

- The integration of the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) with the Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025
- Linking the Sunderland Strategy to work plans
- Supporting the council's response to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)
- Sunderland Way of Working
 - Community Leadership Programme
 - Economic Development and Regeneration
 - Business Improvement Programme
 - Directorate Improvement Programmes

3.0 CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 Council improvement planning is based on the identification of improvement actions in respect of the Corporate Improvement Priorities:

- CIP1: Prosperous City
- CIP 2: Healthy City
- CIP 3: Learning City
- CIP 4: Safe City
- CIP 5: Attractive and Inclusive City
- CIP 6: Customer Focused Services
- CIP 7: One Council

- CIP 8: Efficient and Effective Council
 - CIP 9: Partnership Working
- 3.2 In the past, the Strategic Planning Process commenced in September with completion in March of the following year with the publication of the CIP.
- 3.3 Services identify contributions to the achievement of the Corporate Improvement Priorities in the form of “Actions for Service Improvement”. These are included within the relevant Service Plan, with those of the greatest importance included in the service’s content for the CIP as “Key Actions For Service Improvement”.
- 3.4 During the course of the year Service Plans should be monitored and updated to ensure the achievement of the “Actions For Improvement” and re-prioritise actions based on service requests and changing resources.
- 3.5 The “Key Actions for Service Improvement” also form the basis of “Key Actions for Portfolio Improvement” for each Portfolio. These identify “Areas For Improvement” each Portfolio will address to contribute towards achieving the Corporate Improvement Priorities. Progress towards the achievement of the “Key Actions for Portfolio Improvement” should be monitored during the course of the financial year by the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder, in line with the monitoring of the “Key Actions for Service Improvement”.
- 3.6 In addition to the publication of Service Plans and the CIP the 2009/2010 Strategic Planning Process required each directorate to produce a Directorate Improvement Plan.

4.0 ANALYSIS OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Strategic Planning Process has a number of strengths including:
- A consistent approach, with all services considering the same factors in their service improvement planning
 - All services undertaking improvement planning at the same time
 - A cyclical approach using each year’s process and outputs to inform the next
 - The alignment of policy and budgetary planning to ensure improvement actions are financially appropriate and that provision is made for them
 - Mapping objectives and actions in support of priorities.
- 4.2 Shortcomings with this approach have proven to be:
- A lack of commitment to and understanding of the Corporate Improvement Priorities
 - A lack of engagement with the Process amongst some Heads of Service and Team Managers

- The use of the Corporate Improvement Priorities too strategically, resulting in a “bottom-up” approach to improvement planning
- A lack of understanding of the difference between service improvement activity and “business as usual” activity
- The questionable value of the CIP in its current format.

5.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS 2010/2011

5.1 In the light of the above the Strategic Planning Process has been developed to ensure:

- The council identifies a clear set of Corporate Improvement Priorities for 2010/2011
- The Corporate Improvement Priorities reflect the council’s new phase of improvement activity
- The Corporate Improvement Priorities are articulated to better enables services to focus their improvement planning activity
- Improved ownership of and responsibility for the Corporate Improvement Priorities
- Heads of Service are supported to be empowered and accountable for the delivery of improvement activity
- Improvement planning reflects service delivery
- Improvement planning, performance management and improvement programme delivery are more closely aligned
- Improvement planning is understood as an annual process responding and adapting to circumstances during the year
- Improvement planning reflects and links to the council’s area arrangements via Local Area Plans
- Improvement planning takes account of the contents of the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 Thematic Delivery Plans and can influence the council’s contribution to the Delivery Plans via the annual refresh process

5.2 Based on the above, the developments comprise:

- Reconsideration of the Corporate Improvement Priorities to ensure they support the council’s improvement agenda
- The identification of priority themes for each Corporate Improvement Priority to provide greater focus on the issues that the council needs to address,
- The allocation of each Corporate Improvement Priority to a lead officer, to promote ownership and establish accountability
- The development and publication of a Corporate Improvement Planning Framework to describe the council’s key improvement and change actions for each Corporate Improvement Priority
- The publication of a new form of CIP, to achieve greater understanding, strategic corporate ownership of and direction to the council’s improvement priorities
- Service improvement planning will take place on the basis of Head of Service designations, to promote understanding, ownership, and accountability in respect of the delivery of improvement actions

- Service planning by Heads of Service will be informed by a self-assessment to determine the key issues affecting service improvement and the issues for service redesign
- The establishment of an ongoing process of reviewing and updating improvement activity to ensure it remains responsive to needs and challenges, and informs the production of future Service Plans
- The engagement of Portfolio Holders and Scrutiny Committees throughout the Process to ensure their participation in the development and monitoring of the council's improvement priorities
- The production of Portfolio Improvement Programmes to detail how the actions identified in the Service Plans will be delivered and to support existing budgetary and improvement planning links.

