

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



please ask for Bernard Carter

direct line 0300 300 4175

date 30 May 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 12 June 2012 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman), N B Costin (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Barker, R D Berry, D Bowater, P Hollick, K Janes, D Jones, I A MacKilligan and R B Pepworth

[Named Substitutes:

Mrs R J Drinkwater, Mrs S A Goodchild, B Saunders, A Shadbolt and N J Sheppard]

Co-optees: Mrs Beattie (Parent Governor), Ms Copley (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic Diocese), Mr Landman (Parent Governor) and Mr Reynolds (Church of England Diocese)

All other Members of the Council - on request

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members.

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 April 2012 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and the nature thereof in relation to:-

- (a) personal interests in any agenda item
- (b) personal and prejudicial interests in any agenda item
- (c) any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

4. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

5. **Petitions**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

6. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

8. **Requested Items**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

Reports

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
9	Executive Member Update To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	*
10	Children's Health To receive an update and presentation regarding the health of children and young people in Central Bedfordshire.	* 11 - 32

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 17 April 2012

PRESENT

Cllr N B Costin (Vice Chairman in the Chair)

Councillors:	P N Aldis D Bowater Mrs S Clark	Councillors:	P Hollick I A MacKilligan R B Pepworth
Parental Co-optees:	Mrs S Beattie H Copley D Landman		
Church of England Co-optee:	J Reynolds		
Roman Catholic Co-optee:			
Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs	A L Dodwell Mrs D B Gurney K Janes Mrs F Image	
Substitutes:	Cllrs	Ms C Maudlin	
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	Mrs A Barker A D Brown Mrs S A Goodchild J G Jamieson M A G Versallion J N Young	Chairman of the Council Deputy Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive Executive Member for Children's Services Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Officers in Attendance:	Mr B Carter Y Corden Ms G Dent Mr P Dudley		Corporate Policy & Scrutiny Manager Interim Assistant Director, Children's Services Operations Project Manager Assistant Director Children's Services (Learning & Strategic

Ms S Scholey

Commissioning)
Team Leader for Looked after
Children Team

CS/11/108 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 28 February 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to an amendment to CS/11/97, Members Interests, to reflect the fact that not all Members were Chairmen of Governors.

CS/11/109 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

(c) **Any political whip in relation to any agenda item:-**

None.

CS/11/110 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman had no announcements.

CS/11/111 **Petitions**

No petitions were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/11/112 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

No questions, statements or deputations were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

CS/11/113 **Call-In**

The Committee were advised that no decisions of the Executive had been referred to them under the Call-in Procedures set out in Appendix A to Rule No. S18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

CS/11/114 **Requested Items**

No items were referred to the Committee for consideration at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/11/115 **Executive Member Update**

The Executive Member for Children's Services provided the Committee with an update on current activities pertaining to his portfolio, which were not already included on today's agenda. These covered the following issues:-

- The recent publication by the Government of statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services. The Executive Member agreed to circulate a summary of this guidance to the Committee in due course;
- The implementation of the new Children's Case Management System (Framework i), which was going well;
- His disappointment regarding the Government's delay in reviewing the funding formula for schools and his resolve to continue to lobby for fairer funding via such mechanisms as the F40 group of local authorities – a group who represented the worst funded authorities in England
- The recent announcement by teaching unions to ballot for strike action;
- The Ofsted inspection of the Council's provision for safeguarding children and supporting "looked after" children, which had concluded that the Council's overall performance was adequate. Within this overall assessment however, safeguarding had been deemed good and looked after children's services adequate. However services for the health of looked after children were found to be inadequate. The Council would now work with its NHS partners to devise and implement an improvement action plan;
- The decisions reached regarding the four Age Range applications from lower schools in the Houghton Regis area, all of which had been approved thereby allowing each to extend their age ranges to include years 5 and 6. This particular update prompted a discussion regarding the wider implications of such an extension and the impact on educational organisation within Central Bedfordshire generally, with some Members expressing concern over the potential future impact on thriving and successful middle schools and the diminishing influence the Council possessed regarding the issue as a result of the increasing prevalence of academy schools. The Executive Member acknowledged the issue and assured the Committee that one size did not fit all and parental choice/preference was paramount. In this regard, the Executive Member further confirmed that the Council was doing all it could to support parents (and schools) with impartial advice and information.

