

## **Children, Families and Education** **2009-2010 Business Planning Outturn Report**

### **1. Introduction**

The Directorate continues to focus on its vision to ensure that every child and young person and their family are supported, achievement exceeds aspiration, and children are positive about their future, delivered through the successful achievement of the overall Vision for Kent, the Framework for Regeneration and the Children and Young People's Plan.

2009/10 was a productive year for the Children, Families and Education Directorate, with a good Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) rating and improvements in some key outcomes, particularly in the early years, sustained good performance in many of our secondary settings and actions taken to reduce exclusions and persistent absence.

### **2. Comprehensive Area Assessment**

The Comprehensive Area Assessment praised KCC's services for children, young people, families and education across all 8 Vision for Kent themes. The rating for children's services is that it performs well.

The CAA particularly rewarded the excellent progress that has been made in preparing young people for employment, by awarding Kent's work around 'Improving skills to match Kent's growing economy' a green flag for exceptional performance or innovation that others can learn from.

The CAA also identified that the prospects for improvement in Kent are strong, with an excellent track record of delivery, efficiency savings and reinvestment.

### **3. Progress in improved outcomes for children and young people**

#### **3.1 Overview of Performance**

Indicators showing consistently strong performance

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>Better than National Average<sup>2</sup></b>
NI 62: Percentage of Looked After Children with three or more placements	11.0%	9.9%	9.8%	<b>Yes</b>
NI 75: Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	48.5%	49.7%	52.0%	<b>Yes</b>
NI 117: 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	6.4%	5.2%	4.7%	<b>Yes</b>
% of schools achieving healthy school status	N/A	76%	84%	<b>N/A</b>
% of young people participating in vocational programmes who agreed this was having a positive impact on their lives	90%	90%	98%	<b>Local Indicator (2010)</b>
Number of children on vocational 14-16 programmes	2,200	4,600	5,500	<b>Local Indicator</b>

<b>NI 61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children adopted</b>	<b>70.3%</b>	<b>81.8%</b>	<b>85.7%</b>	<b>(2010) Yes</b>
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<sup>2</sup>Based on most recent comparative data

Indicators showing improving performance

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>Better than National Average<sup>2</sup></b>
NI 72: Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage	43%	46%	51%	<b>No</b>
NI 92: Gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFS	33.0%	32.0%	29.8%	<b>Yes</b>
NI 148: Care leavers in employment, education or training	53.4%	54.7%	62.7%	<b>No</b>
NI 87: Secondary school persistent absence rate	6.8%	6.0%	5.5%	<b>No</b>
NI 112: Under 18 conception rate	-11.6%	-11.4%	-12.8%	<b>No</b>
<b>NI 156: Households in temporary accommodation</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>N/A</b>

<sup>2</sup>Based on most recent comparative data

Some key highlights are listed under the five Every Child Matters Outcome themes:

### **3.2 Being Healthy**

The National **Healthy Schools** Programme celebrated its tenth anniversary this autumn. In Kent, the programme has been successful, with 100% of schools actively engaged and 87% having achieved 'Healthy Schools' status.

**Obesity** in both the Reception year and year six is below the national average, 0.6% and 0.8% respectively. Obesity amongst these children is reducing at a similar rate to that of the national average. Parents are receiving information from school nursing services which offers pathways to help and support should their children be deemed an unhealthy weight or at risk of becoming so. 310 learners have also attended family programmes with a healthy eating focus.

The amount of **physical activity**; PE, school sport and competitive school sport in Kent has increased. 100% of pupils are now participating in two hours of high quality PE and school sport per week compared to 88% last year and 64% three years ago. 50% of pupils are involved in inter-school sport competitions, which is well above the national average of 44%.

The 2009/10 **Kent School Games** were launched in schools at the end of September. This launch was designed to encourage even more schools of Kent's schools to become involved, an estimated 550. Area competitions and trials organised by the 13 School Sport Partnerships, 15 Sports Colleges and seven competition managers, have led to schools qualifying for the finals in June 2010. The Kent School games has formed an integral part of Kent's successful Beacon application for Olympic and Paralympic Legacy.

