

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - RESOURCES
AND INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY OVERVIEW
COMMITTEE**

Friday, 18th September, 2009

12.00 pm

**or on the rising of the Joint Meeting
of the 3 CFE POCs, which ever is the sooner**

Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone





AGENDA

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Friday, 18 September 2009 at 12.00 pm, or on
the rising of the Joint meeting of the 3 CFE
POCs, which ever is the sooner in the Council
Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone

Ask for: Christine Singh

Telephone: 01622 694334

Tea/coffee will be available before the meeting

Membership

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Conservative (11): | Mr C J Capon (Chairman), Mr R W Bayford, Mr D L Brazier, Mr T Gates, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr R J Parry, Mrs J A Rook, Mr K Smith, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr M Whiting and Mr R Tolputt |
| Liberal Democrat (1): | Mr I S Chittenden |
| Church Representatives (3): | The Reverend N Genders, The Reverend Canon J L Smith and Dr D Wadman |
| Parent Governor (2): | Mr P Myers and Mr O Poole |
| Teacher Advisers (6): | Mr T Desmoyers-Davies, Mrs J Huckstep, Miss S Kemsley, Mr R Straker, Mr S Thompson and Mr J Walder |

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

Item No

A COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- A1 Substitutes
- A2 Election of Vice Chairman
- A3 Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting
- A4 Dates of Future Meetings
Members are asked to note the meeting dates for CFE: Resources and Infrastructure POC, 2009/2010 are as follows:-

Thursday, 19 November 2009
Friday, 15 January 2010 - all 3 CFE POCs
Thursday, 15 April 2010
Tuesday, 20 July 2010
Friday, 17 September 2010
Wednesday, 24 November 2010
(All meetings will commence at 10.00 am)

B ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- B1 Areas of Focus for Future Meetings

- B2 CFE Budget Monitoring 2009/10 (Pages 1 - 30)
- B3 Playbuilder Funding - Update (Pages 31 - 34)
- B4 Climate Change: Six monthly progress report (Pages 35 - 46)
- B5 The Transfer of Learning & Skills Council functions to Local Authorities (Pages 47 - 52)

C SELECT COMMITTEE WORK

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

**All timings are approximate*

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
(01622) 694002

10 September 2009

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

By: Keith Abbott, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Grahame Ward, Director of Resources

To: Children, Families & Education Policy Overview Committee -
18 September 2009

Subject: CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION BUDGET MONITORING
2009/10

Classification: Unrestricted

FOR INFORMATION

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report is the second to this Committee on the forecast outturn against budget for the Children Families and Education (CFE) Directorate for 2009/10 financial year, and is based on the first full quarterly monitoring report which will be presented to Cabinet on 14 September 2009.

2. Schools

- 2.1. As reported at the last committee meeting, the Local Authority agreed a similar process to last year, to challenge schools with excessive revenue reserves at the end of 2008-09 financial year.
- 2.2. The process initially focused on 42 schools, each of who were asked to provide evidence to support the level of reserves being held at 31 March 2009. The evidence provided by schools was considered by a panel of officers and Schools' Funding Forum members and 19 schools were deemed to be holding reserves totaling £2,340k without sufficient evidence or justification. Of these, 18 schools appealed against the original panel's decision. Following the appeal panel meetings, a total of £762k is being recovered from 8 schools, of which, £300k will be set aside for a specific capital project and the remainder will be re-distributed amongst Kent schools via the Schools' Funding Forum.
- 2.3. At the time of writing this report, one of the schools is looking to pursue a judicial review against the decision to recover revenue reserves.

3. 1st Quarter's Full Monitoring Report - Revenue Budget

- 3.1. The directorate is projecting a balanced budget, the detail of which is contained within the 1st quarter's full monitoring report attached at Annex 1, section 1.1. This forecast excludes Asylum and assumes that the planned management action of £1,711k will be achieved to ensure that the forecast overspend can be offset. The summarised position for the Directorate is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – CFE Revenue Budget Monitoring Summary Position

| Portfolio | Cash Limit £000s | Variance | | Movement £000s |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | | This month £000s | Last report £000s | |
| Schools | 878,229 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Asylum | 0 | 3,600 | 0 | 3,600 |
| CFE (other) | -668,351 | 1,711 | 830 | 881 |
| Directorate Total | 209,878 | 5,311 | 830 | 4,481 |
| Management Action | | -1,711 | -830 | -881 |
| Directorate Total after management action | | 3,600 | 0 | 3,600 |

- 3.2. At the time of writing this report the Directorate has received notification that the Home Office are changing the rules by which the LA can claim grant funding for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. In some instances the new rules apply from the 1 October 2009 and we are currently reviewing the new rules to see what the implications are for the Asylum budget. These issues will be raised at a meeting on 16 September with senior staff from the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) that the Leader will be attending. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.
- 3.3. Annex 1 also includes details of the planned management action and confirmation that the significant movements have been included within the 2010-13 draft Medium Term Plan (MTP) submission.

4. **1st Quarters Full Monitoring Report - Capital Budget**

- 4.1. The directorate is projecting an overspend in 2009/10 of £5,311k, the detail of which is contained within the 1st quarter's full monitoring report attached at Annex 1, section 1.2. The major element of this overspend will be covered by the roll forward of resources from 2008/09. The main pressures and savings are:
- Special Schools Review: +£5,393k
 - Corporate Property Management Fee: -£338k
 - Self Funded projects: +£147k
- 4.2. The overall funding shortfall on the Special Schools Review programme will be addressed as part of the Medium Term Planning process and the reflection in it of the Manifesto commitments.

5. **Recommendations**

- 5.1. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to note the projected outturn figures for the directorate as at the first full quarterly monitoring report.

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Background Documents: Report to Cabinet 14 September 2009
Other useful information: None

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CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE SUMMARY JULY 2009-10 FULL MONITORING REPORT

1. FINANCE

1.1 REVENUE

1.1.1 All changes to cash limits are in accordance with the virement rules contained within the constitution, with the exception of those cash limit adjustments which are considered "technical adjustments" ie where there is no change in policy, including:

- Allocation of grants and previously unallocated budgets where further information regarding allocations and spending plans has become available since the budget setting process.
- Cash limits have been adjusted since the budget was set to reflect a number of technical adjustments to budget.
- The inclusion of a number of 100% grants (ie grants which fully fund the additional costs) awarded since the budget was set. These are detailed in appendix 2 to the executive summary.

1.1.2 **Table 1** below details the revenue position by Service Unit:

| Budget Book Heading | Cash Limit | | | Variance | | | Comment |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| | G | I | N | G | I | N | |
| | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | |
| Children, Families & Education portfolio | | | | | | | |
| Delegated Budget: | | | | | | | |
| - Delegated Schools Budget | 946,831 | -80,517 | 866,314 | | | 0 | |
| - Schools Unallocated | 12,365 | -450 | 11,915 | | | | |
| - Transfer to Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | |
| TOTAL DELEGATED | 959,196 | -80,967 | 878,229 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non Delegated Budget: | | | | | | | |
| - Finance | 4,139 | -1,181 | 2,958 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Awards | 5,117 | -797 | 4,320 | 340 | 0 | 340 | £280k home to college transport - cost realignment affecting adult fares; £60k staffing & equipment |
| - Personnel & Development | 17,303 | -3,356 | 13,947 | 487 | -42 | 445 | Pressure on pensions, exacerbated by a cost of living underfunded increase |
| - Capital Strategy Unit | 1,721 | -182 | 1,539 | 700 | 0 | 700 | Maintenance of non-operational buildings. |
| - BSF/PFI/Academy Unit | 432 | 0 | 432 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Client Services | 5,754 | -4,813 | 941 | 39 | 233 | 272 | Under-recovery of income expected from contracts. Staffing pressure. |
| - Business Management | 1,880 | -243 | 1,637 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - ICT | 1,950 | -693 | 1,257 | -157 | 129 | -28 | Broadband connectivity |
| - Health & Safety | 418 | -185 | 233 | 10 | 0 | 10 | |
| - Strategic Management | 1,538 | -24 | 1,514 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Extended Services | 4,002 | -77 | 3,925 | 68 | -68 | 0 | |
| - Kent Music | 865 | 0 | 865 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - 14 - 24 Unit | 2,369 | -150 | 2,219 | 0 | 0 | | |
| - School Organisation | 3,030 | -90 | 2,940 | 0 | -10 | -10 | |

| Budget Book Heading | Cash Limit | | | Variance | | | Comment |
|--|------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--|
| | G | I | N | G | I | N | |
| | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | |
| - Mainstream HTST | 15,238 | -484 | 14,754 | -314 | 44 | -270 | Renegotiation of contracts based on latest forecast from Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) |
| - Local Children's Service Partnerships | 53,815 | -562 | 53,253 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - AEN & Resources | 16,636 | -5,579 | 11,057 | 50 | -19 | 31 | |
| - SEN HTST | 17,605 | 0 | 17,605 | 470 | 0 | 470 | Numbers of children using more expensive travel arrangements |
| - Independent Sector Provision | 11,387 | -697 | 10,690 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Strategic Planning & Review (Strategy, Policy & Performance) | 1,581 | 0 | 1,581 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Policy & Performance (Vulnerable Children) | 4,621 | -411 | 4,210 | -16 | 30 | 14 | |
| - Directorate & Democratic Services | 1,288 | 0 | 1,288 | 30 | -30 | 0 | |
| - Project Management (Strategy, Policy & Performance) | 118 | 0 | 118 | -33 | 0 | -33 | |
| - Advisory Service Kent (ASK) - Secondary | 3,102 | -160 | 2,942 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - ASK - Primary | 5,148 | -590 | 4,558 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - ASK - Early Years | 8,343 | -12 | 8,331 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - ASK - Improvement Partnerships | 2,529 | -460 | 2,069 | 32 | -38 | -6 | |
| - ASK - Professional Development | 3,759 | -1,862 | 1,897 | -13 | 0 | -13 | |
| - Early Years & Childcare | 5,711 | -142 | 5,569 | 68 | -68 | 0 | |
| - Management Information | 34,394 | -35 | 34,359 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Educational Psychology Service | 3,695 | -1 | 3,694 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Attendance & Behaviour | 8,723 | -2,420 | 6,303 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Minority Community Achievement | 1,664 | -98 | 1,566 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Specialist Teaching Service | 4,054 | -636 | 3,418 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Joint Commissioning Service | 13,671 | 0 | 13,671 | -30 | 0 | -30 | |
| - Commissioning - General | 833 | -614 | 219 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Residential Care provided by KCC | 2,691 | -40 | 2,651 | 18 | 0 | 18 | |
| - Independent Sector Residential Care | 6,679 | -928 | 5,751 | -881 | -16 | -897 | £675k underspend on disability placements, £185k underspend on secure accommodation, £20k underspend on other residential placements - resulting from fewer placements being made. |
| - Residential Care - not looked after children | 594 | 0 | 594 | 31 | 0 | 31 | |
| - Family Group Conferencing | 1,302 | -246 | 1,056 | -56 | 0 | -56 | |

| Budget Book Heading | Cash Limit | | | Variance | | | Comment |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| | G | I | N | G | I | N | |
| | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | |
| - Fostering Service | 23,743 | -226 | 23,517 | 640 | -14 | 626 | £1,682k overspend on independent fostering allowances partly offset by £463k underspend on in-house fostering. Other underspends incl. £277k in County Fostering Team and £302k on the fostering related and kinship budgets. |
| - Adoption Service | 6,882 | -50 | 6,832 | 358 | 29 | 387 | £391k overspend on special guardianship orders (SGO). £19k overspend on County adoption team offset by £52k underspend in adoption payments. |
| - Direct Payments | 2,209 | -10 | 2,199 | -191 | -3 | -194 | Underspend resulting from the use of aiming high sure start grant to fund new cases. |
| - Teenage Pregnancy | 616 | 0 | 616 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - 16+ Service | 6,699 | 0 | 6,699 | 1,179 | -60 | 1,119 | £2m overspend on Fostering related and IFA placements offset by underspends of £176k residential care, £690k S24/leaving care payments. Other minor variances of £45k. |
| - Other Community Services | 7,972 | -266 | 7,706 | 414 | -112 | 302 | Continuing pressure on S17 payments. |
| - Childrens Social Services Business Support | 8,921 | -1,466 | 7,455 | 114 | -148 | -34 | Social Work Pilot Project |
| - Assessment & Related | 34,530 | -1,473 | 33,057 | -1,492 | 9 | -1,483 | Difficulties in recruiting to vacancies including new structure |
| - Grant income & contingency | 5,262 | -1,022,057 | -1,016,795 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Support Services purchased from CED | 8,432 | 0 | 8,432 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| TOTAL NON DELEGATED | 384,965 | -1,053,316 | -668,351 | 1,865 | -154 | 1,711 | |
| Total CFE portfolio excl Asylum | 1,344,161 | -1,134,283 | 209,878 | 1,865 | -154 | 1,711 | |
| Assumed Mgmt Action | | | | -1,711 | | -1,711 | |
| CFE portfolio (excl Asylum) after mgmt action | 1,344,161 | -1,134,283 | 209,878 | 154 | -154 | 0 | |
| Asylum Seekers | 14,129 | -14,129 | 0 | 0 | 3,600 | 3,600 | Shortfall in 18+ Home Office income |
| Total CFE portfolio incl. Asylum after mgmt action | 1,358,290 | -1,148,412 | 209,878 | 154 | 3,446 | 3,600 | |

1.1.3 **Major Reasons for Variance:** *[provides an explanation of the 'headings' in table 2]*

Table 2, at the end of this section, details all forecast revenue variances over £100k. Each of these variances is explained further below:

1.1.3.1 Awards (Gross)

The Awards Unit is forecasting a pressure of £340k, of which £280k relates to Home to College Transport. This is due to a combination of increases in the cost of adult train fares and an increase in the number of SEN students requiring transport, however a more accurate position will be reported in the next full monitoring report to Cabinet in November once the September student numbers are known. The balance of the pressure relates to staffing (£30k) and equipment (£30k).

1.1.3.2 Personnel and Development (Gross)

The Personnel and Development Unit is forecasting a pressure of £487k. This is due to a £550k pressure on pensions offset by underspends on police checks (£30k) and school crossing patrols (£33k). The pressure on the pensions budget, resulting from early retirements in previous years, has been exacerbated by the 5% increase in the cost of living allowance compared to a 1% budget increase allowed for in the MTP.

1.1.3.3 Capital Strategy Unit (Gross)

The Capital Strategy Unit is forecasting a £700k pressure due to the costs associated with the boarding up and maintenance of unused school buildings, which is expected to continue until the property market recovers.

The pressure on this budget has reduced by £300k since the last exception report, due to a reduction in the expected number of new mobile moves in 2009/10.

1.1.3.4 Client Services (Income)

Client Services is forecasting a £233k under-recovery of income. The unit was expected, as part of the MTP, to implement full-cost recovery in relation to contract management. However, due to delays in the renegotiation of contracts for cleaning & refuse collection, a number of schools withdrew from the contract resulting in a reduction in the expected profit margins on contracts for this year. It is hoped that now that the process has finished, schools will begin to rejoin the contract and full-cost recovery will be achieved next year.

1.1.3.5 ICT (Gross and Income)

The forecast underspend of £157k and corresponding under recovery of income of £129k primarily relates to the Broadband Connectivity project in schools. Fewer schools are expected to request service upgrades on their broadband connection than budgeted for, resulting in an underspend of £97k with a corresponding reduction in income received from schools for this service. The balance is due to further projected underspends on staffing due to vacancies (£27k) and the expected costs of running the Oxford Road site of 33k (offset by a corresponding reduction in income).

1.1.3.7 Mainstream Home to School Transport (Gross)

It is early in the year to be predicting the outturn on this budget heading due to the impact the September pupil numbers will have on the forecast. However, early indications suggest a reduction in numbers travelling and this together with a change in the way rail tickets are purchased generating savings on under 16 fares, will lead to a significant underspend in this financial year. Our current estimated underspend is £314k which is partially offset by a reduction in income of £44k. However this is a conservative estimate and it is hoped that further savings may be achievable once the September activity levels are known. A more accurate position will be reported in the next full monitoring report to Cabinet in November.