CS/11/116 **Medium Term Objectives Consultation**

The Leader of the Council presented his report, which afforded Members of the Committee the opportunity to consider the emerging Medium Term Plan prior to its adoption by full Council on 21 June 2012. The plan set out the Council's proposed priorities for the next 4 years and had been informed by a survey of residents in Autumn 2011.

Members of the Committee discussed the Plan in detail and made a number of comments and observations regarding issues affecting Children's Services. In particular, Members discussed the Council's ability to achieve its educational attainment targets when set against its diminishing influence as a result of the increasing prevalence of academy schools. The Executive Member for Children's Services acknowledged the issue but assured the Committee that new models of partnership working, peer to peer support and the teaching school concept, amongst other initiatives, would help ensure the Council met this ambitious target. Members also discussed the Council's ambitions relating to NEETs and education & training opportunities and expressed some concern regarding the lack of any quantifiable targets to measure these ambitions.

At the end of the debate, the Committee endorsed the approach for adopting the Plan by full Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses the approach for adopting the Medium Term Plan 2012-16.

CS/11/117 **Children's Social Care**

The Interim Assistant Director, Children's Services Operations and the Team Leader, Children in Care & Leaving Care delivered a joint presentation, which provided an overview of the outcomes flowing from the Munro Review of Child Protection and their implications for Central Bedfordshire Council. Specifically, the presentation covered the following issues:-

- The rationale for reviewing the current system;
- The process used;
- The assessment regime; and
- A detailed analysis of each of the 15 recommendations contained within the final Munro report and their impact on the Council.

Members of the Committee thanked the officers for their detailed presentation but given the important issues that it raised, were disappointed to note that it had not been shared earlier. The Committee therefore agreed the matter was worthy of further consideration at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That a further report regarding the recommendations flowing from the Munro Report of Child Protection and their implications for Central Bedfordshire Council be submitted to a future meeting.**

CS/11/118 **Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented the Quarter 3 Performance report, which highlighted performance within the Children's Services directorate for the third quarter of 2011/12. In doing so, he wished to

thank the Director and her team for the hard work thus far in achieving good performance across many of the key directorate indicators despite increasing workloads and the adverse financial environment.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised the following issue:

- Concern over the fall in performance regarding the percentage of children looked after with 3 or more placements during the year. The Executive Member explained that although performance had fallen, it was still in line with statistical neighbours. Of paramount importance however was the need to ensure decisions regarding alternative placements for looked after children were only taken to improve outcomes for said children rather than meet any perverse incentives such as this target. The Committee concurred with this viewpoint.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be noted.

CS/11/119 **Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring (Revenue)**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented his report, which set out the projected revenue position of the Children's Services Directorate to the end of March 2012, based on the information available as at the end of December 2011 (being the third quarter of 2011/12).

He further explained that the full year projected revenue outturn position for 2011/12 was a £1.362M under spend against a £35.5M net budget and congratulated the Directorate on its good financial management, albeit recognising the very challenging financial environment in which the organisation still found itself.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised a number of queries regarding the following issues, which were addressed by the Executive Member and officers in attendance:-

- The financial implications of the increasing prevalence of academy schools;
- Progress regarding debt recovery; and
- The rationale and monitoring of licensed school deficits.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be noted.

CS/11/120 **Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring (Capital)**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented his report, which set out the projected capital position of the Children's Services Directorate to the

end of March 2012, based on the information available as at the end of December 2011 (being the third quarter of 2011/12).

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised a number of queries regarding the following issues, which were addressed by the Executive Member and officers in attendance:-

- The statutory role of the Council in providing adequate school places; and
- The receipt of S106 monies to fund new school places.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be noted.