### **Emotional wellbeing**

The perception of children and young people on Kent is that they are physically healthy and generally enjoy their life, 92% of 7-11 year olds report that they usually feel happy. 79% of 11-16 year olds, and 82% of post 16 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoy their life (Children and Young People of Kent Survey 2009) an increase from 76% and 81% in 2008/9.

The survey also asked children and young people if they feel sad or depressed at least once or twice a week. Compared with last year, the proportion of young people saying they do feel sad or depressed has decreased within the 11-16 age group, by 7%.

Additionally, over two thirds of 11-16 year olds and post-16s said that they feel positive about their future.

Kent Early Years Foundation Stage Profile has improved for the third year in succession. In the thirteen aspects of learning that are assessed at the end of the reception year, all thirteen demonstrated improvement in 2009. There was a significant improvement for children in the lowest 30% Super Output Areas (SOAs) and the gap was reduced between these children and those in the rest of Kent. There are 3,052 children whose results make up the 30% SOAs data and in 2006 only 25.4% of the children achieved six points in all aspects of Personal, Social and Emotional and Communication, Language and Literacy compared with 37.2% achieving this level in 2009.

### **3.3 Staying Safe**

CFE coordinates and supports the work of Kent's **Local Safeguarding Boards** which continues to work vigorously, with the support of all agencies, to achieve good outcomes for children.

CFE **children's social care services** continue to be pressured with high numbers of referrals and increasing numbers of children subject to Child Protection plans, as is the case with other LAs. The activity to recruit to Social Work posts via a vigorous recruitment campaign has continued with the successful recruitment of 58 newly qualified social workers, 27 American recruits and so far 14 European recruits. Recruitment and retention of social workers remains a critical priority, and we take on board the recommendations of the March 2010 Cabinet report of the Chief Executive.

Further, reducing family risks linked with child abuse and neglect (e.g. domestic abuse, parental mental health, and substance misuse) is key to improving outcomes. It is critical that we maintain strong child protection practice in all Districts and work through the KCSB to reduce risks to safeguard children. A network of 6 Parenting Capacity Assessment (PCA) teams has been established, and early evaluation of their effectiveness is positive. The Chief Executive's report identified robust delivery of child protection services in Kent.

In terms of KCC's **corporate parenting** responsibilities, our number of looked after children (LAC) has been increasing (this is a national situation). Kent has been very successful in the past in reducing the numbers of LAC through options outside the care system. As this is better for children's outcomes and better value for money, these options will continue, but we will also explore other contractual models to ensure sufficient cost effective provision for our most vulnerable children.

Developments with partner agencies in services for **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children** have resulted in multi agency assessments and the promotion of the specialist needs of UASC. There has been continued development of good practice in the assessment of age; this has received recognition in the courts. There has also been continued success, to date, in defending age assessments against challenges in the High Court. The service has promoted KSCB participation in the national pilot for the identification of victims of human trafficking.

Kent Safe Schools is a countywide initiative that works to ensure both the **physical and emotional well being** of children and young people. Kent Safe Schools develops and delivers services both in school and in the wider community. These services focus on school and community issues,

emotional literacy, social and emotional development, self-esteem and restorative approaches. This year 8478 pupils completed the Kent Safe Schools on line bullying survey. There has been a reduction in the percentage of children and young people's perception of **bullying**. Percentage of pupils who has ever been bullied reduced from 50% in November 2008 to 47% in November 2009. Additionally, the Children and Young People of Kent Survey 2009 identified that the percentage of 11-19 year olds reporting both physical and verbal bullying had decreased this year.