6.0 ROLE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Scrutiny Committees are engaged as part of the preparation of Service Improvement Plans during the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and in their monitoring and review during the course of 2010/2011. This report (and those to the other Scrutiny Committees) forms the first stage in that process:

February/March 2010

Reports to each Scrutiny Committee, detailing:

- Service specific improvement planning details of relevance to each Scrutiny Committee
- Next steps in respect of reporting completed Service Improvement Plans to Scrutiny Committees

April 2010

Reports to each Scrutiny Committee detailing relevant Service Improvement Plans.

June, September, December 2010, March 2011

Reports to each Scrutiny Committee reporting progress and performance (on an exception basis) in respect of service improvement actions of relevance.

7.0 SELF ASSESSMENTS

- 7.1 As the first stage of the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011, all Heads of Service have undertaken a self assessment of their service to determine the key issues affecting service improvement and the issues for service redesign.
- 7.2 Details of the key issues arising from the self assessments of relevance to the Committee will be reported to the meeting.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The new approach in respect of the council's improvement planning process will be adopted for the 2010/2011 Strategic Planning Process, with the view to its refinement and adaptation in due course.

9.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report and the key issues identified by the self-assessments undertaken in respect of services of relevance to the committee.

Background Papers

Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP)
Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION MECHANISM AND INTRODUCTION OF A SELECTION CRITERIA FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN – FURTHER REVISIONS TO INITIAL PROPOSALS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14 JANUARY 2010

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Committee on the proposed revision of the current Councillor Call for Action mechanism and proposed introduction of a Selection Criteria for dealing with non-mandatory referrals for use by the Sunderland Partnership, Scrutiny Committees and Area Committees to address issues of local concern.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 17 December 2009, the Management Scrutiny Committee considered a report outlining further revisions to the mechanisms in place for dealing Councillor Calls for Action.
- 2.2 At the meeting, the Management Scrutiny Committee agreed to:-
- a) Support the introduction of the selection criteria for determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory referral / Councillor Call for Action route;
 - b) Refer the draft proposals to the six Scrutiny Committees in the January cycle of meetings for comment with any comments being referred back to this Committee thereafter, in particular on whether it is appropriate for the two existing CCfAs to be subject to this revised procedure; and
 - c) Subject to the comments received from the Scrutiny Committees (along with the Area Committees and Sunderland Partnership), the revised procedure be endorsed, implemented and included in Scrutiny Handbook.
- 2.3 The report and the proposals therefore come to this Committee for comment.

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) mechanism came into force on 1 April 2009 namely through the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Such provisions provide Members with the opportunity to ask for discussions on issues where

local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

- 3.2 In Sunderland, two local issues have been raised through the Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) mechanism and as a result of those referrals; it has become apparent that the current procedure should be reviewed to ensure both current and future CCfAs are addressed in a timely, open and transparent way.
- 3.3 At the same time work is also being undertaken to develop the Scrutiny Committees' links with both the Sunderland Partnership and the Area arrangements, one of which is the signposting and escalation of local issues to the most appropriate body for resolution where appropriate.
- 3.4 At a meeting of the Management Scrutiny Committee held on 22 October 2009, consideration was given to the initial proposals for the processing of non-mandatory referrals to Overview and Scrutiny through the introduction of an agreed selection criteria which also reflects / combines the CCfA mechanism.
- 3.5 On 17 December 2009, the Committee received a report outlining further revisions to the initial proposals, as requested by the Committee. These are summarised below:-
 - (a) That upon receipt of a CCfA / Non-Mandatory Referral, that the request be considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee in replace of the Management Scrutiny Committee as initially suggested (in consultation with the Head of Overview and Scrutiny), removing any possible delays in its consideration / re-direction; and
 - (b) That the flow chart **Appendix B** be further amended to clearly show the whole process, such as the other potential bodies who may either consider or re-direct the referral request.