1.1.3.8 SEN Transport (Gross)

This budget is forecasting a pressure of £470k (a reduction of £230k, since the last exception report) due to expensive travel arrangements. The Passenger Transport Unit has renegotiated a number of contracts reducing the pressure on this budget. This forecast should be viewed as provisional at this early stage in the year, and like the mainstream home to school transport budget, will be reviewed in the next full monitoring report to Cabinet in November once September pupil numbers are confirmed.

1.1.3.9 Independent Sector Residential Care (Gross)

The service is forecasting an underspend of £881k, of which £675k is due to the ending of five disability placements in 2009-10 as the children reach age 18. Added to this, there are currently no children in secure accommodation resulting in a forecast underspend of £185k. The budget for secure accommodation is sufficient to fund two placements. If these placements remain vacant, further savings will arise which will be declared in future months.

A virement of funds from this budget to the fostering and/or 16+ service will be considered later in the year when the forecast can be viewed with more certainty. This budget line is particularly volatile due to the high impact a small number of children can have on the forecast.

1.1.3.10 Fostering Service (Gross)

The fostering service is currently forecasting a pressure of £640k. This is largely due to a £1,682k pressure on independent fostering allowances (IFAs), offset by underspends on the in-house fostering service (£463k), the county fostering service (£277k), Related Fostering payments (£241k), and the kinship service (£61k).

The IFA service is used for more complex cases which our in-house foster carers may not have the necessary skills, experience or capacity to take on. A provision was made in the MTP to develop the more cost effective in-house service, with the expectation that this will relieve the pressure on the IFA budget once the number of foster carers recruited internally begins to rise, and existing carers have received further training to enable them to take on more difficult placements. However, delays in recruitment and training mean that savings are unlikely to be achieved until much later in this financial year or early next financial year. A further update on this position will be given in future monitoring reports.

The £463k underspend on the in-house fostering service is partly due to a group of children reaching age 16 and moving to the 16+ service during this financial year. In previous years the 16+ budgets sat within the fostering and residential care budgets. From 2009-10 the budget for the 16+ age group (except for children with a disability) is reported separately to reflect the fact that the service is provided by a third party under a Service Level Agreement. The saving from children moving to 16+ has been mitigated by a sharp increase in activity for the under 16 age group in the first quarter (see 2.5.1). Much of this increase is due to a large number of short term placements for 'respite' care. There has been an increase in the number of referrals, following the baby P and other similar cases, and by using short term placements it is hoped this will prevent the need for longer term provision. It is not known at this stage whether this trend will continue and a further update on this position will be given in the next full monitoring report to Cabinet in November.

The £277k underspend in the county fostering team is largely due to delays in recruiting to a number of new posts funded from the LAC pledge. It is expected that these posts will be filled by January 2010, however if further delays occur, the underspend may increase.

The £241k underspend on Related Fostering is due to a growing trend of carers moving away from fostering to special guardianship (now shown under the 1.1.3.11 adoption service heading below).

1.1.3.11 Adoption Service (Gross)

The adoption service is forecasting a gross pressure of £358k, which is mainly within the Special Guardianship service who are estimating a pressure of £391k, a further pressure on the County Adoption Service of £19k and an underspend of £52k on adoption payments.

The Special Guardianship service has been moved here from the Fostering Service this year. This service is forecasting a pressure of £391k. Special Guardianship is a relatively new legal option to provide a permanent home for a child for whom adoption is not appropriate. Since it came into force, there has been a growth in this area and a reduction in fostering (mainly Related).

1.1.3.12 Direct Payments (Gross)

This budget is partly funded by a Sure Start grant for the Short Breaks scheme, aimed at improving access for disabled children to short breaks / respite facilities. The grant is available to fund the cost of new children receiving direct payments for short breaks / respite care. As the number of new cases rises and the number of existing cases falls, there is a gradual freeing up of base budget and the service is expecting to see a base underspend of £191k in this financial year.

1.1.3.13 Leaving Care/16+ (Gross)

The presentation of the budget for the 16+ service was changed in 2009-10 to represent the cost of the service level agreement, in preparation for the transfer of this service to an external provider. This service line now includes budgets relating to 16+ for independent sector residential care, in-house foster care and independent fostering allowances along with the cost of 16+ team and section 24/leaving care payments.

The 16+ service is currently forecasting a £1,179k pressure, of which £1,182k and £822k relate to in-house fostering and independent fostering allowances respectively, partially offset by projected underspends on independent sector residential care of £176k; section 24 and leaving care payments of £690k. The balancing pressure of £41k relates to kinship payments and related foster carer payments.

The pressure on both the 16+ in-house fostering service and independent fostering allowances has increased significantly, partly due to a group of children reaching age 16 and moving in from the fostering service, and partly as a result of more children choosing to stay within their foster family up to age 18 (or 25 if undergoing further education) rather than moving to lower cost supported lodgings at age 16. The authority has a legal obligation to maintain the placement if the child requests, however the budget for the 16+ service has historically only covered the cost of supported lodgings. The pressure on this budget has previously been masked within the fostering and residential care lines.

A virement of funds from the residential care budget will be considered later in the year when the forecasts can be viewed with more certainty.

1.1.3.14 Other Preventative Services (Gross and Income)

These services are forecasting a £414k pressure partially offset by a £112k over-recovery of income, of which, £109k is from Health.

The Section 17 payments budget is forecasting a pressure of £596k. These payments form part of a community support package which supports families in caring for their children at home, and rehabilitates looked after children so that they can return home as soon as possible. This budget has been unable to achieve the savings target applied in the MTP due to the knock on effect it would have on the much more costly fostering service. This pressure is partially offset by a forecast underspend of £137k resulting from the use of the Sure Start grant for Short Breaks to fund the costs of new children accessing day care services therefore freeing up base budget. The balance relates to a small net underspend on other preventative services.

1.1.3.15 Children Social Services Business Support (Gross and Income)

The services in this line are forecasting a gross pressure of £114k, offset by an over-recovery of income of £148k. This is mainly due to additional administrative costs associated with the Social Work Pilot Project of around £135k, which will be matched by additional income from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The balance relates to other small variances.

1.1.3.16 Assessment and Related (Gross)

The current forecast underspend of £1,492k is due to a high level of staff vacancies. This is a result of difficulties in recruiting to new posts funded from the additional money made available as part of the MTP. Children's Social Services are currently forecasting to have these posts filled by January 2010 at the latest, but this depends upon a successful recruitment campaign, both nationally and internationally. The high level of vacancies in front-line staff is putting pressure on other services, particularly respite care and preventative services, as the safety of children continues to be the highest priority. Recruitment to these posts will help to alleviate that pressure,

as social worker caseloads become more manageable enabling the delivery of LAC commitments in a more pro-active and cost effective way.

The income variances previously forecast in the last exception report have been corrected by setting appropriate expenditure and income budgets (these adjustments are included in appendix 2 of the executive summary).

1.1.3.17 **Asylum:**

The Asylum service is forecasting a net shortfall in income of £3,600k, assuming the receipt of £2,169k Special Circumstance payment. Pressure continues on the asylum budget due to costs which cannot be claimed back from the Home Office under the grant rules. The majority of the pressure comes from the 18+ care leavers budget, estimated at £3,506k, as the Home Office grant does not fund clients once they have exhausted all right of appeal for residency. However the Authority has a duty under the Leaving Care Act to support these clients until they are deported or reach age 21. The Authority is continuing to lobby central government in order to seek further funding for these clients and a meeting has been re-scheduled for early September with the UK Borders Agency where long term funding issues will be discussed. The balance of the shortfall (£94k) is due to costs relating to the under 18s budget that are not expected to be eligible under existing grant rules.

The grant guidance for 2009-10 has yet to be published but this forecast is based on the assumption that the Home Office will continue to fund over 18s at the same level as the 2008-09 grant rules, and apply 2% inflation to the under 18s rate. Between April and June the number of referrals was running at an average of 36 per month, lower than the same period last year, however there were 63 referrals in July which is the highest for this point in the financial year (section 2.7). Due to the volatility of this activity, it is difficult to predict with any certainty whether this trend will continue.

Other Issues

1.1.3.18 **Payments to PVI providers for the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (DSG)**

The latest forecast suggests an underspend of around £1 million on payments to PVI providers for 3 and 4 year olds, however a more accurate forecast will be available once the autumn term hours are known. This budget is funded entirely from DSG and therefore any surplus or deficit at the end of the year must be carried forward to the next financial year in accordance with the regulations, and cannot be used to offset over or underspends elsewhere in the directorate budget.

1.1.3.19 **Delegated Schools Budgets**

As reported in the previous exception report, the CFE Directorate, in consultation with its School Funding Forum, has agreed to run a similar process as last year, to challenge those schools with a high level of revenue reserves greater than 16% of their 2008-09 budgets for Primary and Special Schools or 10% for Secondary Schools. 42 schools were asked to submit evidence to support their excess reserves, which was scrutinised by a panel made up of members of the School Forum and Local Authority Finance Officers. After a further appeals process a decision was made to recover £762k from 8 schools, of which, £300k will be set aside for a specific capital project and the remainder, £462k will be re-distributed amongst Kent schools (as per DCSF regulations). The Forum will determine how best to distribute this, along with the accumulated schools unallocated dedicated schools grant, by the end of November.

The first monitoring returns from schools are due in October and an update on the schools' forecast movement on their reserves during 2009-10 will be provided as soon as the information is available.

Table 2: REVENUE VARIANCES OVER £100K IN SIZE ORDER

| Pressures (+) | | | Underspends (-) | | |
|---------------|---|---------|-----------------|--|--------|
| portfolio | | £000's | portfolio | | £000's |
| CFE | Asylum - shortfall in Home Office income (income) | +3,600 | CFE | Assessment & Related - staffing vacancies (gross) | -1,492 |
| CFE | Fostering Service - increase in no of independent fostering allowances (districts & disability, gross) | +1,682 | CFE | Leaving Care/16+ service - Section 24/leaving care payments (gross) | -690 |
| CFE | Leaving Care/16+ service - increase in no of in-house fostering payments (gross) | +1,182 | CFE | IS Residential Care - reduction in no of disability placements (gross) | -675 |
| CFE | Leaving Care/16+ service - increase in no of independent fostering allowances (gross) | +822 | CFE | Fostering Service - reduction in no of in-house fostering payments (districts & disability, gross) | -463 |
| CFE | Capital Strategy Unit - maintenance of non-operational buildings (gross) | +700 | CFE | Mainstream Home to School Transport - contract renegotiations (gross) | -314 |
| CFE | Other Preventative Services - pressure on Section 17 payments (gross) | +596 | CFE | Fostering Service - County Fostering Team vacancies | -277 |
| CFE | Personnel & Development - pensions pressure resulting from previous years early retirements & cost of living increase (gross) | +550 | CFE | Fostering Service - reduction in no of Fostering related payments | -241 |
| CFE | SEN Transport - expensive travel arrangements (gross) | +470 | CFE | Direct Payments - rebadge of sure start expenditure (gross) | -191 |
| CFE | Adoption Service - special guardianship orders (gross) | +391 | CFE | Independent Sector Residential Care - reduction in no of secure accomodation placements (gross) | -185 |
| CFE | Awards - home to college transport prices and demand (gross) | +280 | CFE | Leaving Care/16+ service - Independent Sector residential care (gross) | -176 |
| CFE | Client Service - under-recovery of contract income due to delays in renegotiation of contracts (income) | +233 | CFE | Other Preventative Services - disability day care services rebadge of sure start eligible expenditure(gross) | -137 |
| CFE | CSS Business Support - Social Work Pilot project (gross) | +135 | CFE | CSS Business Support - Social Work Pilot project (income) | -135 |
| | | | CFE | Other Preventative Services - additional income from health for NSPCC payments (income) | -109 |
| | | +10,641 | | | -5,085 |

1.1.4 Actions required to achieve this position:

N/A

1.1.5 Implications for MTP:

Where the above pressures and underspends are of a permanent nature and can be viewed with a reasonable degree of certainty, they will be built into the MTP for 2010-13. All other pressures are expected to be managed downwards on an ongoing and sustainable basis.

1.1.6 Details of re-phasing of revenue projects:

N/A

1.1.7 **Details of proposals for residual variance:** *[eg roll forward proposals; mgmt action outstanding]*

The Directorate is forecasting a total net pressure of £1,711,000 and is intending to balance the 2009-10 Childrens, Families and Education Portfolio using the following proposals:

- We anticipate a saving of up to £500k from the Sure Start grant, as a result of delays in the opening of Children's Centres. Any saving that arises from the Sure Start grant will be badged against ASK Early Years in order to free up base budget. The current year is the last in which this option will be available to us as the final round of centres is expected to be fully functional by the end of the financial year.
- We are carrying out an in-depth review of reserves and provisions with a view to removing any reserves associated with self-funding projects funded through the base budget. The review is expected to achieve up to £500k of one-off savings.
- The forecasts on the Home to School Transport budgets are very provisional at this stage in the year. Early indications point to a fall in pupil numbers, but the relationship between overall pupil numbers and numbers travelling is not a direct one, and it is impossible to forecast numbers travelling with any certainty until September. It is hoped that the forecast will reduce once the September numbers are known.
- We are currently managing vacancies through the Establishment Panel to achieve a planned delay in recruitment. Added to this, the directorate is in the early stages of a reorganisation which, it is anticipated, will result in an increase in the overall level of vacancy as managers delay recruiting to posts pending the outcome.

The management actions listed above are expected to resolve this year's budget pressures, and the directorate expects to end the financial year with a balanced position. However, it should be noted that these are mainly one-off savings which cannot be sustained on an ongoing basis, and therefore the directorate will need to ensure that any pressures which are unavoidable, permanent and can be viewed with some certainty, are provided for within the already difficult 2010-13 MTP.

1.2 **CAPITAL**

1.2.1 All changes to cash limits are in accordance with the virement rules contained within the constitution and have received the appropriate approval via the Leader, or relevant delegated authority.

The capital cash limits have been adjusted since last reported to Cabinet on 13th July 2009, as detailed in section 4.1.

1.2.2 **Table 3** below provides a portfolio overview of the latest capital monitoring position excluding PFI projects.

| | Prev Yrs Exp £000s | 2009-10 £000s | 2010-11 £000s | 2011-12 £000s | Future Yrs £000s | TOTAL £000s |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Children, Families & Education | | | | | | |
| Budget | 299,876 | 213,638 | 186,048 | 55,893 | 135,777 | 891,232 |
| Adjustments: | | | | | | |
| - roll forward | -5,172 | 5,155 | 17 | | | 0 |
| - Outturn and pre-outturn changes | -65,212 | | | | | -65,212 |
| - Practical Cooking Spaces | | 50 | 250 | | | 300 |
| - Kitchen & Dining Improvements | | 410 | 1,166 | | | 1,576 |
| - Transforming Short Breaks | | | 2,407 | 1,493 | | 3,900 |
| - | | | | | | 0 |
| Revised Budget | 229,492 | 219,253 | 189,888 | 57,386 | 135,777 | 831,796 |
| Variance | | +3,482 | -1,574 | +2,282 | +1,121 | +5,311 |
| split: | | | | | | |
| - real variance | | +4,391 | +869 | +26 | +25 | +5,311 |
| - re-phasing | | -909 | -2,443 | +2,256 | +1,096 | 0 |
| | | | | | | |
| Devolved Capital to Schools | | | | | | |
| Budget | 44,618 | 27,252 | 26,690 | 27,291 | 54,582 | 180,433 |
| - roll forward | -9,469 | 9,469 | | | | 0 |
| - Outturn and pre-outturn changes | -34,233 | | | | | -34,233 |
| - | | | | | | |
| Revised Budget | 916 | 36,721 | 26,690 | 27,291 | 54,582 | 146,200 |
| Variance | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| split: | | | | | | |
| - real variance | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - re-phasing | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | |
| Directorate Total | | | | | | |
| Revised Budget | 230,408 | 255,974 | 216,578 | 84,677 | 190,359 | 977,996 |
| Variance | 0 | 3,482 | -1,574 | 2,282 | 1,121 | 5,311 |
| Real Variance | 0 | 4,391 | 869 | 26 | 25 | 5,311 |
| Re-phasing | 0 | -909 | -2,443 | 2,256 | 1,096 | 0 |

1.2.3 Main Reasons for Variance

Table 4 below, details all forecast capital variances over £250k in 2009-10 and identifies these between projects which are:

- part of our year on year rolling programmes e.g. maintenance and modernisation;
- projects which have received approval to spend and are underway;
- projects which are only at the approval to plan stage and
- projects at preliminary stage.