### **3.4 Enjoy and Achieve**

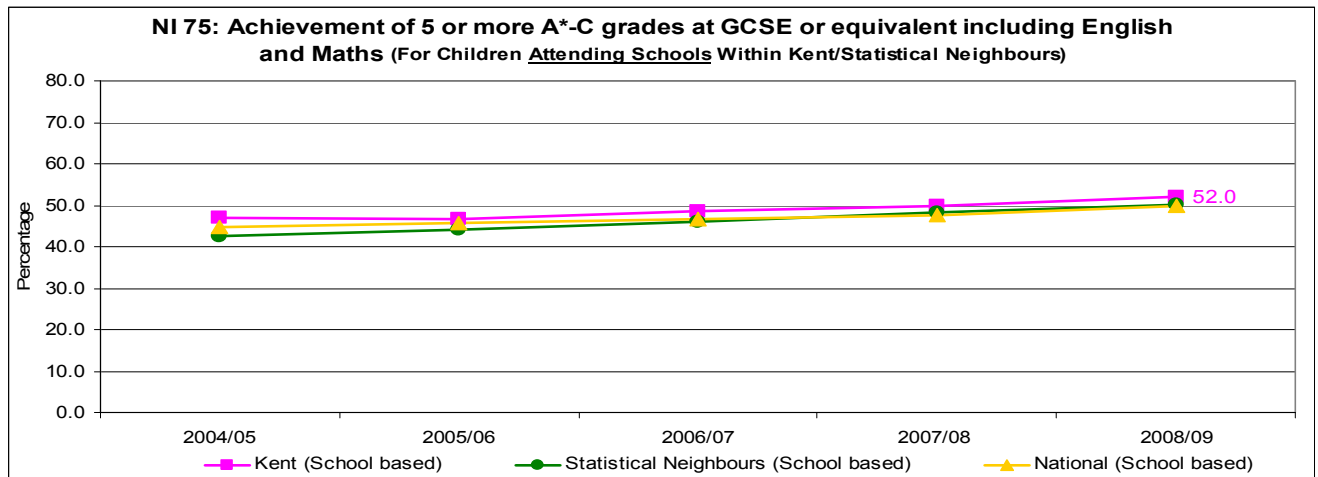
KCC investment in the early years is showing results. Inspections of **early years'** settings are showing improvement with more being judged as good or better, and a larger proportion of children are doing well by their first year in school, with Kent narrowing the gap to national, and children from poorer backgrounds also doing well. It is important to maintain a preventative approach in early childhood through our resources in children's centres in deprived areas and quality early years learning.

Progress has been made in Kent **primary schools** but whilst some children and Primary schools do very well, some are not reaching the standards to which we aspire, particularly those from poorer backgrounds. This is reflected in Ofsted judgements of some schools under the new inspection framework which gives higher emphasis to attainment results. CFE staff and financial resources will be targeted to those schools at risk of not achieving Key Stage 2 floor targets, and we will support and challenge them to raise expectations and improve the quality of teaching and learning. It is critical that schools know their children well and use the skills of their staff effectively to enhance learning. In time, we expect that progress in the early years will contribute to children's outcomes through primary.

The Children and Young People of Kent Survey 2009 identified that 85% of children, aged 7-11 years, reported that they enjoyed school at least sometimes and 55% of 11-16 year olds reported that they liked being at school. 68% of 7-11 year olds felt that they were doing well at school and 80% of 11-16 year olds thought that they were doing at least quite well.

Kent's students continue to deliver extraordinary success in their **GCSE results**, racing ahead compared with national figures. 73% of Kent students achieved five A\* to C grades this year, around five percent above the national average, and an improvement of 5.6% on last year. In addition the 52.0% of Kent students gaining five A\* to C grades (including English and Maths), is up 2.3% on last year and has surpassed all previous records.

In 2008 Kent had 33 schools in the **National Challenge** programme. In 2009 the number of Kent schools performing below the 2011 target has now been reduced to 18. Twenty-two of the 33 schools improved on their 2008 results, fourteen of which improved by 5% or more, including King Ethelbert's School where the 20% increase in pupils achieving 5 good GCSEs attracted national media interest.



Source: Department of Children, Schools and Families

There are many exciting things going on across the county, not least the large programme to rebuild schools to high standards across the county through our **Building Schools for the Future and Academies Programme**. Kent's first new BSF schools in Wave 3 (11 schools) are about to open, we have gained outline approval for wave 4 (16 schools) and wave 5 (15 schools) and the remit meeting for wave 6 (9 schools) is about to take place.