CS/11/121 **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Executive Member for Children's Services presented the draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which identified the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population. In doing so, he further explained that the JSNA would lead to agreed commissioning priorities that would improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities, and whilst it had a key function in relation to the new Health & Wellbeing Strategy being developed by the Council and its partners, it also played an important role in the development of the Children & Young People's Plan.

Members of the Committee praised the document as an important evidence base and endorsed its further development and use.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment be endorsed for further development and use.

CS/11/122 **Work Programme 2011 - 2012 & Executive Forward Plan**

The Committee considered its current Work Programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan and agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Member and Director meet before the next meeting to revise the work programme in light of discussions regarding today's agenda items and any future workload.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services OSC Work Programme be noted.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.15 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

Sept – April 2012

The health of children and young people in Central Bedfordshire: an update

DRAFT

This presentation will:

1. Provide an update on the previous presentation using findings from the JSNA
2. Outline the most recent action

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The context

The JSNA reveals that the key issues for Central Bedfordshire are:

- Importance of investing in early intervention and prevention.
- Improving mental health and wellbeing remains a high priority.
- Improving educational attainment will have a significant impact on a range of outcomes.
- Reducing inequalities by improving the social determinants of health.

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What are we doing well?

- Childhood obesity - stable and below regional and national levels. However 1 in 7 children in Central Bedfordshire are obese by 10-11 years of age.
- 90% of pregnant women access antenatal services before 13 weeks of pregnancy.
- Continued upward trend in childhood immunisations with levels largely above national and East of England averages. Targets for HPV immunisation of over 90% have been met for the second year.