The variances are also identified as being either a real variance i.e. real under or overspending which has resourcing implications, or a phasing issue i.e. simply down to a difference in timing compared to the budget assumption.

Each of the variances in excess of £1m which is due to phasing of the project, excluding those projects identified as only being at the preliminary stage, is explained further in section 1.2.4 below.

All real variances are explained in section 1.2.5, together with the resourcing implications.

Table 4: CAPITAL VARIANCES OVER £250K IN SIZE ORDER

| portfolio | Project | real/ phasing | Project Status | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | | | Rolling Programme | Approval to Spend | Approval to Plan | Preliminary Stage |
| | | | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s |
| Overspends/Projects ahead of schedule | | | | | | |
| CFE | Maintenance Programme | phasing | +3,000 | | | |
| CFE | Meadowfield School | real | | +1,200 | | |
| CFE | Bower Grove School | real | | +663 | | |
| CFE | Wyvern (Clockhouse & Buxford) | real | | +500 | | |
| CFE | Orchard (Dunkirk) | real | | +500 | | |
| CFE | Milestone School | real | | +480 | | |
| CFE | Grange Park School | real | | +418 | | |
| CFE | Rowhill School | real | | +257 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | +3,000 | +4,018 | +0 | +0 |
| Underspends/Projects behind schedule | | | | | | |
| CFE | Transforming Short Breaks | phasing | | -1,636 | | |
| CFE | Primary Pathfinder - The Manor | phasing | | -771 | | |
| CFE | Templar Barracks | phasing | -744 | | | |
| CFE | Dartford Grammar Girls | phasing | -437 | | | |
| CFE | Corporate Property Recharge | real | -338 | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | -1,519 | -2,407 | -0 | -0 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | +1,481 | +1,611 | +0 | +0 |

1.2.4 Projects re-phasing by over £1m:

1.2.4.1 Transforming Short Breaks for Families with Disabled Children; -£1.636 million

The aim of the Short Breaks Transformation Programme is to increase the quality, quantity and range of provision of short term breaks for disabled children in Kent through : services in family's own home - including both overnight, day care, and sitting services, day, evening, weekend and holiday activities, foster care provision for short breaks - both overnight and day care, provision of overnight residential care for children with complex needs, services for children requiring palliative care, fuller use of school facilities, enhancement of transport provision and provision for 14+ age group.

The programme has rephased by £1.636m which represents 24.8% of the total value of the programme. The major areas of rephasing within this programme are :

1. Multi Agency Resource Centre, Ashford (rephasing of £0.580m from 2009/10 to 2010/11) Additional funding of £3.941m has now been secured by the Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust for investment in this new facility to be built on the Wyvern Special School site, giving a total resource for the project of £4.650m. The delay in obtaining approval to proceed has delayed the start of the project by six months, hence the need to rephase. Approval has now been obtained for the design phase of this project to commence. Architects were appointed in July 09 and the design phase is expected to be completed by December 09, with a target date of building work commencing in April 10.

2. The Rainbow Lodge project in Dartford (rephasing of £0.328m from 2009/10 to 2010/11). This project is a complex reconfiguration programme within the existing building. The work has to be undertaken on a phased approach as the unit is unable to shut and must remain open as a respite unit. The planning for the allocation of some of the children to other units has to be undertaken on a co-ordinated approach. The best time for the work to commence on the unit is January 2010, with a completion date expected in the first quarter of 2010/11.
3. Adaptations to Foster Carers homes (rephasing of £0.300m from 2009/10 to 2010/11) – During 08/09 the Fostering service was in the process of increasing their base staff in readiness for the recruitment of new foster carers. The foster carers are now in the process of being recruited. We should therefore see an increase in the adaptations expenditure towards the end of 09/10.
4. Court Drive (rephasing of £0.230m from 2009/10 to 2010/11) – Initial delays, which have now been resolved, related to the transfer of staff from the Health Service via TUPE arrangements. Further delays have been caused through the internal transfer of the property within Health. At present the ownership issue is ongoing. Until the ownership of the property within Health is resolved it would not be prudent to develop this site. The impact of this issue has resulted in a delayed start to the project and the need to rephase funding into 2010/11.

Overall this leaves a residual balance of £0.198m on a number of more minor projects.

There are no financial implications. All of the £1.636m rephasing is grant funded with a spend deadline of 31st March 2011.

| | Prior Years | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | future years | Total |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s |
| BUDGET & FORECAST | | | | | | |
| Budget | 106 | 2,584 | 2,407 | 1,493 | 0 | 6,590 |
| Forecast | 106 | 948 | 4,043 | 1,493 | | 6,590 |
| Variance | 0 | -1,636 | 1,636 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FUNDING | | | | | | |
| Budget: | | | | | | |
| grant | 106 | 2,584 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,690 |
| other external | 0 | 0 | 2,407 | 1,493 | | 3,900 |
| TOTAL | 106 | 2,584 | 2,407 | 1,493 | 0 | 6,590 |
| Forecast: | | | | | | |
| grant | 106 | 948 | 1,636 | 0 | 0 | 2,690 |
| other external | 0 | 0 | 2,407 | 1,493 | 0 | 3,900 |
| TOTAL | 106 | 948 | 4,043 | 1,493 | 0 | 6,590 |
| Variance | 0 | -1,636 | +1,636 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1.2.4.1 Maintenance Programme – Payments ahead of plan £3.000 million

One of the governments initiatives to pump prime the local economy during the current financial recession has been to advance to local authorities their 2010/11 modernisation grant funding early in 2009/10. This is not additional funding and as such any spend of it in 2009/10 means a corresponding reduction in 2010/11. We have therefore had to adopt a prudent view on what could be brought forward and have brought forward £3m of the planned condition maintenance programme.

| | Prior Years | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | future years | Total |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s | £'000s |
| BUDGET & FORECAST | | | | | | |
| Budget | 0 | 11,331 | 14,433 | 14,361 | 28,722 | 68,847 |
| Forecast | 0 | 14,331 | 11,433 | 14,361 | 28,722 | 68,847 |
| Variance | 0 | 3,000 | -3,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FUNDING | | | | | | |
| Budget: | | | | | | |
| supported borrowing | 0 | 8,819 | 528 | 14,361 | 28,722 | 52,430 |
| grant | 0 | 2,022 | 13,905 | 0 | 0 | 15,927 |
| prudential | 0 | 490 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 490 |
| TOTAL | 0 | 11,331 | 14,433 | 14,361 | 28,722 | 68,847 |
| Forecast: | | | | | | |
| supported borrowing | 0 | 8,819 | 528 | 14,361 | 28,722 | 52,430 |
| grant | 0 | 5,022 | 10,905 | 0 | 0 | |
| prudential | 0 | 490 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 490 |
| TOTAL | 0 | 14,331 | 11,433 | 14,361 | 28,722 | 68,847 |
| Variance | 0 | +3,000 | -3,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1.2.5 Projects with real variances, including resourcing implications:

The real variance over the lifetime of the Medium Term Plan indicates an overspend of £5.311m. The split of the real variance across the years of the MTP is +£4.391m in 2009/10, +£0.869m in 2010/11, +£0.026m in 2011/12 and +£0.025m in future years.

The +£5.311m overspend relates to the following :

Special Schools Review +£5.393m (+£4.473m in 2009/10, +£0.869m in 2009/10, +£0.026M and +£0.025m in future years).

The overall management of the SSR Programme continues to create challenges both in terms of actual delivery and financial management. The pressures on the overall budget have already required Members to agree that a number of schemes would have to be delivered through the Building Schools for the Future Programme, whilst others have been deferred until other funding sources have been identified. As the Programme progresses there has been less opportunity to offset pressures and we are now in effect seeing the final approved schemes being completed.

The funding shortfall for this programme of works, most of which has been previously identified and reported, will be composed as part of the MTP workings for 2010/11. The major variances to cash limit in this programme are :

1. **Meadowfield School +£1.200m** - this refurbishment/re-modelling project has been very problematic and with hindsight a new build option would have been considerably easier, less disruptive and possibly cheaper. Delays and additional costs have resulted from resolving a number of design issues, roof leaks, mechanical and electrical changes following changes in building regulations and contractor performance issues. Claims are outstanding against the contractor and if successful will reduce the scale of this overspend.
2. **Grange Park School +£1.294m** (£0.418m in 2009/10) – the original costings and cash limits for this project, to re-provide the school on the Wrotham School site, were based on a standard build cost per square metre. Its agreed location has required additional works to take place : acoustic works to reduce the traffic noise from the M26 motorway, extra drainage works and the need for a new electricity sub station. This forecast overspend

should be reduced by the anticipated receipt from giving up the lease earlier on the existing, very unsuitable site. This receipt has been estimated at £0.4 million.

3. **Bower Grove School +£0.663m** – the increase in spend on this project relates to combination of the addition of a number of extra items and an error in the monitoring of the overall scheme: Part of the scheme was the development of a satellite centre at the Astor of Hever School (+£0.326m). This scheme was managed by the School, funded by us but unfortunately not reflected in the monitoring. Other increases relate to the need to infill a basement area at the school (which was previously unknown), extra ceiling and dining hall works and contractor claim payments.
4. **Milestone School +£0.480m** - additional costs have resulted from delays caused by design and performance issues plus arranging for asbestos to be removed. There are outstanding claims against the contractor still to be finalised.
5. **Rowhill School +£0.257m** – additional costs resulting from delays to outdoor progress on the project caused by inclement weather (snow) and the discovery of unknown buried services. Efforts are being made to offset this pressure.
6. **Valence School +£0.199m** – additional costs have resulted from the collapse of the access road, which has delayed progress on the residential accommodation and had to be replaced, as well as electricity design issues that have needed to be resolved.
7. **Ifield School (6th Form Unit) +£0.180m** – this relates to the final payment to North West Kent College for the provision of village based 6th Form tuition facilities.
8. **Appeasement Works** – In approving the new budget for the SSR as part of the 2009/11-2011/12 MTP, there was a commitment to spend up to £3m on the six schools that had had their planned scheme deferred. Two of the Schools are:
 - (a) **The Wyvern School (Clockhouse and Buxford) +£0.500m** – this is an addition to the programme which will provide the School with additional temporary accommodation, two care suites and the refurbishment of the toilets.
 - (b) **Orchard School (Dunkirk) +£0.500m** – this is an addition to the programme which includes a building extension and some refurbishment which will allow the School to take primary aged pupils.

Corporate Property Project Management Fees -£0.338m (all in 2009/10) This saving in our Capital budget has arisen because we are unable to capitalise the Corporate Property Unit recharge for indirect staffing to the Capital Programme. Accounting rules demand that these costs have to be met from the CFE Revenue budget.

Self Funded Projects +£0.147m. (all in 2009/10) The entire overspend relates to the Quarryfield Outdoor Environmental Project which is planned to complete in 2009/10. All of costs relating to this project are being funded from Early Years revenue contributions.

Overall this leaves a residual balance of +£0.109m on a number of more minor projects. (all in 2009/10)

1.2.6 General Overview of Capital Programme:

(a) Risks

The creation of the PEF2 fund has reduced what was previously seen as the major risk i.e., the realisation of Capital Receipts. It does, however, reduce the value of receipts and hence the size of associated schemes and has meant a significant reduction in the size of our programme.

The Directorate is also at risk from external sources both in terms of the time and cost pressures on the budget by for example decisions taken by planning, environment and occasionally the individual scheme managers.

One specific scheme risk relates to the re-provision of Lypnpe Primary School. We are currently holding a spend figure on Lypnpe of £915k, but are forecasting nothing on the basis that it will all be recovered, either via the professional indemnity claim, additional fire insurance funding or a claim against the causers of the fire for 'unrecoverable losses'.

(b) Details of action being taken to alleviate risks

We continue to stress to colleagues elsewhere within the authority the fixed nature of our budget and anything extra that they insist upon means another scheme loses. The programme is also monitored internally on a regular basis and any potential challenges noted and addressed wherever possible.

1.2.7 PFI Projects

- Building Schools for the Future (wave 3)

£69.6m of investment in the BSF Wave 3 programme represents investment by a third party. No payment is made by KCC for the new/refurbished assets until the asset are ready for use and this is by way of an annual unitary charge to the revenue budget.

| | Previous years | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | £000s | £000s | £000s | £000s | £000s |
| Budget | 21,602 | 43,204 | 4,801 | | 69,607 |
| Actual / Forecast | 21,602 | 43,204 | 4,801 | | 69,607 |
| Variance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

(a) **Progress and details of whether costings are still as planned (for the 3rd party)**

The contracts for the Building Schools for the Future programme and the establishment of Local Education Partnership 1 (LEP1) were signed on 24th October 2008. These include the PFI Agreement for the construction of the three PFI schools. Preliminary works on the three PFI sites began slightly before financial close (at the Contractor's risk) in order to maintain the construction programme. The construction of the new assets is therefore currently running to schedule and in accordance with the costings above.

(b) **Implications for KCC of details reported in (a) i.e., could an increase in the cost result in a change to the unitary charge ?**

The PFI Contractor bears the risk of any delays to the construction programme (with the exception of any agreed compensation events). Consequently, any delays that may arise in the construction programme will not impact on the unitary charge.

1.2.8 Project Re-Phasing

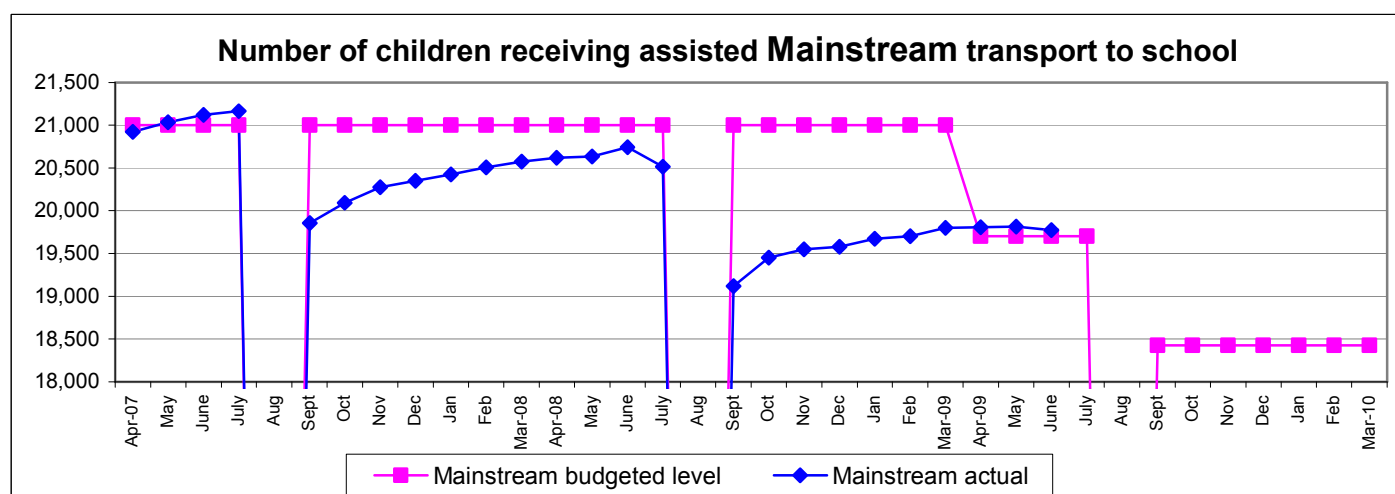
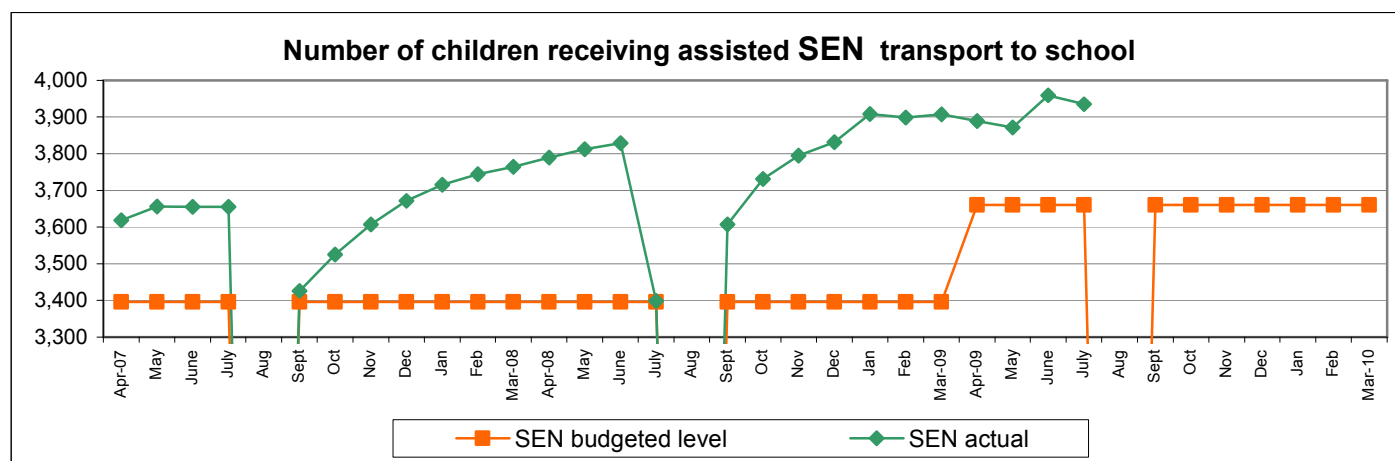
It is proposed that a cash limit change be recommended for the following projects that have re-phased by greater than £0.100m to reduce the reporting requirements during the year. Any subsequent re-phasing greater than £0.100m can be requested but the full extent of the rephasing will have to be shown. The possible re-phasing is detailed in the table below.

| | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | Future Years | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £k | £k | £k | £k | |
| Basic Needs - Goat Lees | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +100 | +1,200 | | | +1,300 |
| re-phasing | -100 | -1,100 | +1,200 | | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | 0 | +100 | +1,200 | 0 | +1,300 |
| Basic Needs - Templar Barracks | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +794 | +1,600 | +1,600 | | +3,994 |
| re-phasing | -744 | -1,381 | +1,029 | +1,096 | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | +50 | +219 | +2,629 | +1,096 | +3,994 |
| Basic Needs - Ryarsh Primary | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +169 | | | | +169 |
| re-phasing | -169 | +169 | | | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | 0 | +169 | 0 | 0 | +169 |
| Basic Needs - Dartford Grammar School for Girls | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +2,198 | | | | +2,198 |
| re-phasing | -437 | +437 | | | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | +1,761 | +437 | 0 | 0 | +2,198 |
| Modernisation of Assets - Sissinghurst Primary | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +345 | +61 | | | +406 |
| re-phasing | -200 | +200 | | | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | +145 | +261 | 0 | 0 | +406 |
| Building Maintenance Programme | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +11,331 | +14,433 | +14,361 | +28,722 | +68,847 |
| re-phasing | +3,000 | -3,000 | | | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | +14,331 | +11,433 | +14,361 | +28,722 | +68,847 |
| Primary Pathfinder - Oakfield & Manor | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +9,179 | +213 | | | +9,392 |
| re-phasing | -653 | +626 | +27 | | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | +8,526 | +839 | +27 | 0 | +9,392 |
| Transforming Short Breaks | | | | | |
| Amended total cash limits | +2,584 | +2,407 | +1,493 | | +6,484 |
| re-phasing | -1,636 | +1,636 | | | 0 |
| Revised project phasing | +948 | +4,043 | +1,493 | 0 | +6,484 |
| Total re-phasing >£100k | -939 | -2,413 | +2,256 | +1,096 | 0 |
| Other re-phased Projects below £100k | | | | | |
| re-phasing | +30 | -30 | | | 0 |
| Revised phasing | +30 | -30 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL RE-PHASING | -909 | -2,443 | +2,256 | +1,096 | 0 |

2. KEY ACTIVITY INDICATORS AND BUDGET RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING

2.1 Numbers of children receiving assisted SEN and Mainstream transport to school:

| | 2007-08 | | | | 2008-09 | | | | 2009-10 | | | |
|-------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | SEN | | Mainstream | | SEN | | Mainstream | | SEN | | Mainstream | |
| | Budgeted level | actual | Budgeted level | actual | Budgeted level | actual | Budgeted level | actual | Budgeted level | actual | Budgeted level | actual |
| April | 3,396 | 3,618 | 21,000 | 20,923 | 3,396 | 3,790 | 21,000 | 20,618 | 3,660 | 3,889 | 19,700 | 19,805 |
| May | 3,396 | 3,656 | 21,000 | 21,032 | 3,396 | 3,812 | 21,000 | 20,635 | 3,660 | 3,871 | 19,700 | 19,813 |
| June | 3,396 | 3,655 | 21,000 | 21,121 | 3,396 | 3,829 | 21,000 | 20,741 | 3,660 | 3,959 | 19,700 | 19,773 |
| July | 3,396 | 3,655 | 21,000 | 21,164 | 3,396 | 3,398 | 21,000 | 20,516 | 3,660 | 3,935 | 19,700 | 19,761 |
| Aug | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sept | 3,396 | 3,426 | 21,000 | 19,855 | 3,396 | 3,607 | 21,000 | 19,118 | 3,660 | | 18,425 | |
| Oct | 3,396 | 3,525 | 21,000 | 20,093 | 3,396 | 3,731 | 21,000 | 19,450 | 3,660 | | 18,425 | |
| Nov | 3,396 | 3,607 | 21,000 | 20,276 | 3,396 | 3,795 | 21,000 | 19,548 | 3,660 | | 18,425 | |
| Dec | 3,396 | 3,671 | 21,000 | 20,349 | 3,396 | 3,831 | 21,000 | 19,579 | 3,660 | | 18,425 | |
| Jan | 3,396 | 3,716 | 21,000 | 20,426 | 3,396 | 3,908 | 21,000 | 19,670 | 3,660 | | 18,425 | |
| Feb | 3,396 | 3,744 | 21,000 | 20,509 | 3,396 | 3,898 | 21,000 | 19,701 | 3,660 | | 18,425 | |
| March | 3,396 | 3,764 | 21,000 | 20,575 | 3,396 | 3,907 | 21,000 | 19,797 | 3,660 | | 18,425 | |

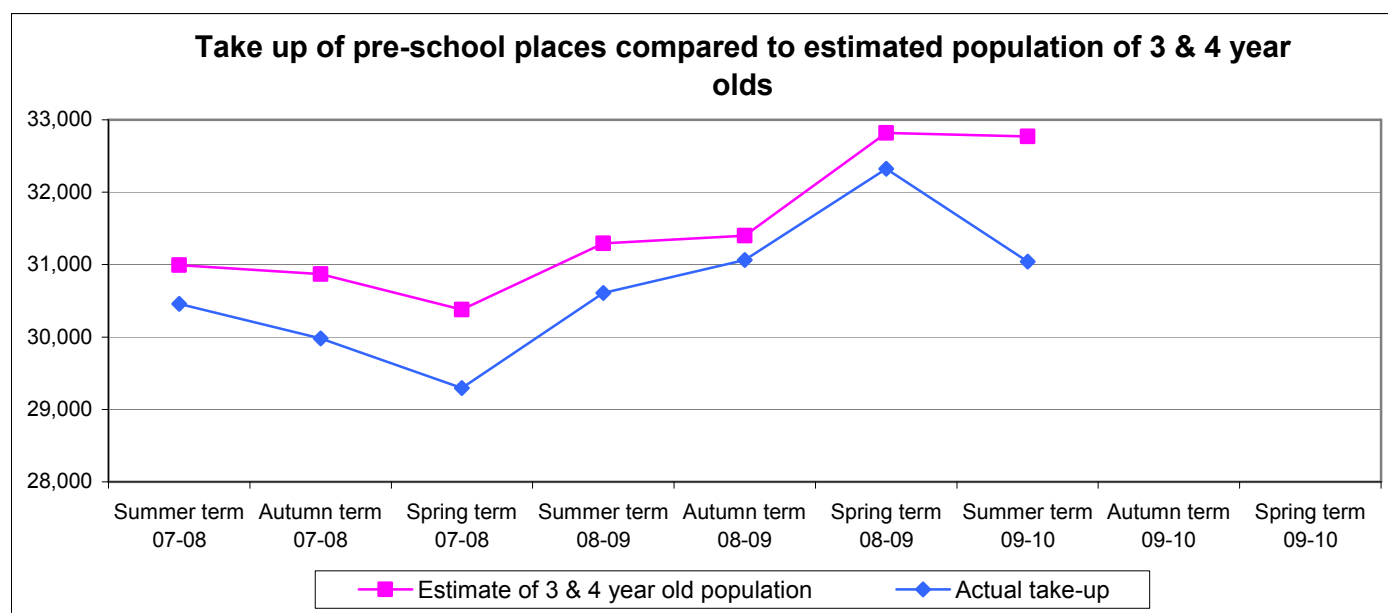


Comments:

- **SEN HTST** – The number of children requiring SEN transport continues to be higher than budgeted levels, and the resulting pressure on this budget is detailed in section 1.1.3.8.
- **Mainstream HTST** – The number of children requiring mainstream transport is higher than the budgeted level. However, as explained in section 1.1.3.7, savings have been generated through the contract renegotiation which means we can now afford more travellers than the budgeted level suggests.

2.2.1 Take up of pre-school places against the number of places available, split between Private Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) places and School places:

| | <i>PVI places taken up</i> | <i>School places taken up</i> | Total places taken up | Estimate of 3 & 4 year old population | % take up |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 2007-08 | | | | | |
| Summer term | 20,675 | 9,485 | 30,460 | 30,992 | 98% |
| Autumn term | 14,691 | 15,290 | 29,981 | 30,867 | 97% |
| Spring term | 17,274 | 12,020 | 29,294 | 30,378 | 96% |
| 2008-09 | | | | | |
| Summer term | 20,766 | 9,842 | 30,608 | 31,294 | 98% |
| Autumn term | 14,461 | 16,604 | 31,065 | 31,399 | 99% |
| Spring term | 19,164 | 13,161 | 32,325 | 32,820 | 98% |
| 2009-10 | | | | | |
| Summer term | 21,175 | 9,868 | 31,043 | 32,770 | 95% |
| Autumn term | | | | | |
| Spring term | | | | | |



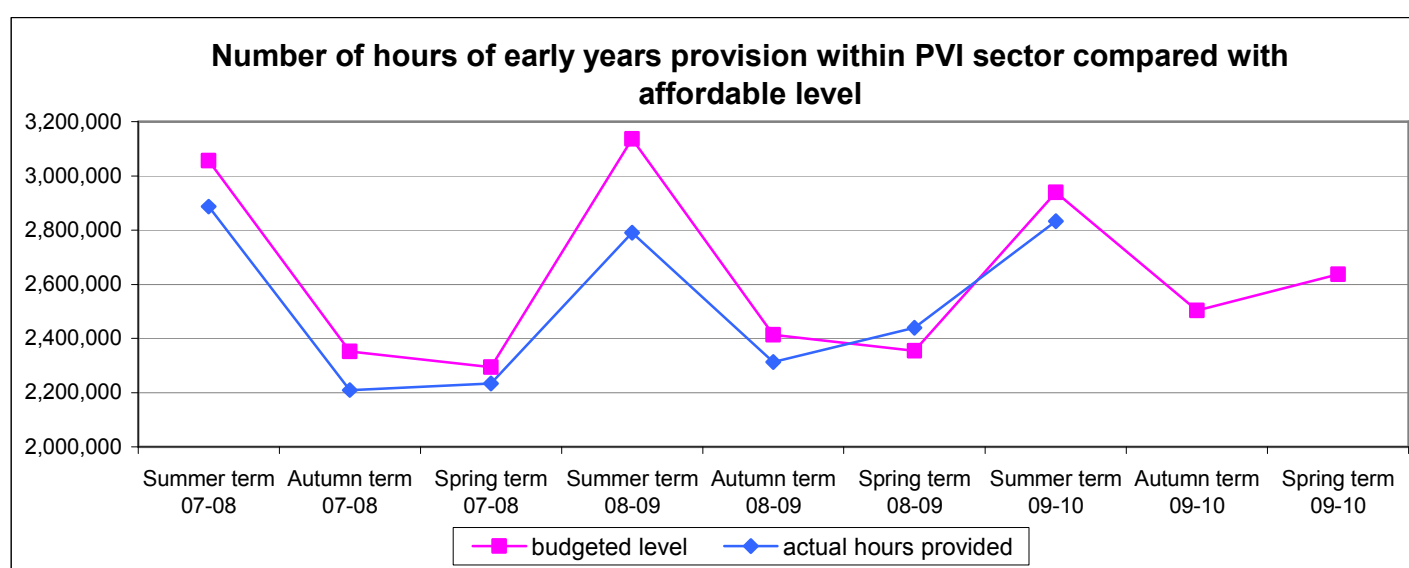
Comments:

- This graph shows that currently 95% of the estimated population of 3 and 4 year olds are receiving some level of early years provision, whether this be one session per week for 33 weeks or five sessions per week for 38 weeks. This activity indicator is based on headcount and provides a snapshot position at a point in time, whereas the activity data in 2.2.2 below provides details of the number of hours provided in the Private, Voluntary & Independent sector, and will correlate with the variance on the Early Years budget within the Management Information Unit. However as this budget is funded entirely from DSG/standards fund, any surplus or deficit at the end of the year must be carried forward to the next financial year in accordance with the regulations, and cannot be used to offset over or underspending elsewhere in the directorate budget. Therefore, as any unspent DSG Early Years funding has to be returned to schools, in 2009-10 an estimated underspend of £1m will be transferred to the schools unallocated reserve and hence is not included in the overall directorate forecast shown in table 1, but is reported in the narrative in section 1.1.3.18 of this annex. Expenditure relating to the increase in the free entitlement from 12.5hrs to 15hrs a week will be funded from Standards Fund, a 17month ring-fenced specific grant, which requires any resulting underspends will be carried forward to the next financial year to be spent by 31st August 2011.
- The percentage drop in the level of take-up may be due to the effects of the recession, where some parents, mainly those working part-time, who had used the free-entitlement to enable them to work or train are now unemployed and not using early education even though it is free.

However it must also be noted that while the table suggests a drop in the level of take-up, the 3 & 4 year old population data is an estimate and total numbers of take up for both PVI and school places has risen for this point in the financial year. A further update on this position will be given in future monitoring reports.

2.2.2 Number of hours of early years provision provided to 3 & 4 year olds within the Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector compared with the affordable level:

| | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Budgeted number of hours | Actual hours provided | Budgeted number of hours | Actual hours provided | Budgeted number of hours | Actual hours provided |
| Summer term | 3,056,554 | 2,887,134 | 3,136,344 | 2,790,446 | 2,939,695 | 2,832,550 |
| Autumn term | 2,352,089 | 2,209,303 | 2,413,489 | 2,313,819 | 2,502,314 | |
| Spring term | 2,294,845 | 2,233,934 | 2,354,750 | 2,438,957 | 2,637,646 | |
| | 7,703,488 | 7,330,371 | 7,904,583 | 7,543,222 | 8,079,655 | 2,832,550 |



Comments:

- The budgeted number of hours per term is based on an assumed level of take-up and the assumed number of weeks the providers are open. The variation between the terms is due to two reasons: firstly, the movement of 4 year olds at the start of the Autumn term into reception year in mainstream schools; and secondly, the terms do not have the same number of weeks.
- From September 2009-10, the phased roll-out of the increase in the number of free entitlement hours from 12.5hrs to 15 hrs per week will begin. The estimated increase in the number of hours has been factored into the budgeted number of hours for 2009-10. This increase in hours will be funded from a specific DCSF standards fund grant.
- The current activity suggests an underspend of around £1m on this budget which has been mentioned in section 1.1.3.18 of this annex. A more certain position will be reported once the autumn hours are known.
- It should be noted that not all parents currently take up their full entitlement and this can change during the year.
- The number of hours provided in the Summer Term has increased even though the percentage take-up reported in 2.2.1 has reduced because the actual level of take-up in PVI providers has increased and there are more days in the summer term than the spring term.

