

Children, Families & Learning

Director : Edwina Grant

Portfolio Holder Children's Services - Cllr Anita M Lewis

| Indicators | Linked to LAA | Unit | Good is | Outturn 06/07 | Outturn 07/08 | Outturn 08/09 | Quarter 1 June 09 | Quarter 2 Sept 09 | Quarter 3 Dec 09 | Quarter 4 March 10 | Year to Date | Performance Judgement (Q compared with Q) | Target 09/10 | Comments |
|--|---------------|--------|---------|---------------|---------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| NI 51 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health | YES | Score | H | 12 BCC | 13 BCC | 13 BCC | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | 14 | This indicator relies on a Self assessment of work with the Mental Health Trust through the Children's Trust, due to be submitted in February to the DCSF. There will therefore be a detailed response in a later quarterly report. |
| NI 56 - Obesity among primary age school children in Year 6 # | YES | % | L | NR | NR | 14.2 | ND | ND | - | - | ND | - | 13.5% | Children are defined as obese if their body-mass index (BMI) is above the 95th centile of the reference curve for their age and sex according to the UK BMI centile classification. The BMI is calculated using a child's height, weight, date of birth and sex. The National Child measurement programme is completed at the end of each academic year. School nurses have carried out the fieldwork, analysis was not verified at time of writing. |
| NI 58 - Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children | NO | Score | L | NEW | NEW | 12.5 | 5 | 18 | - | - | 10 | - | NT | Looked after children experience significantly worse mental health than the general child population. An estimated 45% of looked after children aged 5 to 17 have mental health problems, over 4 times higher than for all children. This measure is intended to assess progress in improving the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children. Locally the majority of last year's Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) were completed in the last quarter of the performance year (Jan-Mar). As these are annual questionnaires the current performance profile is therefore to be expected. Last year was the first for reporting against this indicator, comparative analysis is not therefore available as baselines are being established |
| NI 68 - The percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments (Count of referrals divided by Initial Assessment Completed) | NO | % | H | 96.7% BCC | 71.0% BCC | 83.3% | 75.7% | 72.9% | - | - | 73.7% | Monitor | 80.0% | This indicator is a proxy for several issues: the appropriateness of referrals coming into social care, which can show whether local agencies are working well together; and the thresholds which are being applied in children's social care at a local level. This quarter's performance is above both the national and comparator authorities group. It does however indicate an increase in local contact patterns, diluting this indicator, due in part to heightened sensitivity of professionals following the death of baby Peter and the subsequent focus on safeguarding. |
| NI 59 - The percentage of initial assessments within seven working days of referral | NO | % | H | 87.2% BCC | 88.1% BCC | 92.6% | 82.3% | 86.4% | - | - | 84.7% | Monitor | 85.0% | Initial assessments are an important indicator of how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. As the assessments involve a range of local agencies, this indicator also shows how well multi-agency working arrangements are established in local authority areas. Reported performance is in line with the target and is significantly better than the annual average performance both nationally and for comparator Authorities. |
| NI 60 - The percentage of core assessments that were completed within 35 working days of their commencement | NO | % | H | 77.9% BCC | 80.7% BCC | 89.9% | 72.0% | 81.3% | - | - | 76.1% | Monitor | 85.0% | This indicator measures the percentage of core assessments which were completed within 35 working days. Core assessments are in-depth assessments of a child, or children, and their family, as defined in the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. The temporary dip in performance against this indicator has been caused by staffing difficulties in the Intake & Assessment Team and some ICT issues. Recruitment activity is taking place to reduce reliance on agency staff. The impact of maternity leave and staff released for qualification training is being reviewed and the Team Manager is taking local action to ensure improved performance in the next quarter, this work will continue to be a focus in Central Bedfordshire. |
| NI 62 - The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year | NO | % | L | 8.0% BCC | 11.0% BCC | 9.8% | 9.3% | 9.4% | - | - | 9.4% | Monitor | 9.0% | This indicator is an important measure of the stability of care that a child has experienced. On the whole stability is associated with better outcomes – placement instability has been highlighted as a key barrier to improving educational outcomes for example. Proper assessment of a child's needs and an adequate choice of placements to meet the varied needs of different children are essential if appropriate stable placements are to be made. Locally performance is good compared to both national and comparator group performance. It is in line with the target trajectory. This indicator reflects a rolling year, performance for the year since April is strong at 3.8%. |
