



**Central Bedfordshire  
Children's Trust**

# **Annual Report:**

## **Children and Young People's Plan**

**June 2013 – March 2015**

**May 2014**

## **Introduction**

This is the first annual report of the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) June 2013 – March 2015. Progress and performance against our key priorities is set out in the pages that follow – with a basket of critical performance indicators attached as Appendix A.

# Improved educational attainment

## Outcomes

Improved achievement and progress

The right skills to be work ready

Excellent behaviour

Well led and managed schools

Outstanding teaching and learning

**Cross Cutting: Early help for all who need it  
Put children at the centre of everything we do  
Multi-agency learning and shadowing opportunities to promote shared understanding of work**

## What difference have we made?

- Created 300 lower school places for Central Bedfordshire in 2013/14, and are on track to create additional Lower, Middle and Upper places by 2015.
- Spent £16.5 million on providing additional places across Central Bedfordshire and expect to spend a further £46.5 million over the next 5 years, to deliver the New School Places Programme.
- Opened the Academy of Central Bedfordshire (alternative provision free school).
- The most recent Ofsted overall effectiveness judgements (provisional) for schools inspected as at 31 December 2013 suggest 85% of Central Bedfordshire Schools are good or better, Statistical Neighbour Average (79%) and England (80%).
- The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds recorded as participating in apprenticeships December 2013 is 4.8% - higher than East of England (4.2%) and England (3.6%).
- NEETS (16 -18 population) - Central Bedfordshire continues to perform well (4.3%) and is performing better than the National (5.3%) and Regional (5.1%) averages.
- Piloted the 'Achievement for All' programme in schools. Etonbury Academy (one of the pilot schools) successfully met the criteria for the Achievement for All Quality Standards Award.
- Virtual School - a changed approach with regard to attendance and the progress of looked after children. This has resulted in improvements to attendance which is a key factor in improving outcomes.
- Listen to what young people thought about a range of key services. The Council and partners were inspected as part of a Youth Audit by young people. Agencies involved included Central Bedfordshire Council, Health, Voluntary Sector, and Commissioned Providers. An action plan has been drawn up to address young people's recommendations.
- Pupil absence (persistent absence) in secondary schools has reduced from 6.6% in Academic year 2011/12 to 5.4% in Academic year 2012/13.
- Children with special educational needs have been supported to improve their progress.
- Responded to Governors' feedback by publishing 'Governors Essentials' on a more frequent monthly basis.
- Delivered 'Train the Trainer' Safeguarding Awareness training in the majority of schools.

## Challenges

- Attainment - Good Level of Development, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 (A level ) results.
- Impact of pupil premium on progress and attainment across key stages.
- Achievement of disadvantaged children.

# Protecting vulnerable children

## Outcomes

Children are happier and safer as a result of help received

Children in care have safe and stable homes

Young people are diverted from offending and anti-social behaviour

**Cross Cutting: Early help for all who need it  
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**Multi-agency learning and shadowing opportunities to promote shared understanding of work**

## What difference have we made?

- Launched the Access hub to provide 'one front door' for referrals to early help and children's social care.
- Developed a new Looked After Children's Service and launched a new Fostering and Adoption Service.
- Improved on the time taken for adoptions and continue to compare well to other local authorities. With more adoptions planned and shorter timescales in most cases we expect to continue to improve in future.
- In Quarter 4, 84.4% of children's social care assessments were completed within 45 days.
- Child protection reviews within timescales continue to achieve the 100% target.
- The number of young people entering the criminal justice system has reduced significantly, year on year, as a result of better identification and targeted early intervention through Triage. The year end position for Central Bedfordshire is an overall reduction of 9.4%.
- The number of young people receiving a custodial sentence is falling nationally. However, it is exceptional that in Central Bedfordshire no young people received a custodial sentence in 2013/14. This is down to better early identification of and earlier intervention with children and young people at risk of offending behaviour through the Triage scheme; more success in reducing re-offending and more willingness amongst the judiciary to consider recommendations from practitioners to deal with young people by way of community sentences.
- The latest validated re-offending data relates to April 2011 to March 2012 when Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service had a re-offending figure of 29.9%. This position is viewed as very positive by the Youth Justice Board and better than both our regional neighbours and significantly lower than the national average of some 35%. (The Ministry of Justice does not split the data according to authority.)
- Co-ordinated, monitored and challenged safeguarding work through the new Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.
- Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board has agreed it's Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy to do everything possible to prevent child sexual exploitation and support victims of this abuse.
- Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board has learnt from audits and case reviews and communicated lessons to key stakeholders.

## Challenges

- Tackling the challenges of domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health for children and families.
- Meeting the 80% target for young offenders in employment, education or training (ETE) has been challenged by the current economic climate which adversely affects young people, and in particular those young people who are more challenging. The percentage of young people in Central Bedfordshire in suitable ETE on the last day of their order in 2013/14 was 72.3% - 47 out of 65.