2.3 **Number of schools with deficit budgets compared with the total number of schools:**

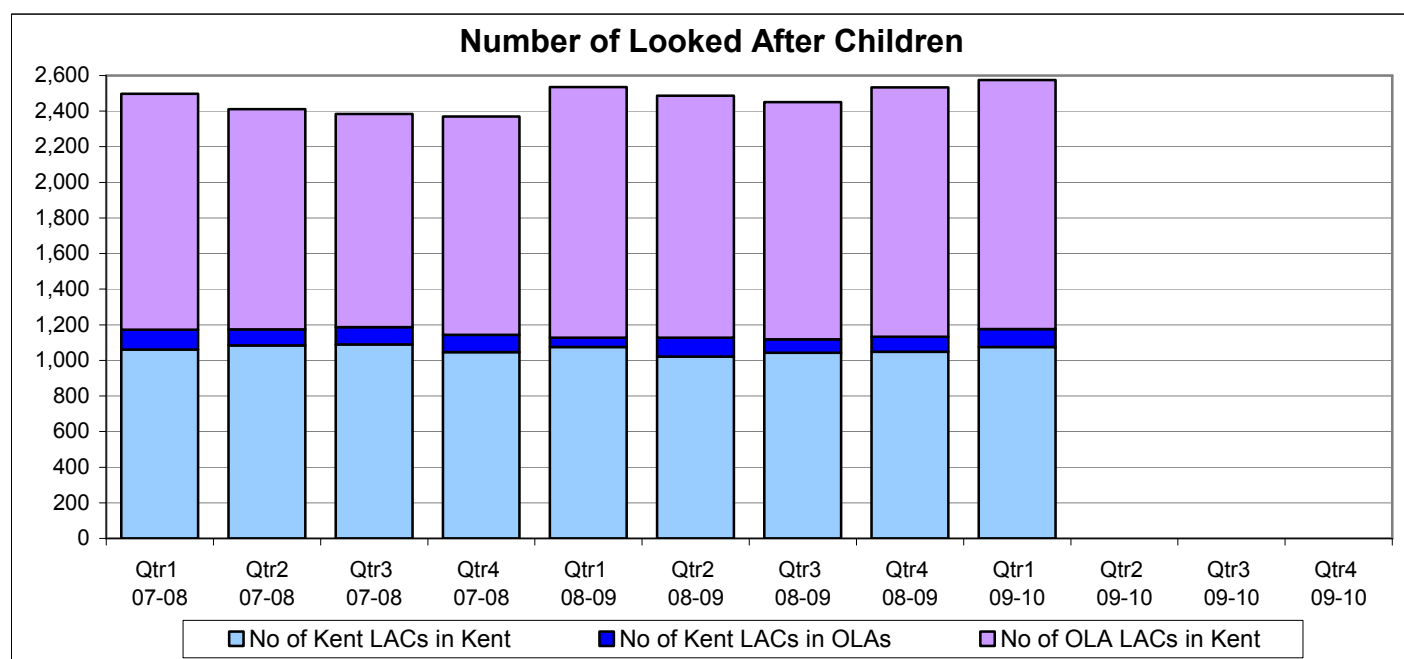
| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | as at 31-3-06 | as at 31-3-07 | as at 31-3-08 | as at 31-3-09 | Projection |
| Total number of schools | 600 | 596 | 575 | 570 | 570 |
| Total value of school revenue reserves | £70,657k | £74,376k | £79,360k | £63,184k | £63,184k |
| Number of deficit schools | 9 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 19 |
| Total value of deficits | £947k | £1,426k | £1,068k | £1,775k | £2,723k |

Comments:

- The information on deficit schools for 2009-10 has been obtained from the schools budget submissions. The directorate receives updates from schools through budget monitoring returns from all schools after 6 months, and 9 months as well as an outturn report at year end.
- The number and value of deficits for 2009-10 is based on the schools 3 year budget plan submission. These are estimates and more information will be provided in future monitoring reports. Historically, the number of deficits reported in the first quarters monitoring tend to reduce by year end. The CFE Statutory team are working with all schools currently reporting a deficit with the aim of returning the schools to a balanced budget position as soon as possible. This involves agreeing a management action plan with each school.
- KCC now has a “no deficit” policy for schools, which means that schools cannot plan for a deficit budget at the start of the year. Unplanned deficits will need to be addressed in the following year’s budget plan, and schools that incur unplanned deficits in successive years will be subject to intervention by the Local Authority.

2.4 Numbers of Looked After Children (LAC):

| | No of Kent LAC placed in Kent | No of Kent LAC placed in OLAs | TOTAL NO OF KENT LAC | No of OLA LAC placed in Kent | TOTAL No of LAC in Kent |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2007-08 | | | | | |
| Apr – Jun | 1,060 | 112 | 1,172 | 1,325 | 2,497 |
| Jul – Sep | 1,084 | 91 | 1,175 | 1,236 | 2,411 |
| Oct – Dec | 1,090 | 97 | 1,187 | 1,197 | 2,384 |
| Jan – Mar | 1,047 | 97 | 1,144 | 1,226 | 2,370 |
| 2008-09 | | | | | |
| Apr – Jun | 1,075 | 52 | 1,127 | 1,408 | 2,535 |
| Jul – Sep | 1,022 | 105 | 1,127 | 1,360 | 2,487 |
| Oct – Dec | 1,042 | 77 | 1,119 | 1,331 | 2,450 |
| Jan – Mar | 1,048 | 84 | 1,132 | 1,402 | 2,534 |
| 2009-10 | | | | | |
| Apr – Jun | 1,076 | 100 | 1,176 | 1,399 | 2,575 |
| Jul – Sep | | | | | |
| Oct – Dec | | | | | |
| Jan – Mar | | | | | |

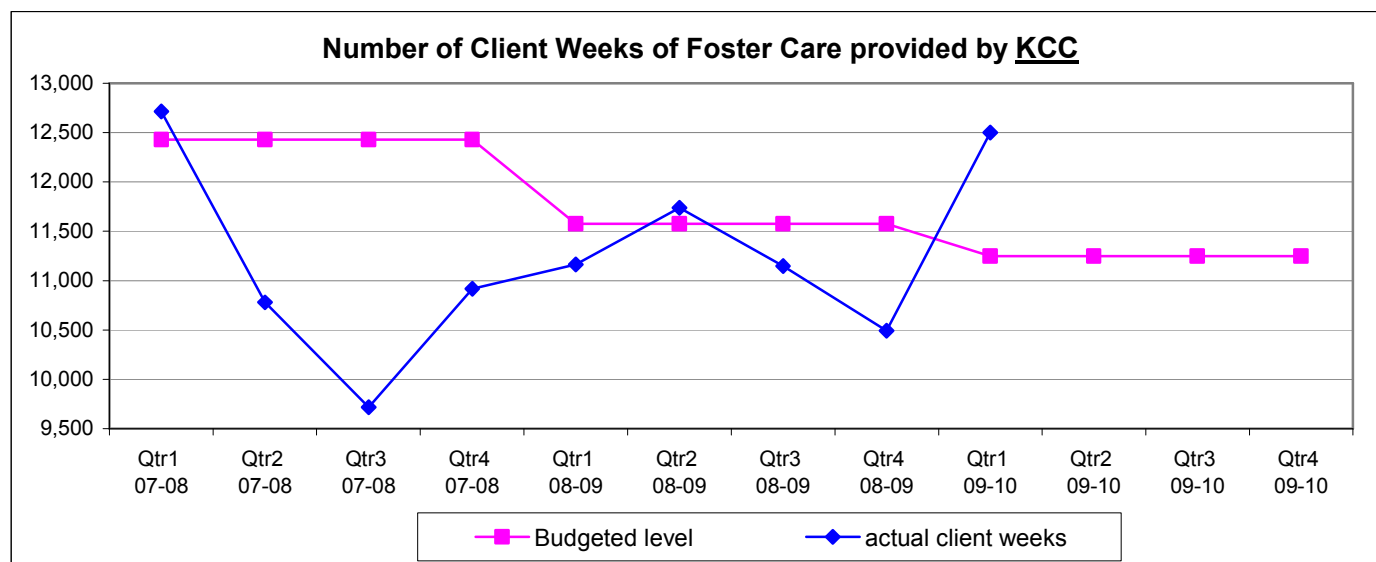


Comments:

- Children Looked After by KCC may on occasion be placed out of the County, which is undertaken using practice protocols that ensure that all long-distance placements are justified and in the interests of the child. All Looked After Children are subject to regular statutory reviews (at least twice a year), which ensures that a regular review of the child's care plan is undertaken. The majority (over 99%) of Looked After Children placed out of the Authority are either in adoptive placements, placed with a relative, specialist residential provision not available in Kent or living with KCC foster carers based in Medway.
- Please note, the number of looked after children for each quarter represent a snapshot of the number of children designated as looked after at the end of each quarter, it is not the total number of looked after children during the period. Therefore although the number of looked after children has increased by 34, there could have been more during the period.
- The increase in Kent looked after children has placed additional pressure on the fostering service budget (see section 1.1.3.10)

2.5.1 Number of Client Weeks of Foster Care provided by KCC:

| | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | Budgeted level | Actual Client Weeks | Budgeted level | Actual Client Weeks | Budgeted level | Actual Client Weeks |
| Apr - Jun | 12,427 | 12,711 | 11,576 | 11,166 | 11,249 | 12,499 |
| Jul - Sep | 12,427 | 10,781 | 11,576 | 11,735 | 11,249 | |
| Oct - Dec | 12,427 | 9,716 | 11,576 | 11,147 | 11,249 | |
| Jan - Mar | 12,427 | 10,918 | 11,576 | 10,493 | 11,249 | |
| | 49,709 | 44,129 | 46,303 | 44,451 | 44,997 | 12,499 |

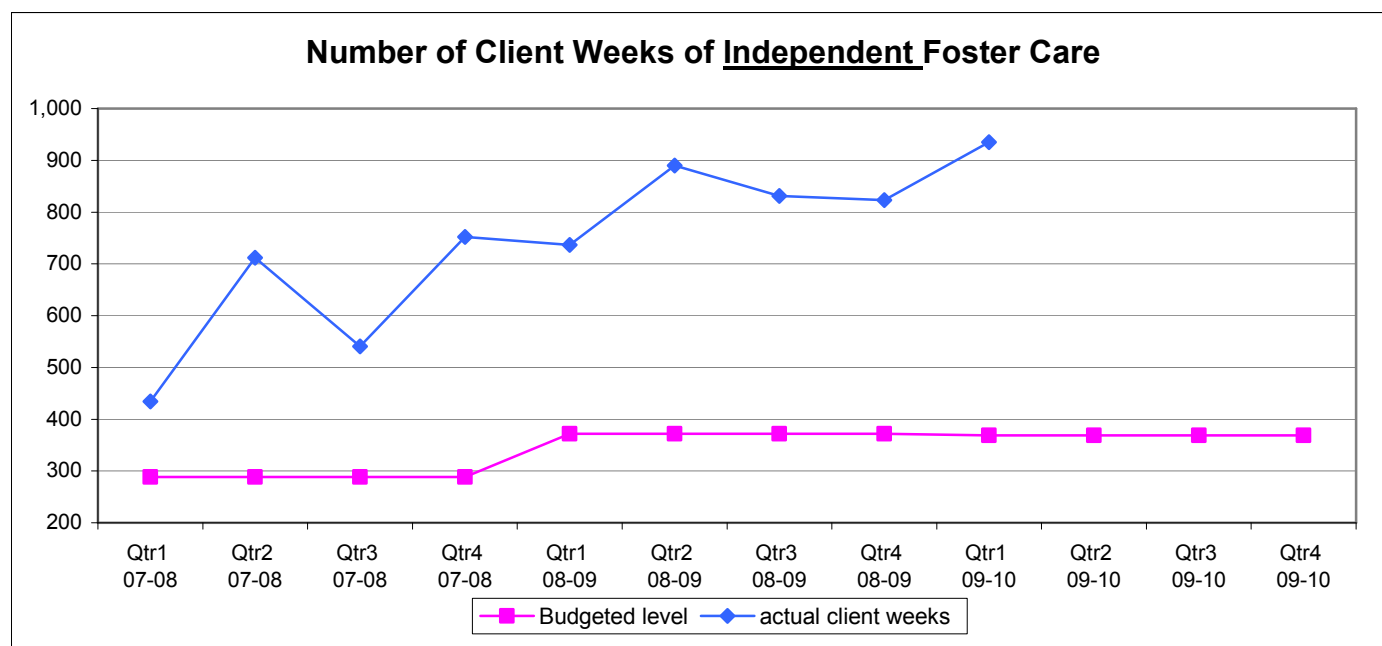


Comments:

- The actual number of client weeks is based on the numbers of known clients at a particular point in time.
- The budgeted level has been calculated by dividing the 2009-10 budget for all in-house fostering (including 16+) by the 2008-09 average weekly cost adjusted for inflation. The average weekly cost is also an estimate based on financial information and estimates of the number of client weeks.
- It should be noted that the data relating to 2007-08 was manually produced due to problems with the IT system and should be treated with some caution.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of weeks for the first quarter of 2009-10 with approximately 2,000 additional weeks purchased compared to the final quarter of 2008-09. However, due to the short term nature of some of these placements (less than a month), the financial forecast has not been based on this trend continuing for the remainder of this financial year. The overall net pressure on in-house fostering is expected to be approximately £719k, combining both 16+ and fostering service forecasts (sections 1.1.3.10 & 1.1.3.13) and corresponds with forecast activity levels. However, it must be noted the activity levels of in-house foster care placements are volatile and further information on the apparent trend will be given in future monitoring reports.
- It must be noted there is a move to increase the number of in-house foster carers to reduce the dependence on more costly independent sector provision, however this is not expected to happen until late 2009-10 or early 2010-11, due to delays in the recruitment of relevant staff.

2.5.2 Number of Client Weeks of Independent Foster Care:

| | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | Budgeted level | Actual Client Weeks | Budgeted level | Actual Client Weeks | Budgeted level | Actual Client Weeks |
| Apr - Jun | 289 | 435 | 372 | 737 | 369 | 935 |
| Jul - Sep | 289 | 712 | 372 | 890 | 369 | |
| Oct - Dec | 289 | 540 | 372 | 831 | 369 | |
| Jan - Mar | 289 | 752 | 372 | 823 | 369 | |
| | 1,154 | 2,439 | 1,487 | 3,281 | 1,475 | 935 |

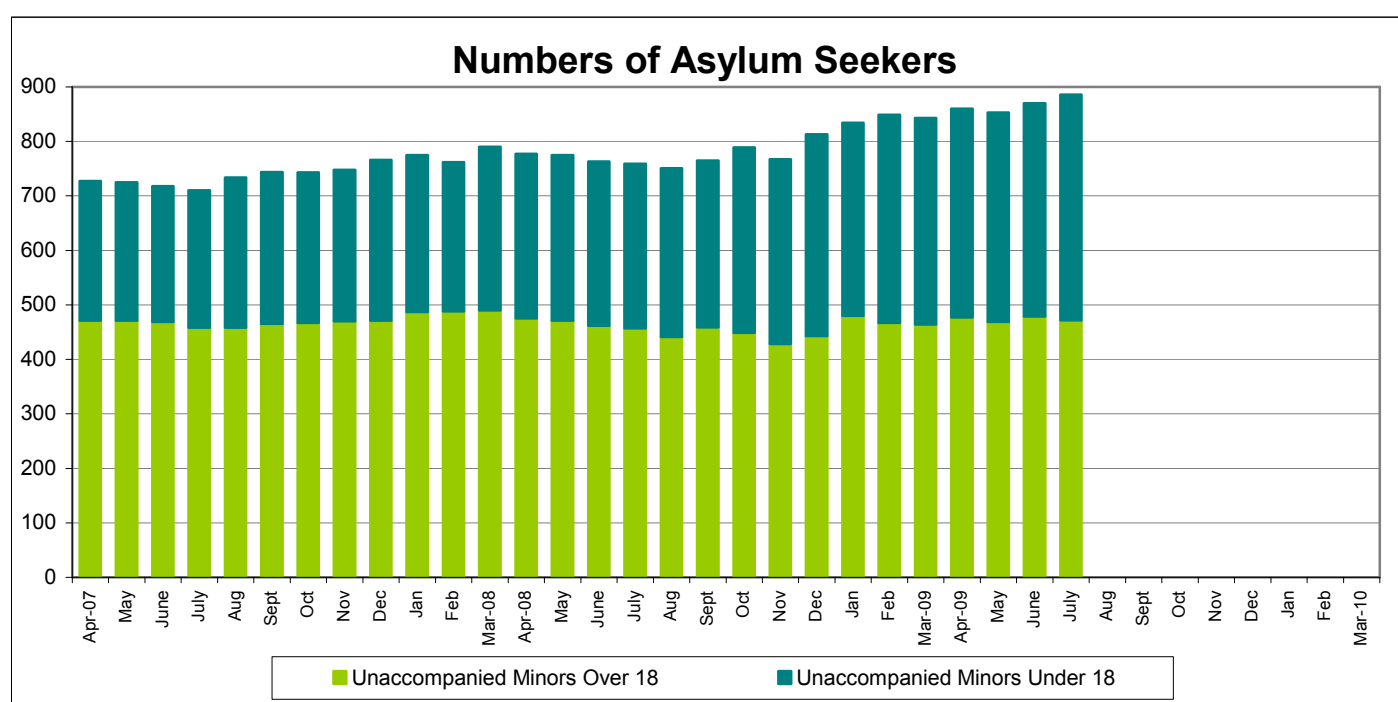


Comments:

- The actual number of client weeks is based on the numbers of known clients at a particular point in time.
- The budgeted level has been calculated by dividing the 2009-10 budget by the 2008-09 average weekly cost adjusted for inflation. The average weekly cost is also an estimate based on financial information and estimates of the number of client weeks and may be subject to change.
- The number of independent sector fostering placements has increased by an additional 112 weeks since the final quarter of 2008-09. The projected overspend on independent sector fostering payments is £2,504k combining both 16+ and fostering service forecasts (sections 1.1.3.10 & 1.1.3.13), this is an increase of £665k compared to the 2008-09 outturn. The activity relating to independent sector provision is not expected to reduce until late 2009-10 or early 2010-11, once the number and skill level of in-house foster carers has begun to increase.