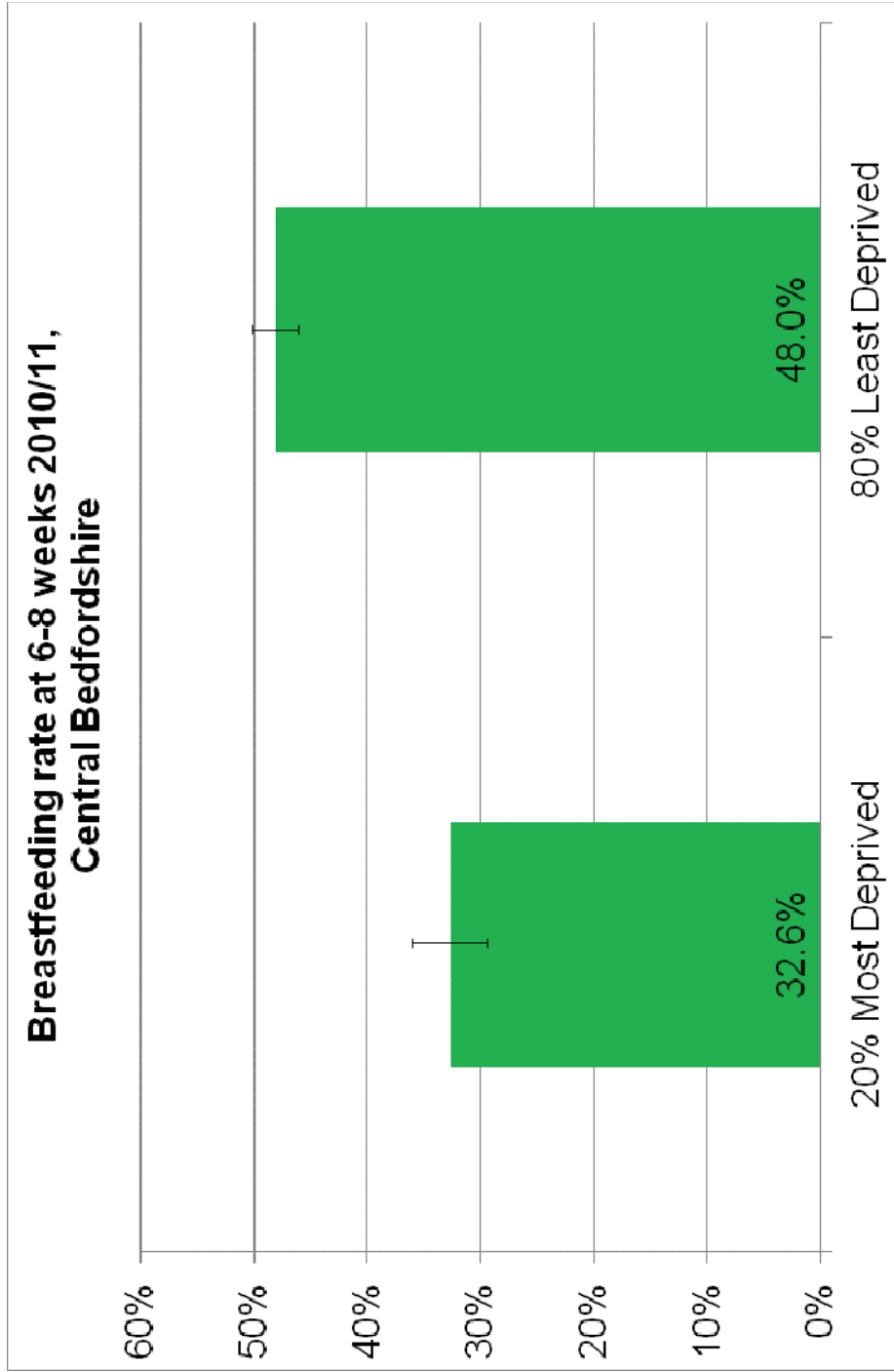
DRAFT

What needs to be improved?

- Increase percentage of women breastfeeding
- Reduce number of women smoking during pregnancy
- Health outcomes for Looked After Children
- Reduce teenage pregnancies

DRAFT

Inequalities in breastfeeding prevalence



DRAFT

Central Bedfordshire Children's Health and Wellbeing Board

The four child health priorities that the HWBB will focus on are as follows:

1. Childhood obesity
2. Teenage pregnancy
3. Improvement in mental health for children and parents
4. Health of Looked After Children

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1. Childhood obesity

NCMP 3 year obesity data for Central Bedfordshire (validated)

•All dates relate to school year.

School Year	08/09	09/10	10/11	Actual No. ≈	Diff 09/10 -10/11	ONSaverage	10/11 EoE	10/11 Eng
Year 6 Prevalence	16.0% (1.4%)	14.3% (1.8%)	16.2% (1.4%)	411*	+43*	17.0%	16.8%	18.7%
Year 6 Participation	89.0%	90.7%	94.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.6%	91.8%
Year R Prevalence	7.3% (1.0%)	8.5% (1.0%)	8.1% (1.1%)	240*	-10*	8.3%	9.2%	9.8%
Year R Participation	92.6%	93.3%	96.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	94.1%	93.4%