| NI 63 - The percentage of long term placement stability of looked after children | NO | % | H | 68.1% BCC | 59.4% BCC | 66.7% | 61.4% | 60.0% | - | - | 60.0% | Monitor | 65.0% | This indicator measures the long-term stability of children who remain in care for significant periods of time. Stability is associated with better outcomes. The reported change is a consequence of children passing the 2.5 year threshold who moved earlier in their care careers. |
| NI 64 - The percentage of children who ceased to be the subject of a child protection plan. | NO | % | L | 3.9% BCC | 4.4% BCC | 2.2% | 0.0% | 13.0% | - | - | 8.5% | Off track | 3.5% | This indicator measures whether children and their families are receiving the services necessary to bring about the required changes in the family situation and to monitor performance in working towards the outcomes outlined in the child protection plan. As previously reported there were seven children who had child protection plans which exceeded two years duration within the system. During this period 6 of those children (2 family groups) have been able to have their CP plans discontinued due to improvements in their care. With relatively low numbers of child protection plans in place the percentage impact is emphasised, it is expected that performance will come closer to target by year end but may not achieve the target. |
| NI 65 - The percentage of children who became the subject of a child protection plan during the year, who had previously been the subject of a child protection plan | NO | % | L | 15.3% BCC | 15.1% BCC | 13.2% | 45.5% | 0.0% | - | - | 22.7% | Off track | 15.0% | Low numbers are having a dramatic statistical impact on this percentage target. However, trajectory is consistently moving towards target as the impact of revised risk tolerance thresholds is absorbed into the performance profile. Performance is being closely monitored but decisions about child protection planning will be based solely on effective safeguarding practice rather than on achieving the target. Performance is as anticipated. |
| NI 66 - The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year which were reviewed on time during the year | NO | % | H | 96.6% BCC | 98.0% BCC | 97.5% | 99.3% | 97.8% | - | - | 97.8% | On track | 95.0% | The review is one of the key components within the core processes of working with children and families. The purpose of the review is to consider the plan for the child's welfare, to monitor the progress of the plan and amend it as necessary in light of changed information and circumstances. Good performance is reported which is in line with target and exceeds both national and comparator group performance. |
| NI67 - The percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed | NO | % | H | 94.7% BCC | 100% BCC | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | - | - | 100.0% | On track | 100.0% | Reviews are a key element in delivering Child Protection Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions. This indicator is a proxy for the measurement of the effectiveness of the interventions provided to children with a Child Protection Plan. Very good performance is reported in line with the target. |
| NI 89a - Reduction of number of schools judged as requiring special measures # | NO | No. | L | 1 | 1 | No schools in Special Measures as at 31 March 09 | 0 | 0 | - | - | 0 | On track | 0* | Currently there are no schools in Special Measures or with a Notice to Improve in Central Bedfordshire. |
| NI 89b - Time taken to come out of special measures # | NO | Months | L | NR | NR | 23 | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | NT | No schools in Central Bedfordshire have been in special measures. |
| NI 73 Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 # | NO | % | H | 71% | 75.0% | 72 Provisional | ND | ND | - | - | ND | - | 82%* | This is a new indicator from 2009. Results indicate that 72% of pupils at Key Stage 2 achieved Level 4 or above in both English and mathematics combined. This provisional result does not take account of data checking undertaken by schools and returned to the national data collection agency. Final results will be available in December. Indications are that there will be little change following the data checking exercise. These figures place Central Bedfordshire in line with the national average but below that for statistical neighbours. |
| NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths # | NO | % | H | 48.8% | 51.0% | 49.7 Provisional | ND | ND | - | - | ND | - | 56%* | Provisional results indicate that 49.7% of students at Key Stage 4 achieved 5A*-C including English and mathematics. This represents a decline of just over 1% compared with 2008, following a substantial improvement that year. These figures place Central Bedfordshire in line with the national average but below the average for statistical neighbours. This is a current priority for improvement. Four upper schools are part of the Gaining Ground programme this year. |
| NI 87 Secondary school persistent absence rate # | NO | % | L | 3.7% | 3.4% | ND | ND | ND | - | - | ND | - | 3%* | Whilst persistent absence at CBC schools remains low compared to Ofsted neighbour authorities it should be remembered that for the purposes of NI 87 middle schools count as secondary schools and this may well artificially deflate the actual CBC persistent absence figure. There is a need for further comparative analysis. Targeting of designated persistent absence schools will continue. (Next year's NI 87 will be calculated excluding the persistent absence figures from the newly-established All Saints Academy and this is likely to further deflate the overall figure.) |
