

Performance Report – April to Sept 2008 (Progress in Implementing the Local Area Agreement and New National Indicator Set)

Report of the Chief Executive (Designate) and Director of Children's Services

1. Why has the report gone to committee?

- 1.1 To provide members with a position statement in relation to the first six months of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and implementation of the new National Indicator set during 2008/09 for Children's services.

2. Background

- 2.1 A new national performance framework is being implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators, which replace Best Value Performance Indicators and Performance Assessment Framework Performance Indicators. As a consequence 2008/2009 is a transition year as we develop baselines for the new indicators and ensure any corrective action will be effective in the new framework.
- 2.2 As part of this new framework 42 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the Local Area Agreement. Targets have been agreed for these indicators through a process of negotiation with partners and government.
- 2.3 This is the first corporate performance report relating to 2008/2009 performance information. The report is risk based with its key focus on both potential and current performance issues in relation to the delivery of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). It also provides an overview of the position for other national indicators and 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. Current Position

- 3.1 It is important to note that a large proportion of the new national indicator set has an outcome focus which means that delivery across the partnership will not always directly influence the performance that the indicator measures, or the extent to which we can control the indicator, examples include those indicators taken from the Place survey and those taken from labour market surveys. This report recognises these issues and provides preventative action to ensure we can demonstrate the full impact of improvement activity that will influence our progress during the Local Area Agreement and beyond. This will also be a key element of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment framework.
- 3.2 In relation to the LAA **appendix 1** provides an overview of each outcome within Children's Services which includes:

- an assessment of the potential risk for each national indicator in the agreement. This is based on our position in terms of demonstrating improvement or the level of control we have over a targets achievement.
 - a performance update for the data available at this point of 2008/09 along with trend and target traffic lights and also,
 - An overview of key improvement actions that have been identified to ensure achievement of targets.
- 3.3 In relation to national indicators within Children's Services, **appendix 2** provides an overview of our current position in relation to each indicator and also the local performance indicators that are either being retained or introduced in 2008/09 to supplement the new national framework. This will ensure we have a complete picture of service delivery and related improvements. We have mechanisms in place to measure all the national indicators required for reporting purposes during 2008/09. To ensure we can measure our progress towards delivering the strategic outcomes the partnership has committed to in the Sunderland Strategy and the council's Corporate Improvement Objectives the indicators have been categorised in this order.
- 3.4 During the first year of the implementation of the new national performance framework we are only required by government to set targets for those performance indicators we have chosen to form part of the Local Area Agreement. However to ensure we maintain a robust commitment to service improvement across the partnership in Sunderland both directorates and partners have, where possible, set targets for the other national and local performance indicators for 2008/09. This cannot be done for all indicators as this is the first year of collection for a number of the new national set and 2008/09 needs to be used as a base lining year on which we can target future improvement. It is also important to note that in relation to many of the new National Indicator set data is available at different points of the year and will not always readily follow the quarterly monitoring cycle.

4. Current Risks

- 4.1 In relation to the LAA, 10 national indicators have been included in relation to Children's services, 2 of which did not have targets against them in the agreement signed off with government in June 2008. The absence of targets was due largely to the unavailability of data from which baselines could be calculated during the first implementation year of the national indicator set and national changes to the definitions for the indicators from 2009/10. There are also an additional 16 statutory attainment targets, which take effect from 2008/09 academic year (2009/10 reporting year).
- 4.2 Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets will be a key consideration in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people. In addition the number of targets that are met during the course of the LAA will influence the

amount of Performance Reward Grant paid to the partnership at the end of the three-year agreement.

- 4.3 In relation to the period April to September 2008 performance information is available in relation to 4 indicators. 2 of these indicators are declining in performance and not on schedule to achieve the target set in relation to 2008/09. These are:

4.3.1 Preparing all children and young people in the city with the best preparation and foundation for adult life

NI 117 16 – 18 year olds not in employment education or training (NEET)

Latest performance update is 13% against a target of 10.1% for the year. There has been a significant reduction in the NEET Not Known category (lowest in region) which has impacted on the 2008 figure. i.e. the data is a more accurate reflection). The Actual number of 16-18 NEET (adjusted) has decreased from 1,392 in September to 1,157 in October. Comparing the last 2 year's NEET percentages in September shows it has decreased from 13.6% in Sept 2007 to 13.1% in Sept 2008. It is important to note the target (10.1%) is based on November to January average; therefore the January 2009 figure will be the most comparable point of the year to calculate progress against target.

Remedial action: The 14 – 19 NEET Strategy Group has carried out a Self Assessment to inform future planning:

- customised individual and quality assured learning programmes
- support workers attached to support 'at risk' young people; engage former pupils as mentors / role models and ensure views of young people inform planning of future provision
- targeted Youth Support Service through locality based working
- align Personal Development Opportunities with progression to EET
- ensure every young person has a solid grounding in functional skills
- further develop work related and enterprise learning in education
- improve transition arrangements from primary to secondary and pre-16 to post 16 provision

4.3.2 Improving the emotional health of children

NI 112 Under 18 conception rate

Latest performance update is 57.3 per 1000 females against a target of 40.9 per 1000 for the year. Targets have been set by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit to reduce the rate by 55% from 1998 baseline to 2010. This would be a rate of 28.4 for Sunderland. A final assessment of progress will not be made until February 2012 (when data for 2010 becomes available). It is highly unlikely the nationally set target will be achieved.

Remedial action: The following actions are being taken to support the reduction of under 18 conception rate:

- Establishment of Risk and Resilience Board – senior sponsorship and leadership of teenage pregnancy, young people’s sexual health, substance misuse and smoking agenda
- Development of Healthy Schools programme – establishment of a dedicated post to support whole school approach to Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Establishment of health and well being associate head teacher / senior manager post to lead on health and well being agenda across schools and extended services settings
- Strengthening of SEAL programme (social and emotional aspects of learning) to promote resilience amongst children and young people
- Extension of school nursing service to support young people in colleges (able to offer reproductive health and support)
- Targeted support – re provision of sexual advice and substance misuse advice worker roles to risk and resilience worker role, operating as part of integrated locality based working arrangements aligned to Targeted Youth Support
- Extension of reproductive health services to provide services within each locality area (currently only available in city centre and limited clinic in one other area within city)
- Training and support for practitioners working with groups more “at risk” e.g. NEET, Looked After Children, substance misuse services
- Review and re provision of services for young parents including improved options advice (with counselling / therapeutic advice support throughout pathway) and contraceptive advice to prevent second and subsequent pregnancies
- Rebranding and publicity of services / information to young people including awareness of services delivered

Background Papers

Local Area Agreement 2008-11
Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025