*Number presented subject to confidence interval range at 95%

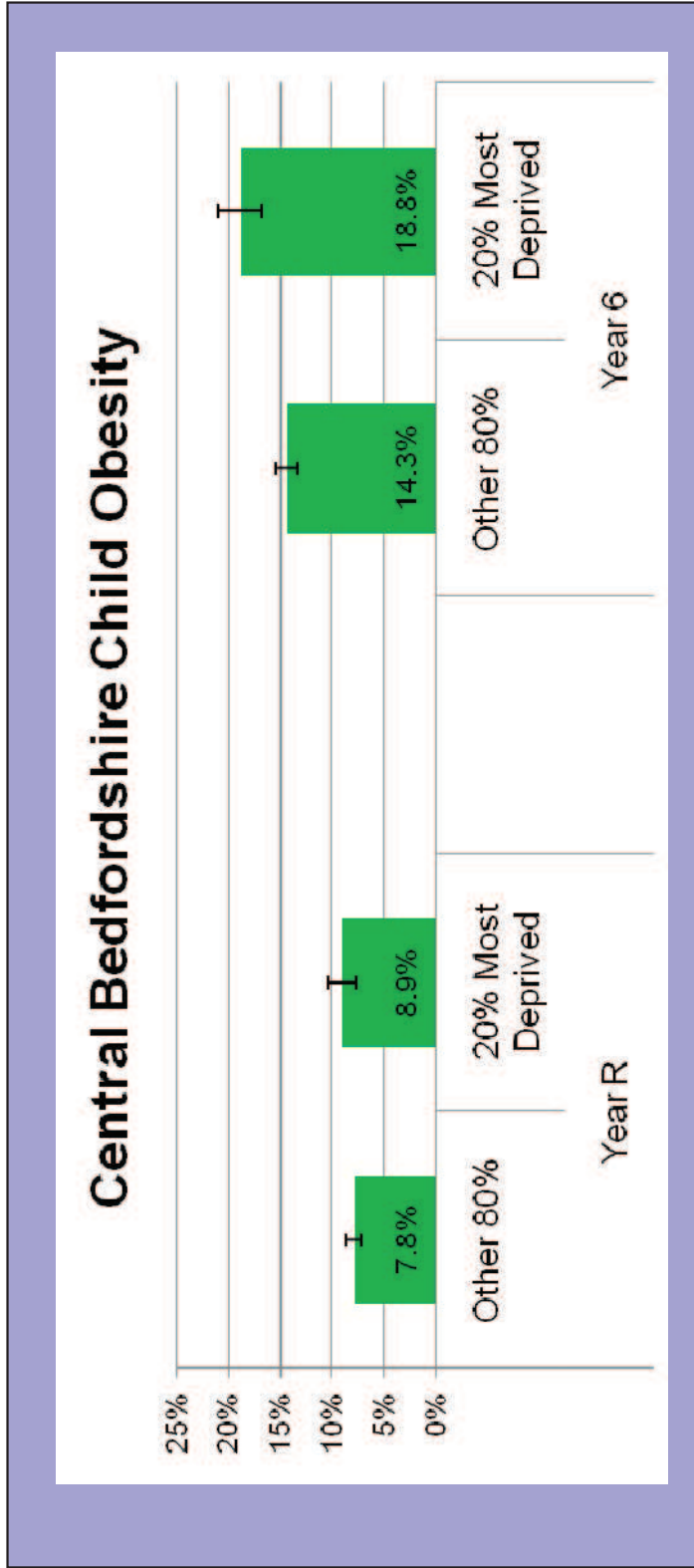
Year 6 prevalence shows significant variation between the old districts of Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire:

Mid Bedfordshire	15.0%
South Bedfordshire	17.2%

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Childhood obesity - inequalities

- Obesity rates are lower in both year groups when compared to the East of England, England and ONS statistical neighbour averages.
- However there is a clear link between inequalities and obesity with higher rates of obesity seen in the 20% most deprived wards.



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What are we doing?

- Beezee Bodies Programme (for 7-15 year olds) at Dunstable Leisure centre - a multi-disciplinary intervention that leads to a follow on academy giving a total of 30 weeks contact.
- The Beezee Tots programme (for 2-4 year olds) at Parkside Children's Centre, interacts with families at risk of having overweight or obese children and teaches/supports through healthy living behaviours.
- Making The Most of Me, a programme running in schools identified from NCMP data profiling. Teaching and delivery of physical activity and healthy eating sessions.

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Key actions going forward

- Extend intervention with Year R children including the Making The Most Of Me programme in schools and BeeZee Bodies.
- Improve access to high quality and affordable food in deprived areas.
- Improve access to open play areas and use of active transport.
- Support play programmes and physical activity schemes in deprived areas.
- Monitor/restrict approvals for food stores and cafes serving foods high in fat, sugars and salt, particularly near schools and Children's Centres.

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2. Teenage Pregnancy

Under 18 conception rates in Central Bedfordshire displayed using three year averages

1998-2000	2001-2003	2004-2006	2007-2009	2008-2010
34.8	32.0	28.5	33.0	33.3

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2. Teenage Pregnancy

Trends

- ❖ Nationally, conception rates decreased in women aged under 20, between 2009-2010. (ONS 2012).
- ❖ Within the Eastern Region; Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Hertfordshire have all seen slight increases in rates from 2009 to 2010.
- ❖ In comparison to our statistical neighbours, Central Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire were the only areas to see increases from 2009-2010. The actual increase in Central Bedfordshire between 2009 and 2010 was 13 conceptions (153 to 166).