The programme to rebuild schools in Kent is already resulting in improvements in school inspections. Ofsted has praised Kent's teaching at Cornwallis Academy and New Line Learning. New Line Learning Academy has received the best Ofsted report that it has ever had.

The future for further capital expenditure maybe uncertain, but CFE are delighted that Kent has done so well in securing transformational buildings to support the innovative learning curriculum we are all working towards.

In July 2009 KCC and the NHS signed up to **Every Disabled Child Matters**, a formal commitment to make life better for disabled children and their families. This year 77% of young people and carers asked were happy or very happy with the support that they currently receive. Significant progress has been made on establishing four parent groups within Kent to become charitable trusts by Jan 2011 which will enable them to commission services for disabled children and their families.

### 3.5 Make a Positive Contribution

**Consultation and participation** with children and young people continues to develop so that it becomes an integral part of services and ensures that young people's views and opinions improve education and life in Kent. In 2009 over 39,000 children participated in the third Children and Young People of Kent survey. Focus groups and consultations also took place with over 90 young people with a disability, health problem or English as a second language.

**Kent Youth County Council (KYCC)** currently has 60 young members who attend regular meetings. In November 2009, 27,463 young people voted in the KYCC elections. The council now also includes 15 community representatives making it more inclusive. Approximately 40 Kent children in care were involved in an event in April 2009 to help plan the development of a **Kent Children in Care Council**. Since then the Children in Care Council have been involved in the production of a DVD to help communicate to staff key issues affecting children in care.

In 2009 a **Primary Children Council** was created. This council has met twice, sixty children from across the county have attended to give their views on topics such as bullying, e-safety and PSHE.

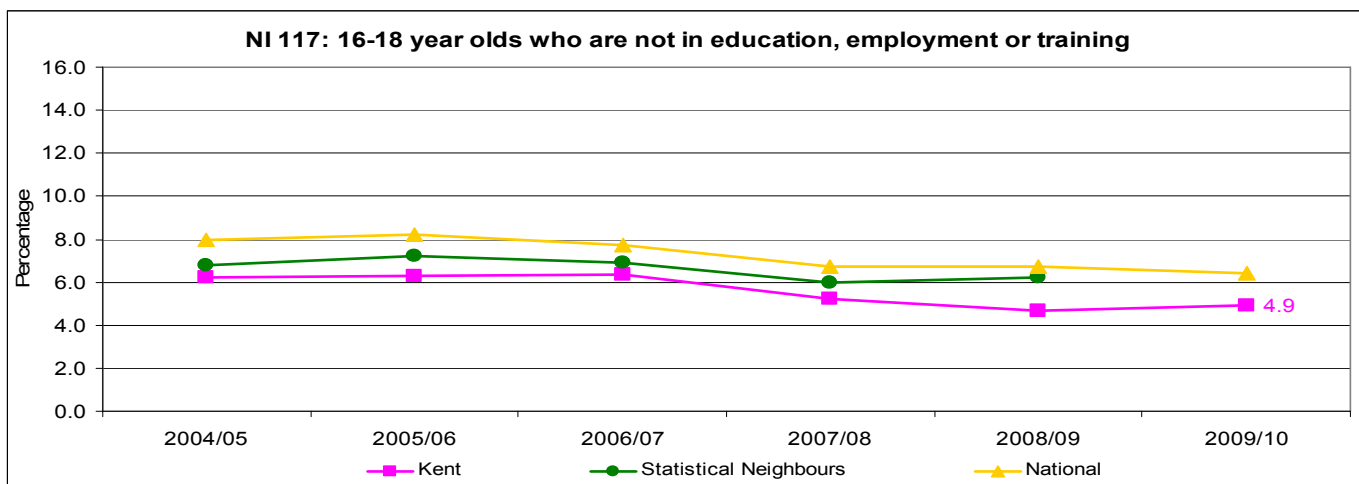
Kent schools are among the best in the country at offering **extended services** to the community. Ninety five per cent of schools in the county are offering extended school services, according to the Training and Development Agency. This is on a par with the regional and national figures. KCC and its partners believe that extended services help raise the achievement of children and young people and broaden their life opportunities while building a positive community spirit.