| NI 88 Percentage of schools providing access to extended services # | NO | % | H | NR | NR | 56% | 56% | 88% | - | - | 88% | - | 85% | Excellent progress has been made and the 85% target of schools offering the Full Core Offer by September 09 has been met. Comparative data in relation to regional averages and statistical neighbours will be available from October 09. |
| NI 99 Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 # | NO | % | H | NR | 50.0% | NA | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | 40.0%* | Central Bedfordshire data for 2007-8 shows results above the national. Improved processes to track the progress made by individual children in this group are being implemented and will be overseen by the work of the Virtual Head teacher. Due to the low numbers of pupils, under data protection we're unable to publish 2008-9 results. However all pupils in the 2009 OC2 cohort have been tracked and individual results are known. |
| NI 100 Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2 # | NO | % | H | NR | 50.0% | NA | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | 40.0%* | As above |
| NI 101 Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths) # | NO | % | H | NR | 12.5% | NA | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | 14.0%* | A key priority within the Enjoy and Achieve section of the Children and Young People's Plan is to continue to provide support to children in vulnerable circumstances and to ensure that their progress is carefully monitored and support reviewed on a regular basis. Due to the low numbers of pupils, under data protection we're unable to publish 2009 results. However all pupils in the 2009 OC2 cohort have been tracked and individual results are known. |
| NI 103a Special Educational Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks | NO | % | H | NEW | NEW | 100.0% | 100.0% | 97% | - | - | 98% | On track | 95.0% | Good performance in line with target. |

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| NI 103b Special Educational Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks | NO | % | H | NEW | NEW | 83.9% | 95.7% | 94.0% | - | - | 95.0% | On track | 77.0% | Exceptions within the descriptor for this target equate to delays beyond the control of the LA. In this case the delays are in receiving reports from Paediatricians. We will work on this indicator through the Children's Trust. |
| NI 110 - Young People's Participation in positive activities # | YES | % | H | NEW | NEW | 73.9% | ND | ND | - | - | ND | Monitor | 77.9% * | The data from the yearly TellUs Survey is quite small and will not offer a full and accurate picture across the locality. Under the Making a Positive Contribution delivery group, plans are in place to collect actual activity in a coordinated manner. Young people's involvement in positive activity data will be collated by March 2010. Priorities included within the Children & Young People's Plan cover increasing the range of Youth Work provision on Friday & Saturday evenings and the creation of a new Youth Parliament. Elections for the Youth Parliament will take place in 2010. New local Targets are near to completion. |
| NI 114 - Rate of permanent exclusions from school # | NO | % | L | NR | 0.17% | 0.18 | 0.19% | 0.11% | - | - | 0.11% | - | NT | Exclusions for September show a decrease from a similar period last year (September 2008 - 0.14%). A priority within the Enjoy and Achieve plan is provide support within localities and to work with schools to improve inclusion, early identification of ,and early intervention with children at risk of exclusion . |
| NI 115 - Substance misuse by young people # | YES | % | L | NEW | NEW | 13.3% | ND | ND | - | - | ND | - | 82.9% * | The data for this indicator is available on an annual basis. In 08/09, a baseline against the indicator was developed for Central Bedfordshire and set at 13.3%. This places Central Bedfordshire above our family group average of 11.5% although it has been acknowledged that the sample of data used in Bedfordshire was not large enough to offer a full accurate picture across the locality. For 09/10, our Harmful Risky Behaviours Plan and Performance Framework are in place. These documents outline what action we will take to address problematic drugs/alcohol issues in Central Bedfordshire and provide a range of local & national indicators that will highlight our progress. Regular reports will be made against key indicators to the Be Healthy group. |
| NI 116 - Proportion of children in poverty | YES | % | L | NR | NR | NA | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | NT | Still awaiting national guidance concerning the baseline: However, Central Bedfordshire is well placed to understand the local characteristics of poverty as measured through workless and low income households data, due to the work of the Bedfordshire Child Poverty Network. Currently there are 27% of children aged 1 to 16 living within such families. A new Child Poverty Bill was published one month ago and includes 4 new national indicators. A Child Poverty Strategy will be completed by December 09, in collaboration with the Local Strategic Partnership. Progress and monitoring of performance will be overseen by the Achieving Economic Well Being Delivery Group. The reduction of Child Poverty is a major priority contained within the new Children & Young Peoples Plan. |