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What are we doing?

- **Brook** sexual health services operates clinics and drop in sessions – including schools and hostels.
- Bedfordshire **Under-Cover** condom card scheme supports young people to access free condoms.
- Teenage parents support pathway developed for professional and schools.
- Cluster support groups meet termly in hotspot ward Upper Schools to co-ordinate and improve sexual health and wellbeing.
- Targeted work with vulnerable groups of young people delivered by Brook, Plan B and 4YP.

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Key actions going forward

Benchmarking against other Local Authorities where effective practice and impact has been identified

- Most of the effective interventions highlighted in other LA's are taking place in Central Bedfordshire
- Exception: relationship programmes delivered across all Upper Schools and specific support for parents of teenagers around these issues.

Recent investment in preventative programmes:

- Aspire to be delivered in three middle schools in the teenage pregnancy hot spot areas in the Spring Term 2012.

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3. Looked after children

- A recent Ofsted/CQC Inspection reported that health services for looked after children in Central Bedfordshire need to be significantly improved and outlined a number of specific areas to be addressed including:
- Health agency awareness of their responsibilities towards looked after children.
- Access to health information by looked after children.
- No specific health service for care leavers or health after care service.
- The content and quality of health files.
- No permanent designated doctor or nurse for looked after children in place.

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Performance against national targets

Description	Regional Average 09/10	National Average 10/11	Central Bedfordshire 2010/11	Target 2011/12	Central Bedfordshire Draft outturn 2011/12
% LAC looked after continuously for 12 months and who had annual health assessment during previous 12 months	83.3%	84%*	84.7%	85%	87.2%
% LAC looked after continuously for 12 months and who have had teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months	86.5%		87.30%	85%	91.5%
% LAC up to date on immunisations	68.5%	79%	52.1%	70%	92.3%

*National average for combined health assessment and Dental checks (10/11) = 84%
Draft out turn 16/5/12 – subject to sign-off
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Key actions going forward

- Working with BCCG to ensure GPs and independent health contractors are aware of their statutory responsibility to LAC.
- Age appropriate health promotion information pack for LAC developed and being distributed at initial and review health assessments.
- Core training for foster carers includes public health input on health promotion.
- Interim Leaving Care Nurse has been appointed and is consulting with young leavers on their health needs and working with Head of Social Care to access health histories.
- Packs produced for care leavers on local health services/information.
- Interim designated doctor and interim designated nurse in place.
- National expert currently peer reviewing initial health assessments.

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4. Mental health

Key facts:

- ❑ One in ten children aged between 5 and 16 years has a mental health problem. This equals 3682 children in Central Bedfordshire.
- ❑ Half of those with lifetime mental health problems first experience symptoms by age 14.
- ❑ Self-harming in young people is not uncommon (10-13% of 15-16 years olds have self harmed) = 796 in Central Bedfordshire.
- ❑ One in ten new mothers experience postnatal depression.

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What are we doing?

- Development of home treatment team – intensive work with families with children with mental illnesses to prevent admissions.
- Home Treatment team expansion for young people with eating disorders – to provide greater resource and expertise to reduce in-patient admissions.
- Redesigned CAMH learning disability service – operational since March 2012.

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Key actions going forward

- **Introduction of a new early intervention CAMH service (CHUMS)** - operational since the end of November 2011.
- **Maternal depression** – gap analysis of services to identify opportunities for early intervention.
- **Behaviour problems** – define and identify range of children affected, map current services, identify evidence based models of care, in order to ensure an integrated service.
- **Transition to adult services** – review currently commissioned services to identify issues and ways forward to use existing resources differently, so as to reduce the impact of transition.

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In summary

- The JSNA states that:
- For children in Central Bedfordshire, outcomes on average are fairly good
- However, there appears to be a clustering of issues in areas of higher deprivation and in the most vulnerable groups of children.
- Demands on children's services are going to increase with the numbers of children increasing, and the likely effects of the economic turnaround.

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