3. FURTHER REVISIONS TO INITIAL PROPOSALS - REVIEW OF CURRENT COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION MECHANISM AND INTRODUCTION OF A SELECTION CRITERIA FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERNS

- 3.1 As outlined in the initial proposals, consideration has been given on a practical level as to how best to implement a 'referral' mechanism within existing policies and practices to escalate / re-direct issues of local concern either raised by an Elected Member/Committee, member of the public or external partner to the appropriate body namely the Sunderland Partnership and the City Council's Scrutiny and Area Committees.
- 3.2 To assist those bodies in determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory / CCfA referral route, the

following selection criteria is proposed for future use by such bodies, at the point of the referral being considered at the next available meeting:-

- (i) Clear evidence that reasonable attempts have been made to resolve the issue with relevant partners / council departments?
- (ii) Has a significant impact on a group of people living within the Sunderland area;
- (iii) Relates to a service, event or issue in which the Council has direct responsibility for, significant influence over or has the capacity to act as public champion;
- (iv) Not be an issue which Overview and Scrutiny, Area Arrangements or LSP have considered during the last 12 months (unless circumstances have changed substantially);
- (v) Not relate to an on-going service complaint or petition (including the ability to exclude any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable) ; and
- (vi) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure and policy related issues.
- (vii) If meets the criteria, agree which body most relevant to consider further, Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP.

- 3.3 The proposed selection criteria outlined above, clearly makes provision for the processing of referrals to be undertaken in an open and transparent way and provides a formal record as to whether the issue is worthy of further investigation together with the agreed course of action and any associated / prescribed timescales.
- 3.4 In response to Members observations in relation to the two local issues which have been raised through the existing Councillor Call for Action procedure, it is proposed that the current procedure will be strengthened through the introduction of such selection criteria and that any future CCfAs will be reported to the next available meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration, in replace of the Management Scrutiny Committee as initially suggested.
- 3.5 For ease, **Appendix A** outlines the current CCfA procedure and **Appendix B** details the revised procedure for determining the appropriateness of undertaking a scrutiny investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory / Councillor Call for Action referral route as requested by the Committee at its last meeting.
- 3.6 Furthermore, it should be noted that the Councillor Call for Action measure requires the Councillor to use every available tool to resolve the issue in the first instance without involving the relevant Scrutiny Committee, therefore any

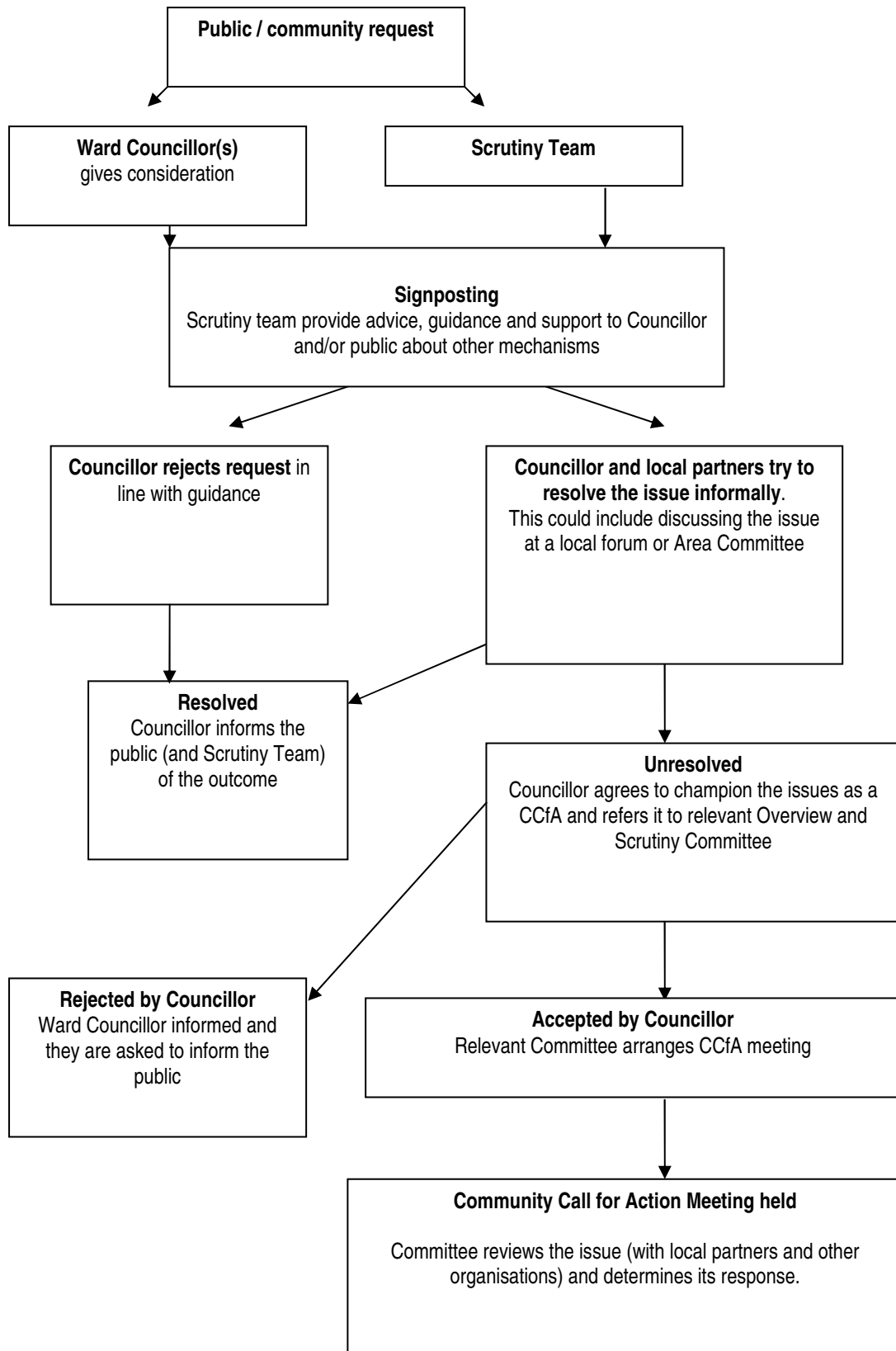
additional burden should be minimal as the mechanism is designed as a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