# Early help and improving life chances

## Outcomes

High quality early years and child care

Positive, confident parents and carers

Young carers identified and supported

High aspirations for young people and their families

Children and young people with disabilities are supported to achieve their aspirations

More families in work and fewer children living in poverty

Troubled families are supported

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## What difference have we made?

- Launched the new Access Hub to provide “one front door” for referrals to early help and children’s social care.
- Communications, training and advice on Early Help to the professional community has led to an increase in the number of Early Help Assessments carried out.
- Commissioned a specialist service to provide counselling for children with a parent in prison.
- Successfully introduced Children with Disabilities Hubs and a new service model developed in partnership with parents.
- Four Central Bedfordshire Schools were the first in the country to receive the gold School Standards Award from The Children’s Society. The standard shows competence in a number of areas including identification, monitoring and supporting young carers. Central Bedfordshire will now begin a programme of rolling it out. The national scheme will supplement our own local charter.
- A high percentage of early years and childcare setting judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding or Good: Non domestic childcare - 90%, childminders - 85%.
- In Quarter 4 516 of 536 young carers are receiving support (96%). A small number of young carers receive one to support – this element of support offered is being reviewed and developed.
- Delivering parenting support programmes - This year the Parenting Early Intervention Programme Team have delivered 26 programmes across Central Bedfordshire. There has been significant success with the intensive Mellow Babies programme and with the delivery of Parents as First Teachers Programme through outreach work and Children's Centres.
- ASPIRE programme - A high percentage of participants reported improved aspirations and self esteem. This year the commissioned provider has delivered 18 ASPIRE programmes across Central Bedfordshire.
- Children's Centres - Improved use of data and performance management of Children's Centres has resulted in a greater focus on supporting vulnerable families within Children's Centres.

## Challenges

- Take up of early education / child care for disadvantaged 2 year olds.
- The Supporting Families Programme (formerly the Troubled Families Programme) has now been embedded within early help services to reflect the direction of travel and focus on intensive and practical support to families displaying early signs of more significant problems which impact future life chances. Identifying enough families that meet the Government’s criteria has been a significant challenge which has impacted on starting intervention work and delivering payment by results outcomes in line with expectations. Interim outcomes data from a sample of families that are still receiving support through the programme and are on the road to achieving sustained improvements show that the programme is having a positive impact on a range of wider outcomes relating to health, education, community safety, economic wellbeing.

# Being healthy and positive

## Outcomes

Children have the best start in life

Improved mental health for children and their parents

Better health outcomes for looked after children

Fewer young people engaging in risky behaviours

Children and families developing lifelong healthy lifestyles

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## What difference have we made?

- The number of pregnant women accessing the Central Bedfordshire Stop Smoking Service has increased since introducing a new, targeted programme to work with pregnant women who smoke in areas of high prevalence – Houghton Regis, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. The conversion rate from attendance to quitting has increased significantly, with current figures of 90% women quitting after 4 weeks. Latest figures also indicate an increase in women signing up to the long term Smoking in Pregnancy Programme which will contribute to a reduction in the rate of smoking at time of delivery (SATOD).
- Breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks have shown a slight increase in Central Bedfordshire, with a projected outturn of 45.4% for the full year 2013/14.
- Childhood obesity rates have continued to decrease for both Years R & Year 6, and prevalence is lower in both year groups, than the national and East of England averages. The focus for 2014/15 is to strengthen the work on obesity and physical activity in school communities, and increase engagement in family weight management programmes in wards of high levels of childhood obesity.
- Under-18 conception rates have continued to fall in Central Bedfordshire in line with the national picture, and there has been a 38.7% reduction in conceptions occurring in the under 16s between 2011-12. Work will continue locally – with a specific focus in wards high teenage pregnancy rates - to: increase access to Community and Sexual Health (CASH) services; improve the quality of PSHE/SRE in schools; provide support for parents to tackle SRE; provide additional support for young people with learning disabilities, and for care leavers; implement The Family Nurse Partnership.
- Throughout 2013/14 the percentage of children and young people reporting a reduction in alcohol and drugs usage 3 months following the end of an intervention has been monitored to establish a baseline. The focus for 2014/15 will be to build on and increase the average quarterly % for 2013/14 of 78%.
- 95.4 % of Looked After Children have had their annual health assessments (rolling year).
- 90.2% of looked after children were up to date on immunisations / vaccinations 2012/13 outturn – reported Q1.
- Improved mental health for Looked After Children as measured by the average SDQ score has improved from 14.7 last year to 14.2 reported in Q4 - but remains above the target of 13.

## Challenges

- The % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery has decreased slightly over 2013/14, but there is still significant progress to be made at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.
- To increase breastfeeding rates at 6 – 8 weeks in the more deprived wards in the south of Central Bedfordshire, further strengthened and targeted partnership working between the Midwifery Service and the Health Visiting Service is planned for 2014/15.