2.6 Numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC):

| | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | | 2009-10 | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|---------------|
| | Under 18 | Over 18 | Total Clients | Under 18 | Over 18 | Total Clients | Under 18 | Over 18 | Total Clients |
| April | 256 | 471 | 727 | 302 | 475 | 777 | 383 | 477 | 860 |
| May | 254 | 471 | 725 | 304 | 471 | 775 | 384 | 469 | 852 |
| June | 249 | 469 | 718 | 301 | 462 | 763 | 391 | 479 | 870 |
| July | 252 | 458 | 710 | 302 | 457 | 759 | 414 | 472 | 886 |
| August | 276 | 458 | 734 | 310 | 441 | 751 | | | |
| September | 279 | 465 | 744 | 306 | 459 | 765 | | | |
| October | 276 | 467 | 743 | 340 | 449 | 789 | | | |
| November | 278 | 470 | 748 | 339 | 428 | 767 | | | |
| December | 295 | 471 | 766 | 370 | 443 | 813 | | | |
| January | 288 | 487 | 775 | 354 | 480 | 834 | | | |
| February | 274 | 488 | 762 | 382 | 467 | 849 | | | |
| March | 300 | 490 | 790 | 379 | 464 | 843 | | | |

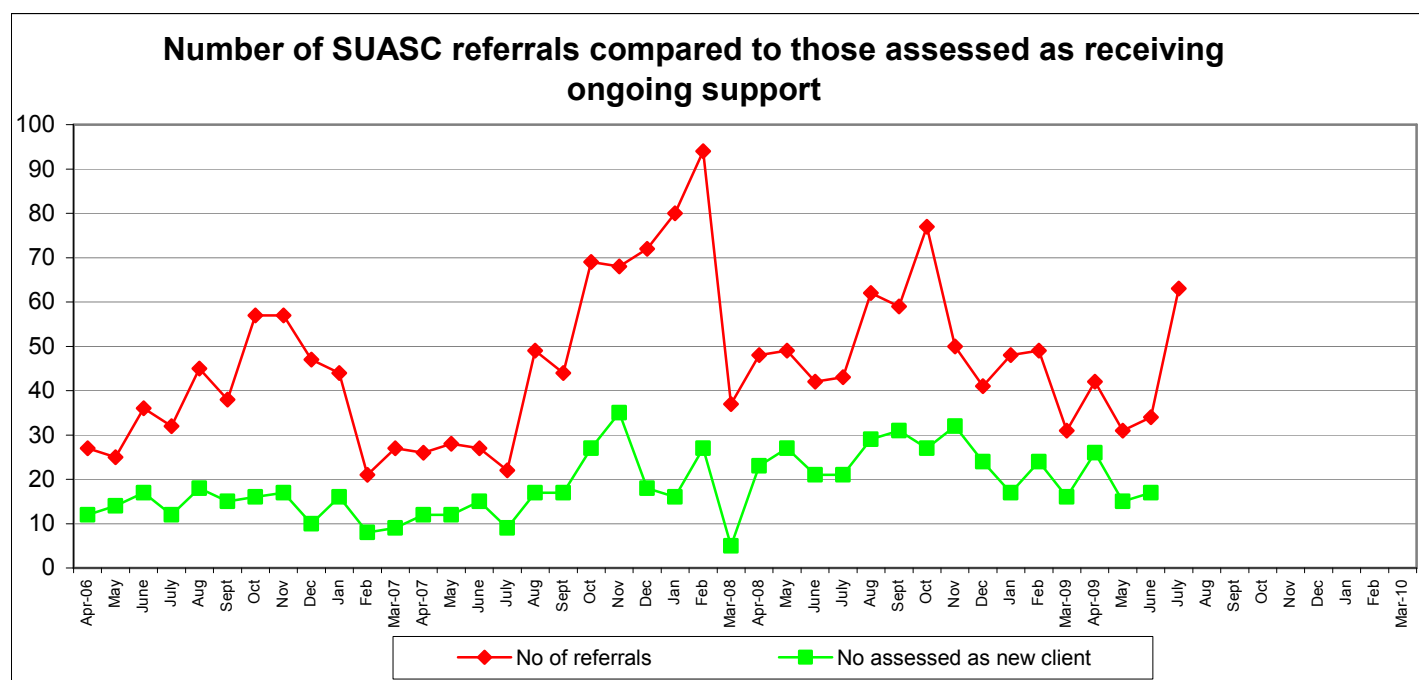


Comment:

- Client numbers have risen as a result of higher referrals and are higher than the projected number, which for 2009-10 is an average of 820 clients per month.
- The data recorded above will include some referrals for which the assessments are not yet complete. These clients are initially recorded as having the Date of Birth that they claim but once their assessment has been completed, their category may change.

2.7 **Numbers of Asylum Seeker referrals compared with the number assessed as qualifying for on-going support from Service for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (SUASC) ie new clients:**

| | 2006-07 | | | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | | 2009-10 | | |
|--------|------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| | No. of referrals | No. assessed as new client | % | No. of referrals | No. assessed as new client | % | No. of referrals | No. assessed as new client | % | No. of referrals | No. assessed as new client | % |
| April | 27 | 12 | 44% | 26 | 12 | 46% | 48 | 23 | 48% | 42 | 26 | 62% |
| May | 25 | 14 | 56% | 28 | 12 | 43% | 49 | 27 | 55% | 31 | 15 | 48% |
| June | 36 | 17 | 47% | 27 | 15 | 56% | 42 | 21 | 50% | 34 | 17 | 50% |
| July | 32 | 12 | 38% | 22 | 9 | 41% | 43 | 21 | 49% | 63 | | |
| August | 45 | 18 | 40% | 49 | 17 | 35% | 62 | 29 | 47% | | | |
| Sept | 38 | 15 | 39% | 44 | 17 | 39% | 59 | 31 | 53% | | | |
| Oct | 57 | 16 | 28% | 69 | 27 | 39% | 77 | 27 | 35% | | | |
| Nov | 57 | 17 | 30% | 68 | 35 | 51% | 50 | 32 | 64% | | | |
| Dec | 47 | 10 | 21% | 72 | 18 | 25% | 41 | 24 | 59% | | | |
| Jan | 44 | 16 | 36% | 80 | 16 | 20% | 48 | 17 | 35% | | | |
| Feb | 21 | 8 | 38% | 94 | 27 | 29% | 49 | 24 | 49% | | | |
| March | 27 | 9 | 33% | 37 | 5 | 14% | 31 | 16 | 52% | | | |
| | 456 | 164 | 36% | 616 | 210 | 34% | 599 | 292 | 49% | 170 | 58 | |



Comments:

- The number of referrals remains consistently higher than the budgeted 30 referrals a month with a significant rise in July.
- The high number of referrals has a knock on effect on the number assessed as new clients. The number of new clients in April and June were higher than the expected 15 new clients a month. Age assessments for the July referrals have not yet been completed and up-to-date information will be provided in the next full monitoring report to Cabinet in November.
- The first two quarters figures for 2008-09 'number assessed as new clients' have been corrected for this report. The figures for quarter one and two of 2008-09 increased from 70 and 77 to 71 and 81 respectively. The difference is due to delays in the completion of the young person's assessment either due to hospitalisation or their being missing, or further evidence of age thus requiring an amendment to the data.

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By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education Directorate
Angela Graham, Strategic Projects Manager
Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

To: Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee
18th September 2009

Subject: Playbuilder Funding

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report sets out how Kent is managing the Playbuilder grant and how it intends to respond to the Government's play agenda

Introduction

1. (1) The Government announced its commitment to improving opportunities for all children and young people to access good quality public play spaces in every local authority in The Children's Plan in 2007. This was followed by its Fair Play consultation and the publication of The Play Strategy in 2008.

(2) The Strategy is backed by significant capital investment through the Pathfinder and Playbuilder programmes under which every local authority will receive a minimum of £1m to fund local play facilities by 2010.

Play England

2. (1) DCSF has contracted Play England, an arm of National Children's Bureau, to deliver its play strategy and Kent has a named Play England link person who provides advice but who also provides DCSF with regular RAG (red, amber, green) monitoring reports on Kent's progress.

Strategic lead and responsibility

3. (1) The government expects County Councils to take the strategic lead for play and, therefore, Kent County Council has nominated Marisa White, Head of Extended Services, as its Play Lead.

(2) DCSF clearly sees the wider play agenda as a responsibility of Children's Trusts and, therefore, Kent Children's Trust has asked the 8-13 sub group to oversee developments on its behalf.

Playbuilder funding

4. (1) Kent County Council has been awarded £1,166,707 capital and £46,005 revenue funding to develop a minimum of 22 fixed play spaces for 8-13 year olds between April 2009 and March 2011. The funding will be provided as follows:

| Year | Capital | Revenue | Minimum no. of schemes |
|-----------|----------|---------|--------------------------|
| 2001/2010 | £548,469 | £27,603 | 11 |
| 2010/2011 | £618,238 | £18,402 | Number to bring up to 22 |

(2) This funding must be spent within the year it is received. It cannot be rolled forward and any underspend will be lost.

(3) A steering group has been set up with members drawn from KCC procurement, city, districts and boroughs and a voluntary organisation representing children and young people's interests. It is chaired by Kent's Play Lead. Play England's link person sits on the steering group as advisor.

(4) In order to meet the timescales, the application process for year 1 had to be put in place before receipt of the final DCSF grant letter. A decision was taken that only city, district and borough councils should be invited to apply for grants for 2009/2010 as they are most likely to have schemes that are ready to proceed at short notice and complete within the deadline.

(5) DCSF require that sites selected must meet specific criteria (e.g. are available to the public 24 hours a day; have been subject to formal consultation with communities and young people; and are developed within Design for Play guidelines). However, DCSF also acknowledged that readiness to proceed was also a key factor in the first year. Kent's application process was designed to ensure that applications struck this balance.

(6) In addition, while no guarantees could be made, it was agreed that, if applications justified it, it would be desirable to allocate equal funding to each city, district or borough in year 1.

(7) 19 applications were received in total.

(8) A selection panel that included representatives from KCC, voluntary sector and an independent technical expert was convened to assess and make recommendations as to allocation of funding in year 1. Kent's Play England link indicated that she was satisfied with the robustness of the selection process.

(9) The recommendations of the selection panel were considered by the Playbuilder Steering group and subsequently endorsed by Kent Children's Trust Executive.

(10) 10 play spaces from 9 districts were considered to be strong enough to proceed.

(11) Applications from 3 districts did not quite meet the selection criteria and further work was undertaken to see whether they could be improved so that every city, district and borough could benefit from Playbuilder in year 1.

(12) One district withdrew its application during this process but has indicated that it will be submitting a new application in year 2 that will have match funding from the National Lottery. This application will be given preferential treatment as long as it meets the criteria.

(13) It is hoped that Kent will be able to proceed with 12 play spaces in 11 districts and districts are now in the process of submitting detailed plans that set out timescales and costs as part of the Partnering Agreement. This process also enables minor refinements to be made to the design process or to address issues identified during the selection process. Each successful district will receive £49,860.80p towards their scheme.

(14) Once the Partnering agreements have been signed there will be a joint press release announcing all the successful sites.

(15) Expressions of interest for Playbuilder Year 2 (2010/2011) are being invited to inform the planning process. A number of city, districts and boroughs included parishes and town councils in year 1 but some did not and it is planned to extend the application process to this group. In addition, discussions are being held to see whether the voluntary sector might also wish to be included. Kent Country Parks have also expressed an interest.

Kent's Play Partnership

5. (1) As a 2 tier authority Play in Kent has been led and developed at city, district and borough level but Kent County Council is now expected to take a lead. However, it does not have experience of managing or providing play to any great extent. Therefore, it is in the process of setting up a Play Partnership with representation from a wide range of sectors. The Partnership will provide a consultative forum for Playbuilder, oversee the development of a county-wide Play Strategy and advise on its implementation.

Kent's Play Strategy

6. (1) Local authorities are expected to have a Play Strategy that not only sets out their vision but also has an action plan on how they expect to deliver the government's agenda. Developing this strategy will be one of the tasks of the Partnership.

(2) All Kent city, district and borough councils already have play strategies in place and it is proposed that Kent's strategy will build upon these while at the same time addressing some key policy issues arising from the government's strategy, for example risk and play.

(3) The national Play Strategy argues strongly that children need challenging and exciting play experiences to help them develop the skills to manage risk and that overall management of risk needs to be more proportionate. Kent recently held a seminar on risk and play funded by SureStart Ashford to raise the profile of this issue and to identify underlying policy concerns. These essentially arose from the fact that

insurance companies and legal precedent will take some time to catch up with government policy.

Performance Indicator

7. (1) The government introduced a new performance indicator (NI 911 which will become part of the APA from April 2009:- '*Good play opportunities increase children's satisfaction with their lives*' and it is expected that Kent's Playbuilder and the activities of the Partnership will contribute to good outcomes.

Recommendations

Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committee are asked to endorse the proposals set out in the report above.

Angela Graham
Strategic Projects Manager
Tel: 07825 013354
angela.graham@kent.gov.uk

Background Documents:

- (LAC 3112080004) Play Pathfinding and Playbuilder Capital and revenue Grants 2009-2011

Other Useful Information: None

By: Mrs Hohler, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education
 KCC Environment Board (Chair: Amanda Honey)

Grahame Ward, Director of Resources

Carolyn McKenzie, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager

To: Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee

18th September 2009

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Subject: | A summary of progress in delivery of KCC's Environment Policy, including climate change and an overview of next steps for KCC and the Children, Families and Education Directorate. |
|-----------------|---|

Classification: Unrestricted

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Summary: | The Kent County Council Environment Policy was agreed by Cabinet in December 2007. As part of that process KCC committed to reviewing progress on implementation on an annual basis. This report highlights what significant progress has been made to date on delivering the Environment Policy (including climate change) and sets out priorities for the next 3 years (2009-2012), together with the specific role and contribution of the Children, Families and Education Directorate (CFE). |
|-----------------|---|

Introduction

1 (1) In December 2007 Kent County Council agreed a new Environment Policy (Annex 1). It was agreed by Cabinet that progress in implementing this policy would be reported annually together with any recommendations for amendments. The co-ordination and overall management of KCC's Environment Policy is the led by the Environment Board supported by the Environment and Waste Division.