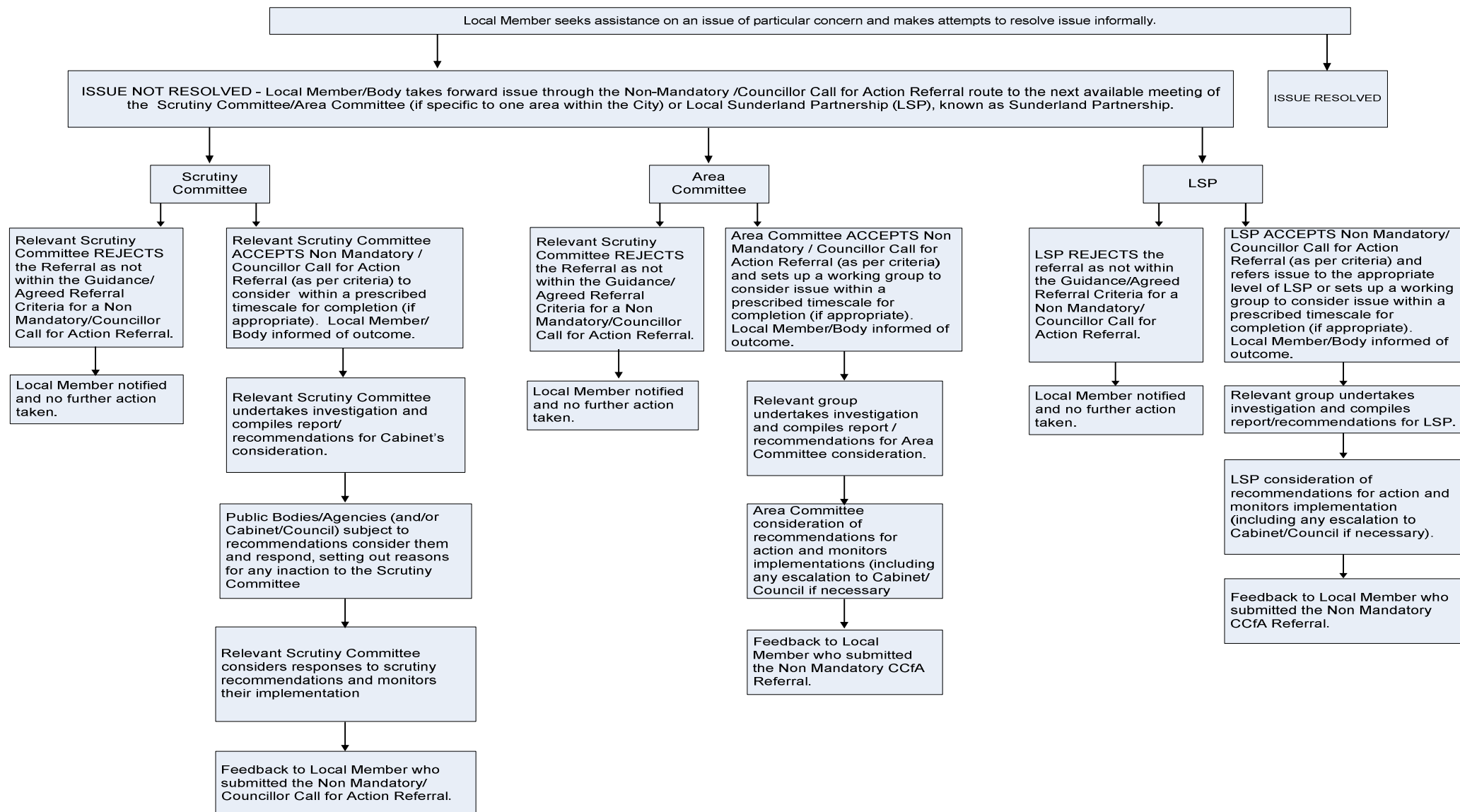
- 4.1 That the Committee consider and comment on the draft proposals, in particular on whether it is appropriate for the two existing CCfAs to be subject to this revised procedure and that any comments be submitted to the next meeting of the Management Scrutiny Committee.