| NI 117- 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training | YES | % | L | NR | NR | 5.9% | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | 5.6% | Data is returned to the Department for Children Schools and Families on a monthly basis and scrutinized by the 14-19 strategic forum and the Achieve Economic Wellbeing delivery group. Last year the Connexions Service exceeded the 6.1% target and attracted reward money for Central Bedfordshire. Benchmarking for Central Bedfordshire in relation to overall performance will be measured during Nov 09-January 10. Statistical data for September 09 showed that 6.5 % of 16-18 year olds were not in Education Training or Employment which was better than the regional and national average. The % of young people in Learning is also above the regional and national average. In September a total of 370 young people were not in Education Training or Employment, (6.5% the same outturn at the same period last year). It is expected that the economic climate will impact on this target within all Local Authorities. Locally we are using sophisticated management information to better target hot spot areas and individual young people, and have reorganised service delivery to good effect. |
| NI 147 - The percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are living in suitable accommodation | NO | % | H | 75.0% BCC | 88.9% BCC | 100.0% | NA | 90.9% | - | - | 90.9% | Monitor | 95.0% | Performance is currently out of line with target, this snapshot shows that at the time of recording one young person was in custody which we do not interpret as suitable accommodation. The small size of cohort make this indicator extremely susceptible to external factors. In future we will seek to ensure that we effectively manage all circumstances that are within our control |
| NI 148 - The percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are engaged in education, training or employment | NO | % | H | NA | 56.0% BCC | 66.7% | NA | 90.9% | - | - | 90.9% | On track | 70.0% | Exceeding target, exceeding last years performance and improved on last quarter. |
| NI 19 Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders | NO | % | H | NEW | NEW | NA | -25.6% Polarity - L | ND | - | - | NA | - | - | Data for Central Bedfordshire will be available one month in arrears. |
| NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 | NO | % | L | NR | NR | -15% | 30.9% | ND | - | - | NA | - | - | Quarter 1 data on FTE shows a percentage increase of 30.95 set against the same period in 2008. The figure rose from 55 to 72 young people, an increase of 17. However, Police National Computer data is now used to record FTE; this has changed the baseline figures and we no longer compare 'like to like'. We are interrogating our recorded figures and comparing these with Bedfordshire police figures to more fully understand the reason for the rise in FTE. We are working with Beds Police to ensure that we are notified of all FTE at the earliest opportunity to avoid double counting. We have engaged with Beds Police and Plan B to review, extend and re-launch the Deferred Decision Making scheme which diverts young people from the criminal justice system. Beds Police, working in partnership with the YOS and other agencies are shortly to implement Restorative Justice interventions, which will significantly impact on the number of FTE |
| NI 8 Adult participation in sport | YES | % | H | NEW | NEW | 25.6% | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | 25.9% | The performance in 2008/09 is a 3.5% increase on 2007/08 baseline and places CBC in the top quartile. Indicator is delivered through a multi agency arrangement - the lead being the county sports partnership - Team Beds and Luton. This is the delivery arm of Sport England's strategy. As part of the LAA it falls within the Stronger Communities thematic partnership and outputs are reported to that body on a quarterly basis. This will also be reported to the Local Strategic Partnership. A full 3-year delivery plan provides the detail of the activity undertaken. |
| NI 11 Engagement in the arts | YES | % | H | NEW | NEW | NA | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | 47.8% | The 2007/08 baseline for Bedfordshire was 41.8% and a 4% increase was targeted for 2010/11. In light of the recent Active People survey results, the targets for this indicator have been changed and are now higher than originally agreed. The year end target for 2010/11 is now 47.8%. Indicator is delivered through a multi agency arrangement - the lead being Central Bedfordshire LA. As a local indicator in the LAA it falls within the Stronger Communities thematic partnership and outputs are reported to that body on a quarterly basis. This will also be reported to the LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP. A Central Bedfordshire delivery plan provides the detail of the activity undertaken. |
| NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport # | NO | % | H | NEW | 85.3% | NA | NA | NA | - | - | NA | - | NT | National data has just been released (19/10/09) and the Partnership Development Managers are now analysing it for the four school sport partnerships. |