(2) In addition to this, in September 2008, the Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change took papers to each of the five Directorate Policy Overview Committees (POCs) that summarised progress to date in each directorate in response to climate change, and sought support for and commitment to next steps. All five papers were approved by the respective Committees in their entirety and have become the basis for continued programmes of work in each Directorate, with ongoing support from the central climate change programme team. Each Directorate is required to report progress to their POC on a six-monthly basis commencing March 2009.

(3) This paper will seek to combine these two processes providing one update for 'sustainability and climate change' as well as fulfilling requirements of the KCC ISO14001 reporting process.

(4) Included in this report are recommendations as to strategic priorities for KCC for the next three years, together with an indication of the specific role of the Children, Families and Education and any potential changes needed to the existing KCC Environment Policy.

Changing Policy Context

2 (1) Since agreeing the KCC Environment Policy a number of new policy drivers have arisen.

(2) The Climate Change Act 2008 creates a platform to increase momentum both internally and externally for mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. It includes a new target of an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 (26% by 2020) compared to 1990 levels which will require a review of current KCC policy (we currently have a 60% target). This translates to a 4% reduction per year.

(3) The Carbon Reduction Commitment is a new, legally binding climate change and energy saving scheme affecting all large businesses and public sector organisations. KCC will be required to submit annual data statements on a self-certified basis and purchase carbon credits to cover our total annual emissions. It is currently anticipated that the purchase of Carbon Allowances will cost KCC around £1.3 million per annum, plus our performance will be listed in a league table each year, which will effectively determine whether we are 'refunded' or not (or equivalent explanation).

(4) Kent Agreement 2 includes two targets related to climate change - NI 186: CO2 emissions within Kent and NI 188: Preparing to adapt to climate change. These targets are being delivered through a pan-Kent partnership with the public and private sectors.

(5) The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) from 2009. CAA is a new approach that will provide the first independent assessment of the prospects for local areas and the quality of life for people living there and include Kent performance on environment and climate change

(6) Chapter 6 of *Unlocking Kent's Potential: Opportunities and Challenges - Kent's Framework for Regeneration 2009-2020* is focussed on the climate challenge and highlights some of the critical opportunities.

Overview of KCC's Environment Policy

3 (1) The agreed vision of KCC's Environment Policy is '*to stabilise and progressively reduce our environmental footprint: to progressively reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and make sure our estate and services are adapted to the future impacts and opportunities of climate change: and to contribute positively to Kent's character, local environmental quality and natural environment.*' Significant progress has been made. Highlights are given below under each of the Environment Policy headings. Annex 2 gives more detail and assessment against the targets.

(2) Our Decisions

- Achievement of ISO14001 accreditation for all of KCC - April 2009.

- Sustainability and climate change included in every Directorate's induction and business planning process.

(3) Our Estate

- 5% decrease in office carbon emissions since 2004.
- Over £1 million pounds invested or committed to energy efficiency measures giving lifetime savings of £1.1m and 6695 tonnes of CO₂
- Over 25 renewable energy initiatives including 10 solar and 4 biomass boilers
- 50% recycling rate at County Hall

(4) Our Travel and Transport

- On course to achieve a reduction in business miles across KCC for 2008-9
- 642 tonnes of CO₂ saved through Kent Car Share

(5) Our Procurement

- Achievement of Level 3 on the flexible framework.
- Environmental business support programme set up to assist KCC's supply chain

(6) Our Construction

- Development of a sustainable construction policy
- Almost all KCC buildings are designed to BREEAM Very Good

(7) Our Workforce

- Over 160 green guardians across KCC, a 100% increase in 2008, with several 'Green Teams' set up and almost 100 staff attending a cross KCC 'Good Deeds Grow' event.

(8) Our Community Leadership

- More than half of Kent schools with some form of Eco Schools Award
- Approximately 8803 tonnes of CO₂ saved and £278,568 of economic benefits achieved as a result of the Low Carbon Communities pilot programme.

(9) The Environment Policy also contains a number of specific targets: 10% reduction in carbon, 7% reduction in water use; 10% reduction in waste and a 50% recycling rate, all by 2010. Currently all targets are on track apart from carbon reduction which remains rated red with the last annual Towards 2010 monitoring showing only a 3% decrease.

Emerging Priorities for KCC over the next Three Years

4 (1) The sustainability and climate change agenda is broad and far reaching in terms of both risk and opportunity for KCC. Five key themes and a number of objectives are therefore proposed for the next 3 years to progress and integrate the delivery of the Environment Policy and climate change challenges:

- Leadership and Environmental Management
- Meeting the Climate Challenge

- Water Wise and Efficient
- Towards Zero Waste to Landfill
- High Quality Landscapes

(2) Annex 3 provides a summary of the Five Themes. A draft Sustainability and Climate Change three year plan is currently being put together for consultation at the end of June 2009. This will incorporate issues and concerns raised by Members at this Committee meeting. The remainder of this paper focuses on action CFE has been involved in and it is proposed should contribute to in the future.

Progress on specific action owned directly by CFE

5 (1) **Our Decisions:** CFE were accredited to ISO14001 at the end of April 09. There is now a specific CFE Environment Policy and sustainability and climate change actions have been included in all business plans. Units are now developing plans to reduce environmental impacts, and this year CFE will look at how to include schools in the scope of their ISO14001.

(2) **Our Estate:** The most significant proportion of projects undertaken through the Energy Water Investment Fund are in the schools estate. In particular, almost 20 renewable energy projects including 2 biomass boilers, solar panels and a wind turbine. The Sustainability and Climate Change Team in KCC are continuing to work with the schools estate to improve energy and water efficiency and install renewable energy measures where possible.

(3) **Our Travel and Transport:** CFE have established their baseline business miles data and are now in the process of setting a business miles target for 2009-10.

(4) **Our Procurement/Our Construction:** Through the Building Schools for the Future programme, CFE have a great opportunity to lead the way on sustainability and climate change issues through procurement and construction. All BSF schools have to achieve at least BREEAM Very Good. In addition, 3 of the schools in Wave 3 are installing Biomass Boilers, with the potential for more in Wave 4.

(5) **Our Workforce:** There are now over 40 Green Guardian actively participating and undertaking sustainability and climate change improvements in CFE. Representation from CFE at a cross KCC event 'Good Deeds Grow' in February was high, with enthusiastic contributions being made. In addition, almost 70 staff have now received online training.

(6) **Community Leadership:** CFE continue to play a strong community leadership role. Almost half of Kent schools now have some level of Eco Schools accreditation, (Bronze to Green Flags), more than 400 schools have Sustainable Travel Plans. In addition, Skinners School have been nominated for a national sustainable schools award, and KCC are leading the way in the South East and are a Sustainable Schools KCC study for the GOSE region.

(7) **Climate Change Adaptation:** Workshops are continuing across KCC to establish the risks and vulnerabilities from climate change. Impacts and responses identified as part of this process will be reviewed in light of emerging new national climate change scenario predications and appropriate amendments to responses

and climate proofing put in place. The need for a cross CFE workshop to address climate change risks has been identified and is being scheduled for the early autumn.

Future Challenges and Opportunities for CFE

6 (1) The main challenge and opportunity for CFE will be continuing to tackle carbon reduction in light of the Carbon Reduction Commitment and ensuring that Building Schools for the Future achieves its potential as a 'breakthrough' project with regards to climate change and sustainability.

(2) Schools, and therefore CFE account for the largest proportion of KCC carbon emissions, and therefore if KCC is to fulfil its obligations under the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment there must continue to be a step change in actions to reduce CO2 in the schools estate.

(3) Furthermore, from a wider community and child poverty angle, CFE will need to work closely with other departments in KCC on issues of fuel poverty, a consequence of rising oil/fuel prices. Fuel poverty in Kent has risen considerably over the last few years, and the potential for negative impacts on fuel poverty and educational attainment are significant.

(4) However, there are many opportunities. BSF schools will continue to give KCC an opportunity to showcase their commitment to sustainability and climate change. In addition, continued uptake of the Eco Schools programme will reflect very well in the Ofsted process, which now includes sustainability and climate change issues.

(5) On a wider note, the broader sustainable schools agenda has the potential to provide significant additional benefits and added value especially in terms of citizenship and pupil development. Through linking diverse agendas such as extended and healthy schools, international schools and the curriculum under the banner of sustainable schools the opportunity exists for KCC to become an exemplar, not just in the south east but nationally.

Conclusion

7 (1) Kent County Council has made good progress towards the implementation of the KCC Environment Policy and achievement of KCC's Climate Change Commitments. However, the Towards 2010 10% carbon reduction target remains rated RED, and in the face of increasing policy, economic and regulatory drivers it is recommended that a significant proportion of activity for KCC and CFE over the next 3 years should focus on this area.

(2) Though there will be a need to revise the KCC Environment Policy and the KCC Climate Change Policy in light of new Government Climate Change targets, it is recommended that this is the focus in 2010 when more information is available.

Recommendations

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 8 | Members are asked to: |
|---|-----------------------|

- | |
|---|
| <p>a. Note progress to date and the general shape of the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan going forward;</p> <p>b. Agree the proposed next steps for CFE, in particular as outlined at <u>Section 6</u></p> |
|---|

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Background Documents:

- CFE POC Paper – September 2008

Other Useful Information: None

Annex 1:

KCC's Environment Policy

Kent County Council Environment Policy

At Kent County Council, elected members and staff alike recognise that protection and enhancement of the environment is the key to sustaining a high quality of life in Kent. We recognise that our own activities have an impact on the environment, that we have a responsibility to ensure that these impacts are positive, and that our use of natural resources is minimised.

Our vision:

To stabilise and progressively reduce our environmental footprint; to progressively reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and make sure our estate and services are adapted to the future impacts and opportunities of climate change; and to contribute positively to Kent's character, local environmental quality and natural environment

We will do this by applying an evidence-led approach to sustainability, identifying the potential for cost savings wherever possible and committing to environmental policies and standards in the following areas:

Our decisions:

We will:

- Expect every manager and decision-maker in KCC to demonstrate how they comply with this Policy
- Integrate environmental considerations into our strategic and day-to-day decision-making processes, and give significant weight to them where they conflict with other objectives
- Assess key decisions for their environmental impact, taking a pragmatic whole-life-cost view, and use such assessments to fully inform decision-making
- 'Climate proof' decisions to ensure they reduce our contribution to climate change and help us prepare for the impacts and opportunities of unavoidable climate change, including where appropriate enabling biodiversity and coastal areas to adapt to climate change in line with the KCC Climate Change Action Plan
- Continue to comply with all relevant environmental legislation and statutory duties
- Seek to embrace new environmental technology and methodologies to ensure we are at the leading edge of developments and solutions, within a well-managed risk-analysis and cost-benefit framework

Our estate

We will:

- Reduce energy use within our estate to meet carbon reduction targets of 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2015
- Increase the proportion of the energy needs of our existing estate met from renewable sources

- Reduce water use by 7.5% by 2010 across our estate
- Reduce waste generation across our estate by 10% by 2010, and increase the proportion of our corporate waste which is reused or recycled to 50% by 2010
- Maximise the efficient use of land in our Estate by reusing previously developed land and buildings wherever practical, before using greenfield land.
- Protect, enhance and restore biodiversity, the natural and historic environment within both our buildings and open space, including measures that support climate change adaptation
- Minimise light, noise, air and other forms of pollution arising from our estate
- Ensure KCC-owned highways comply with the relevant parts of this Policy

Our travel and transport

We will:

- Reduce our members and employees' need to travel, including through our estate strategy, locations selected for council events, use of public transport, teleconferencing and other sustainable solutions
- Achieve reductions in total business mileage travelled by employees, encourage greater car sharing and other sustainable solutions, without adversely affecting end-user service delivery
- Promote the use of fuel efficient vehicles and technologies through our vehicle fleet and lease car scheme

Our procurement

We will:

- Increase the proportion of goods and services sourced locally where there are environmental or employment benefits and in compliance with broader UK and EU purchasing legislation
- Work with our suppliers to ensure that they are taking action to reduce the environmental impacts of their businesses
- Identify those goods, including timber and paper, which can be obtained from certified sustainable sources and ensure that these supplies are used
- Work with suppliers to develop markets for environmental technologies, goods and services

Our construction

We will:

- Meet high standards of sustainable construction in all new KCC buildings and refurbishments, and in all developments on KCC-owned land. The BREEAM 'very good'/Code for Sustainable Buildings level 3 or equivalent standard is required as a minimum
- Require all new KCC buildings and refurbishments to assess the feasibility of developing on-site renewable energy to help meet energy needs
- Ensure that our estate and roads are planned and managed in ways which minimise the risk of flooding and do not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere
- Seek to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity and comply with policy and legislative requirements

Our workforce

We will:

- Ensure that our members and employees understand the implications of environmental legislation and regulation, and exceed minimum environmental standards where possible
- Ensure that environmental awareness is raised and good environmental behaviour encouraged through our corporate training, performance appraisal and reward strategies
- Raise awareness of how to comply with all relevant environmental legislation and statutory duties

Our leadership role in the community

We will:

- Lead Kent's communities to a better understanding of the importance of our environment and help them value and enhance the environment locally and globally
- Set out and deliver a vision of environmental excellence with our partners in the Kent Partnership through regular review and implementation of the Kent Environment Strategy

We will set out detailed action plans and guidance for delivery of these commitments, so that colleagues across KCC have a clear basis for decision-making.

This Policy is owned by the KCC Environment Board who may choose to call decision-makers to account for compliance with these commitments and escalate as necessary to the Leader and Chief Executive. Any proposed exceptions to this Policy will need to provide a sound business case based on whole-life economic, social and environmental costs and benefits.

Kent County Council's Corporate Environmental Performance Group will oversee provision of advice and support, monitoring and reporting. In particular, the Group will lead embedding of these commitments in ISO14001 accreditation for the County Council as a whole by 2010. The Group will report via the KCC Environment Board to the Leader and Chief Executive.