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CURRENT COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION PROCEDURE



**PROPOSED NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
NON-MANDATORY/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION REFERRALS TO
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**



**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE
PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2010 – 30 APRIL 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 January – 30 April.

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 December – 31 March

Contact Officer : Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer
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Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2010 to 30/Apr/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
01342	To consider any key decisions which may arise from the Youth Offending Service Inspection Improvement Plan	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	YOT Partnership Board, YOS Management staff	Scheduled meetings	Via Contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee	Sunderland YOS Core Case Inspection Report	Julie Firth, Acting YOS Manager	5663000
01344	To approve the first draft of the CYPP 15 year commissioning strategy and three year delivery plan.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Children's Services Leadership Team, Children's Trust, members	Presentation of draft plan to various fora, drop-in events	Via Contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee	Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2010, Needs Assessment	John Markall	5661836

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14 January 2010

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to receive the updated work programme for the 2009-10 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priority of a Learning City.

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 In addition to the items taken at the scheduled meetings the following activities have taken place since the last meeting:

Membership of Committee

- 3.2 A new Parent Governor Representative, Rose Elliott, a governor at Monkwearmouth School, was elected unopposed in December 2009 and Council will be asked to endorse her appointment to Committee at their meeting on 27 January 2010.

16-19 Changes

- 3.3 The Committee held an evidence gathering session on 18 December with six organisations providing evidence for the review of 16-19 changes. A questionnaire will be issued to other stakeholders to ensure a wide a range of views as possible are included in the review.
- 3.4 Committee is asked to note that a stakeholder event will be held on Monday 18th January from 10am -12pm in the Council Chamber for stakeholders to meet the Chief Executives of the Young People's Learning Agency and the National Apprenticeships Service. Members are encouraged to attend this event.

Consultation Working Group

- 3.5 The Working Group met on 4th January to consider progress in developing a Behaviour and Attendance Strategy. A consultation exercise with young people is being developed and in order to incorporate as many views as possible the consultation period has been extended. As a result, the draft Strategy will now be available by the end of March.

4. Recommendation

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

Contact Officer: Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer 0191 561 1004
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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	Youth Work Commissioning (AN)	Gender & Attainment – Progress on recommendations YOS Improvement Plan (JH)		Final Report
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 Library Services Pricing Review	Initial Response Team Annual Report (MB) Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities (MB)	Annual Report (KB) Schools Performance (LB)
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 (LB) Tellus4survey (SM)	LDD Improvement Plan (SF)	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			
CCFA/Members items/Petitions											

To be scheduled: Academy Schools Vision & Future
Children's Trust Annual Report
Teaching & Take up of MFL
Children's Centres / Sure Start
Children in Transit

At every meeting:

Forward Plan items within the remit of this committee
Work Programme update