Kent is leading the way in **parenting and carer support** with three new 'Your Family Matters' (YFM) co-ordinators to organize the delivery of the 'Your Family Matters' parenting programme. The 12 week evidence based programme empowers parents of children aged 8 – 13 at risk of anti-social behaviour through self awareness, and a better understanding of child development and positive discipline techniques. It has achieved very good results, with both parents and children reporting improvements in family relationships, children's social skills and self discipline.

### 3.6 Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Mitigating the effects of **family poverty** on children and young people and their families continues to be a priority for the directorate. In line with the Child Poverty Act, CFE are working on a Poverty Needs Assessment to draw on data, intelligence and consultation with service providers and families to identify local priorities that need to be tackled to reduce child poverty. CFE have made excellent links with the national Child Poverty Unit and played a role in influencing the Child Poverty Act regulations and guidance for the needs assessment and strategy. This raised Kent's profile as a lead authority in this area.

However, the proportion of young people **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)** in Kent is being pressured from the downturn in the economy. While performance remains good, at 4.9%, economic factors are impacting on young people's ability to find work and may be encouraging more to remain in education. With the transfer of the learning and skills functions (from the LSC) as of April 1, 2010 we will be working with sixth forms, FE Colleges and all our providers to improve those standards, achievement and outcomes that are below national and statistical neighbours (particularly for those young people from low income families).



Source: Client Caseload Information System

CFE has worked with all school and colleges to pilot a universal **Kent Careers and Guidance** programme. This includes a new information platform with up to date impartial information on 15 vocational sectors, including information from employers. The development of personal tutors in schools for all learners, to support choices and provide careers advice and guidance has also started. The new information portal is a key resource for these tutors.

The Children and Young People of Kent Survey 2009 identified that a 63% of 11-16 year olds and 57% of post-16s strongly agreed or agreed that they would be able to get the type of job they want when they are older. These findings are generally in line with those reported last year, and therefore suggest that the recent changes in the economic market have not had a notable effect on young people's view of the job market in Kent and therefore their future aspirations.

### 3.7 Indicators showing areas for renewed focus

Indicator	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Better than National Average <sup>2</sup>
Rate of referrals to children's social services per 10,000 children aged under 18	339	386	557	N/A
NI 73: Achievement of Level 4 in English and Maths at Key Stage 2	67%	69%	68% <sup>1</sup>	No
NI 102: Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at Key Stage 2	30.4	30.7	30.0 <sup>1</sup>	No
NI 53: Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	34.5	33.6	31.5	No
NI 64: Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	5.5%	8.0%	10.0%	No
<b>NI 147: Care leavers in suitable accommodation</b>	<b>79.4%</b>	<b>85.8%</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>No</b>

<sup>1</sup>Provisional result

<sup>2</sup>Based on most recent comparative data

## 4. CFE Restructure

Following the appointment of a new Managing Director in May 2009, there was a clear expectation that a reorganisation was required to ensure that the service is sustainable and fit for purpose in realising the ambitions and priorities of KCC and Kent Children's Trust for children and young people.

Following County Council agreement to a new CFE senior management structure in June 2009, work is currently underway to drive forward the restructure throughout the service, alongside the review of Kent Children's Trust ([http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_change\\_for\\_children.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_change_for_children.cfm)). Consequently, an interim structure has been in place within CFE since September 2009. Detailed proposals for the restructure were launched on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 for a 90 day consultation. A web-link to the detailed proposals is <http://knet2/directorates/children-families-and-education/cfe-restructure/cfe-restructure>

We have a strong foundation to build on in CFE, and recently achieved excellent results from the Investors in People assessment. Nevertheless, we are very conscious of the need for staff care and support at this time.

Rosalind Turner  
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