Paul Carter
Leader

Peter Gilroy
Chief Executive

Published December 2007. This Policy and its successful implementation will be reviewed annually by the KCC Environment Board, escalating any changes as necessary to the Leader and Chief Executive.

| Theme | ANNEX 2 - Progress Against the KCC Environment Policy | KCC Policy | Future Challenge |
|---------------------------------|--|------------|------------------|
| Our Decisions | <p>Achievement of ISO14001 accreditation for all of KCC by the end of April 2009.</p> <p>Sustainability and climate change included in every Directorates induction and business planning</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal Guidance for Key Decisions</p> | AMBER | AMBER |
| Our Estate | <p>5% decrease in office carbon emissions since 2004.</p> <p>56 energy projects, £1 million+ invested or committed with £1.1m and 6695 tonnes of CO₂ saved over the project life time</p> <p>Over 25 renewable energy initiatives including 10 solar and 4 biomass boilers</p> <p>50% recycling rate at County Hall</p> | AMBER | RED |
| Our Travel and Transport | <p>On course to achieve a reduction in business miles across KCC for 2008-9</p> <p>642 tonnes of CO₂ saved through Kent Car Share</p> | GREEN | RED |
| Our Procurement | <p>Achievement of Level 3 on the flexible framework.</p> <p>Environmental business support programme set up to assist KCC's supply chain</p> | AMBER | AMBER |
| Our Construction | <p>Development of a sustainable construction policy</p> <p>Almost all KCC buildings are designed to BREEAM Very Good</p> | GREEN | AMBER |
| Our Workforce | <p>Over 150 green guardians, 100% increase includes Several 'Green Teams'</p> <p>QSA Environment Categories planned for every Directorate</p> <p>Environment 'Way to Success'</p> | GREEN | AMBER |

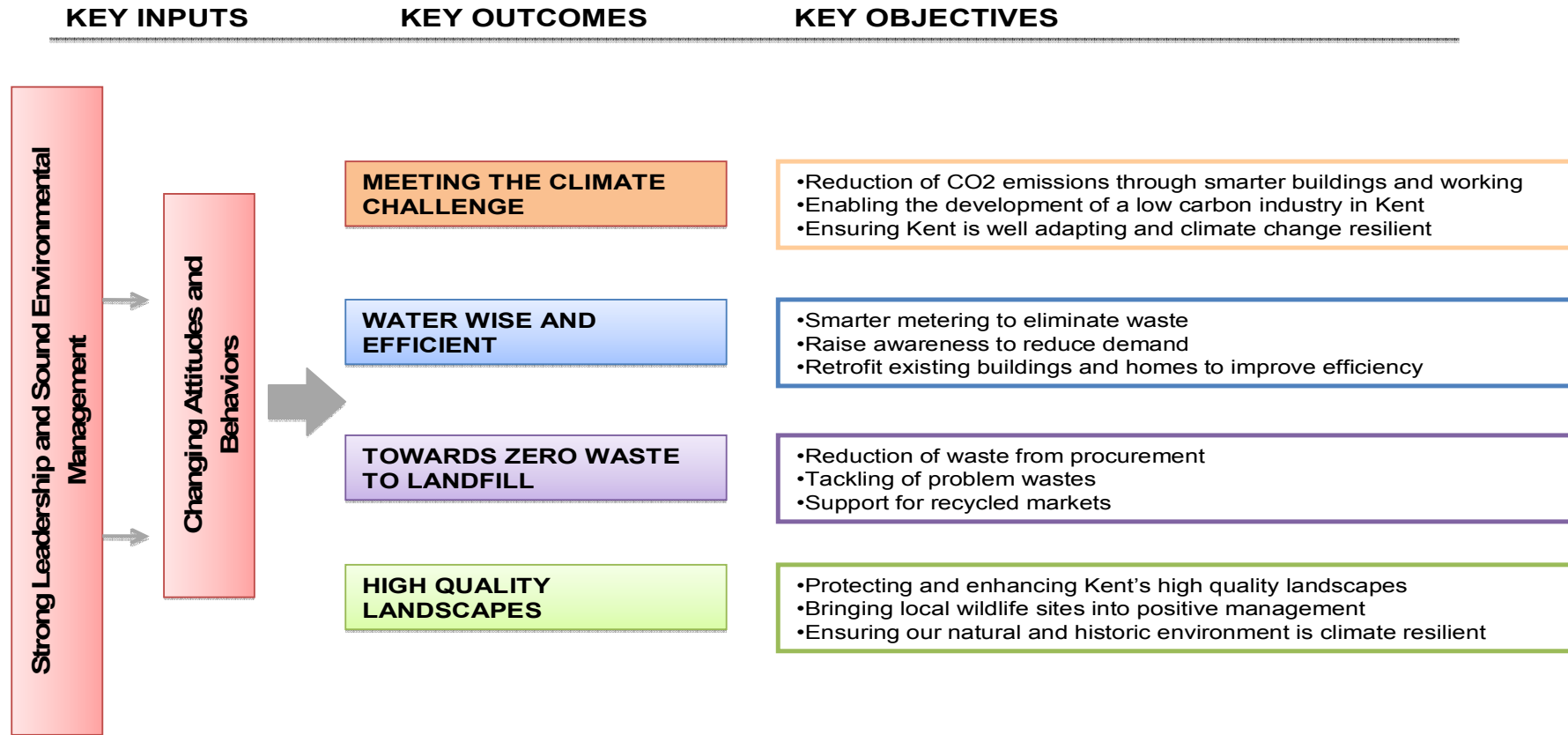
**Our
Community
Leadership**

More than half of Kent schools with some form of Eco Schools Award
Almost 8803 tonnes of CO₂ saved, £278,568 of economic benefits from Low Carbon Communities

GREEN

AMBER

FIVE KEY THEMES - OVERVIEW



By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director for Children, Families and Education

To: Joint Meeting of the Children Families Policy Overview Committees

Date: 18 September 2009

Subject: Update on the Transition process for the transfer of funding to the LSC and information on the sub regional strategic decision making process for 16+ provision in Kent & Medway.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides an update on the current developments relating to 16+ transition. The report outlines progress made to date on the transfer of functions from the LSC to local authority and gives members information about the proposed sub regional decision making process.

Introduction

1 (1) The transfer of the LSC's functions for 16+ provision & funding is well underway and Kent & Medway local authorities are well placed to take on these additional responsibilities. Throughout this year's LSC funding allocation process local authority officers have been tracking the key activities. The tracking of these activities will continue until 31st March 2010.

(2) This is a complex task and the scope of the transfer has been separated into two distinct pieces of works, these are -:

- (i) 16+ Transition planning for Kent County Council for April 1st 2010
- (ii) Kent & Medway's decision making processes for 16-19 planning & funding, 2010 & beyond.

(3) September 2011 will be the first year the local authority will have full responsibilities for 16-19 and 19-25 year olds assessed as having a learning difficulty or disability funding and planning. This will give the local authority until April 2010 to agree a new process, and ensure there are sufficient staff and resources in place to undertake these responsibilities.

Transition planning

2 (1) A detailed project plan has been drawn up to ensure the effective transfer of functions and staff from the LSC to the local authority. A number of Kent senior managers are overseeing the implementation of this project plan and there is a combined Kent & Medway transition group also co-ordinating activities. The current key areas of activity are as follows.

(i) Staffing

Kent has been allocated 13 posts to be transferred from the LSC with effect from 1st April 2010. LSC staff are currently identifying the posts and organisation they would wish to transfer to, either working in the Local Authority, Young Peoples Learning Agency, the National Apprenticeship Service or Funding Skills Agency. This process is being run entirely by the LSC. Local authorities should receive information about the LSC staff who have elected to transfer to Kent towards the end of this term. The future deployment of these staff and structures will be determined over the next 6 months. The terms & conditions including protection of benefits for these staff is still under discussion. For example government actuaries are still working on how much the DCSF will need to contribute to local government pension schemes to ensure the LGPS is broadly comparable under TUPE transfer.

(ii) Funding & Data management

Key managers in Finance and Management Information systems are working directly with LSC staff to ensure that the systems for funding and data management are transferred as soon as possible and will be operational for 1st April 2010.

Currently this is a key area of work and will require focused resources throughout the rest of the financial year to ensure providers receive payments in a timely manner. However it is important to note that detailed guidance on this aspect of the transfer from DCSF & LGA is still to be disseminated to local authorities.

(iii) LLDD transfer

The preparation for the transfer of statutory functions and responsibilities, relating to learners with additional needs is also a significant area of activity. It is important that there are appropriate mechanisms in place to support this learner group from the 1st April 2010. This is a particular area of focus at the current time.

(iv) 14-19 developments & National Entitlement.

The 14-19 reforms continue at a pace with the key strategic aims of continuing to improve attainment, raise participation, reduce NEET's, (not in education, employment or training) and further develop the strategic commissioning role within the Childrens Trust.

The curriculum pathways available to 14-19 year olds in Kent continues to expand, for example this year there are over 250 young apprentices, 400 learners on Skillforce programme, 5,500 learners involved in vocational qualifications, and over 1,400 young people taking up the offer of the new diploma. A strategic priority for the development of the 14-19 curriculum is maintaining a wide range of opportunities and appropriate pathways and progression routes for all learners.

The diversity in the curriculum offer is a strength of Kent's 14-19 developments. The need for this diversity in options for learners is supported by the academic research undertaken by Glasgow University which will be available at the end of July 2009. The table attached as appendix 1 outlines the options for Kent at present.

The development of the 14-19 entitlement and in particular the vocational programme has underpinned collaborative arrangements between schools & colleges, leading to a significant reduction of NEET's. At a time of economic downturn this is a real achievement. This Innovative approach to curriculum delivery has put the Kent Local Authority at the forefront of 14-19 development nationally.

The Area Prospectus and Common Application process which is delivered in partnership with Connexions has also been recognised as a major success in Kent. The Area Prospectus holds information on all post 16 opportunities. The common application process enables young people to apply online for training programmes. This year over 7,645 (72%) Year 11's applied online and this will increase to 90% next year. This process enables young people to make informed choices about further education and training options

Strengthening the partnerships and collaborative working will be a major focus of work as the Local Authority takes over the responsibilities from the LSC. This will involve developing new partnerships with the 7 FE colleges & Work Based Learning Providers. There will also be a need to refresh the Secondary Strategy so all partners participate in 14-19 developments. This new way of working will also involve a formalisation and review of the local Children's Strategic Partnership remit in terms of working directly with the 9 14-19 Local Planning Forums.

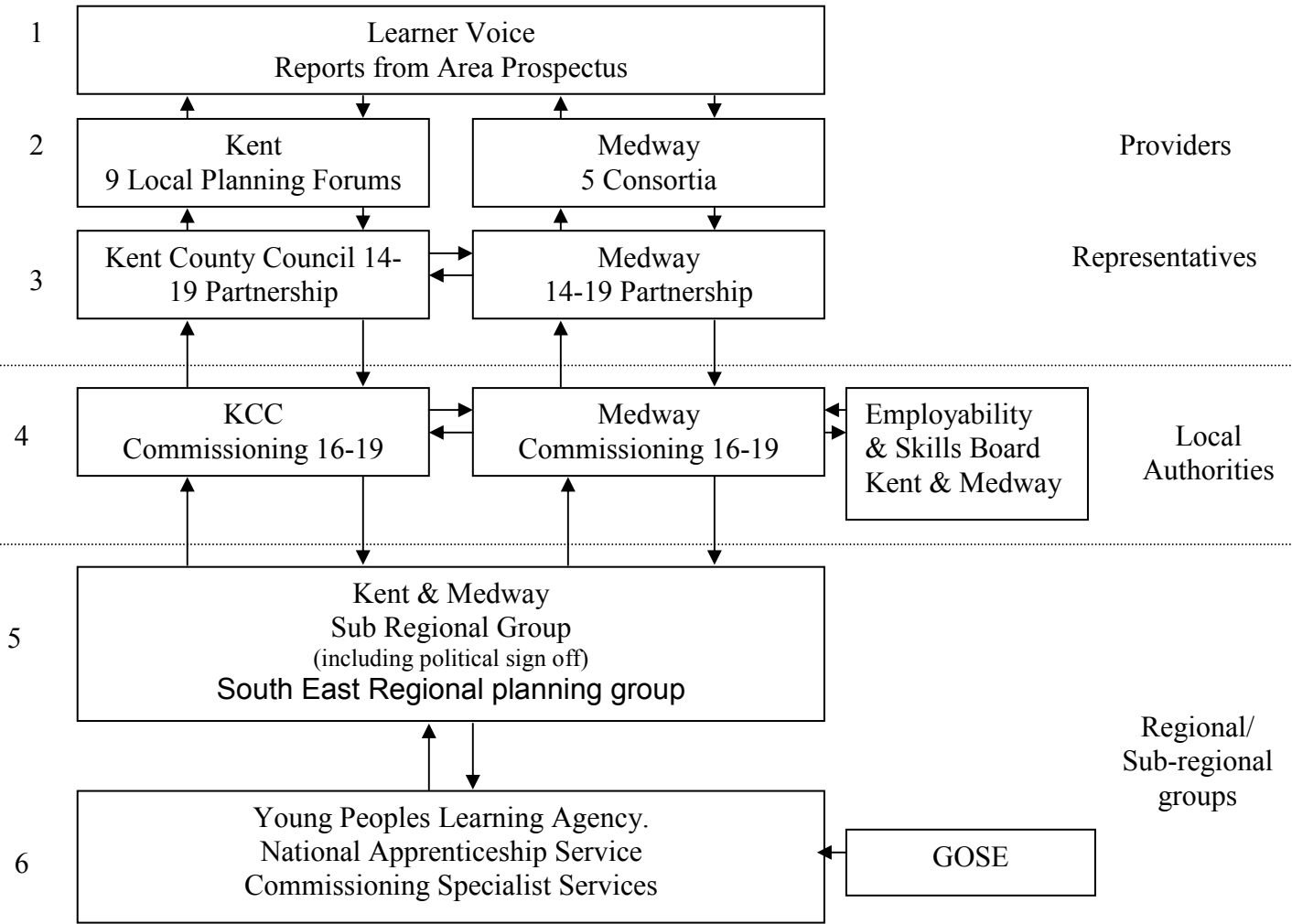
Other key areas of development in 2009/10 in terms of the 14-19 curriculum, will be to ensure that post 16 options are sufficiently diverse to increase the participation age to 18 by 2015, to ensure there are appropriate progression routes including LLDD learners across all the 9, 14-19 planning areas. Continue and strengthen links with the Integrated Youth Support Services and Employment & Skills Board and continue to focus on Careers, Education & Guidance in schools and colleges at key transition points.

Proposed Sub Regional Group (SRG) Strategic decision making processes for Kent and Medway.

3 (1) Formal agreement by Ministers on Kent & Medway working as a Sub Regional Group for the purposes of 16-19 allocation off funding was agreed by the end of May. It is intended that the decision making processes which informs the Sub Regional Groups strategic commissioning priorities will be predicated on a number of existing groups including the 14 to 19 Kent and Medway Partnerships, 9 local planning forums in Kent, 5 delivery consortia in Medway and the Kent and Medway Employability and Skills board. In developing the decision making process 6 distinct but interlinked stages are identified. To ensure accountability throughout the process all groups will have clear guidelines about each groups statutory and strategic functions a first draft of these accountabilities are set out in Table 1 attached.

(2) The diagram below identifies the stages and the representative groups who will be involved in the commissioning and allocations decisions for Kent and Medway. The SGR will have over site of the Membership of these groups to ensure that all stakeholders are fairly represented.

Kent & Medway 16-19 Decision Making Process Chart



There will be 6 clear steps to the commissioning process these are

Step 1

Learner voice. Learner voice data and responses, reports from the area prospectus and destination data from the connexions service will be feed back to providers at the beginning of the commissioning process.

Step 2

9 Kent planning forums and 5 Medway delivery consortia. These groups will agree the local area curriculum offer based on robust data sets and local priorities including data from local employers and labour market intelligence. These priorities will be used to inform the 14 to19 education and training plans of Kent and Medway on an annual basis. The current membership of these groups may need to be review over the transition year in full consultation with providers. It is proposed lead commissioners for the locality will represent the Local Authorities on this group to support and challenge the local forums decisions and ensure strategic fit with the Sub Regional Groups strategic priorities and commissioning principles.

Step 3

Kent and Medway partnerships will agree and monitor the 14 to 19 education and training plans including raising participation and delivery of the entitlement. The chairs of the partnerships will make recommendations to the local authority to influence the commissioning process and to inform the strategic priorities of the Sub Regional Group.

Step 4

Local Authorities will agree strategic priorities and make recommendation at the Sub Regional Group to inform the commissioning process. These priorities will be informed by local and economic trends, robust labour market intelligence. The LA at this stage will have the opportunity to determine local commissioning priorities in line with key activities and targets e.g. 2010 Targets, CYPP, IYPP, LAA, Regeneration framework, MAAs.

Elected members will have the opportunity to sign off these priorities before submission to the Young Peoples Learning Agency and National Apprenticeship Service.

Step 5

Kent & Medway Sub Regional Group and Regional Planning Group agree regional commissioning priorities, (further details are required from the LSC to understand the full remit of the Regional Planning Group are understood.)

Step 6

Kent and Medway Sub regional group and Young Peoples Learning Agency agree local priorities inline with regional and national statement of priorities.

Proposed timeline sub regional commissioning.

| 4 | Timeline for sub-regional commissioning/allocations | Date |
|---|--|---------------------|
| | Agree Kent & Medway 14-19 plans with the Partnerships | End July |
| | Member Approval for sub-regional commissioning priorities to inform regional priorities | Beginning September |
| | Agree & determine sub-regional and regional 14-19 commissioning priorities | End September |
| | Consultation with Kent & Medway's providers | October-January |
| | Final YPLA sub regional commissioning plans agreed with Kent & Medway Sub-Regional group | End February |

Conclusion

5 At the time of writing this report this was the most up to date position regarding the transfer of the LSC functions to the Local Authority. It is a fast moving landscape, therefore more detailed plans will be available during the autumn term.

Recommendations

6. Members of CFE POC are asked to:
 - (a) Note the content of this report.

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Background Documents:

14-19 Partnerships & plan C
Local Authority blueprint.