



AGENDA

CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD

Wednesday, 3 December 2008 at 2.00 pm
Swale 1 - Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone

Ask for: Theresa Grayell
Telephone 01622 694277

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the meeting.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

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

A. BOARD BUSINESS

- A1 Substitutes
- A2 Declarations of Members' Interest relating to items on today's agenda
- A3 Minutes of Board Meetings held on (a) 21 May and (b) 24 September 2008 (Pages 1 - 10)
- A4 Chairman's Announcements

B. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- B1 The Future Inspection Framework for Children's Services, 2009 (Pages 11 - 34)
 - a) Joint Area Review (JAR)
 - b) Annual Performance Assessment (APA)
 - c) Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)
- B2 Education Provision for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People (Pages 35 - 40)

C. UPDATES

Information Papers on these issues will be sent to Members separately

NB – Information items are not for consideration at the Meeting

- C1 Children's Trust update
- C2 Looked After Children and Child Protection Statistics

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)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

(01622) 694002

Tuesday, 25 November 2008

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.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's Champions Board held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday 21 May 2008.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mr M J Vye (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Angell, Mr J Curwood, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr I T N Jones, Dr T R Robinson and Mr J D Simmonds.

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr M C Dance (Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE).

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Brightwell, Policy and Performance Manager (Looked After Children/Leaving Care), CFE; Mr J Mitchell, Joint Commissioning Officer, CFE; and Miss T A Grayell, Democratic Services Officer, CED.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

5. Membership

1. Members noted that Mrs C Angell and Mr J Curwood had joined the Board in place of Mrs M Newell and Mr D A Hirst, respectively. Mrs Angell and Mr Curwood were welcomed to the Board.

6. Minutes

(Item 3 (a) and (b))

1. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman. The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2007 are already approved and signed and are included for reference only.
2. Mr Brightwell advised the Board that KCC's Pledge to all children and young people had been launched at two events, in East and Mid Kent, which had been well publicised and attended. It would have two more launch events, one in West Kent and one for children placed in Kent by other local authorities. He undertook to ensure that all Board Members were advised of the dates of the future launches and invited to them.

7. Update on Actions Identified from the Meeting with Looked After Children and Care Leavers on 23 January 2008

(Item 5 - Report by Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance and Director of Children's Social Services)

1. Mr Brightwell introduced the report and explained that it updated progress made since the last report to the Board on 12 March 2008. Much progress had been made since that meeting in addressing the three biggest issues raised by young people - the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service, housing and travel - the latter via the Freedom Pass. Comments made by young people at the 23 January meeting had prompted some changes to the IRO invitation card scheme.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the information given in the report, and in response to questions raised by Members, be noted and welcomed; and
- (b) the future actions set out in “next steps” of the report be agreed and supported.

8. Outline of Programme for Corporate Parenting Briefing, 6 June 2008
(Item 6 - Report by Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)

1. Mr Brightwell explained that the new Corporate Parenting Guidance ‘Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice’, issued by the National Children’s Bureau, had greatly influenced the programme for the event. The 6 June briefing for all Members would focus on the ‘Universal’ Corporate Parenting responsibility, shared by all elected Members, while future proposed events would address the ‘Targeted’ and ‘Specialised’ Corporate Parenting roles, which concerned fewer Members.
2. In discussion, the following points arose:-
 - (a) Members welcomed the opportunity to be updated on changes to their role as Corporate Parents;
 - (b) Members of the Board had been sent a copy of the NCB Booklet ‘Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice’ which was welcomed as a very clear and informative document; and
 - (c) concern was expressed that some Members of the County Council may still believe that the Corporate Parenting role was restricted only to Members of the Children’s Champions Board, and the briefing on 6 June would be a good opportunity to reinforce the fact that the role was shared by *all* elected Members.
3. RESOLVED that the information given in the draft programme and in Mr Brightwell’s presentation, be noted and welcomed, and the proposed future events which will cover the ‘Targeted’ and ‘Specialised’ Corporate Parenting roles be supported. *(Later in the meeting, when discussing Terms of Reference, a date for a half-day briefing on the Targeted Corporate Parenting role was set as 8 July, pm.)*

9. Parental Alcohol Misuse and its Impact on Children in Kent

(Item 7 - Report by Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)

(Mrs K Lambourn, Safeguarding Policy and Performance Manager, and Ms K Sharp, Commissioning Manager, Young Persons’ Services, KDAA, were in attendance for this item)

1. Mrs Lambourn introduced the report and explained that it had been requested by the Board arising from a recommendation in the report of the Select Committee on Alcohol Misuse, published in March 2008, which had expressed concern about the potential impact of alcohol misuse on children. Arising from this discussion, and in responses given by Mrs Lambourn, Ms Sharp and Mr Brightwell to questions put by Members, the following points were highlighted:-

- (a) Although localised schemes had done much good work over the years to address locally-identified problems, there was a need to spread good work and take a strategic and systematic approach to service delivery across the whole County.
- (b) To this end, a Hidden Harm Group had been established to bring together agencies to address strategically the issues identified by the Select Committee on Alcohol Misuse, as well as services relating to Drugs Misuse.
- (c) Much work was being done by voluntary bodies, the most well known of which were the Sunlight project in Thanet and the Windmill Clinic in Medway, Swale and Dartford, but there were many more good local projects around the County.
- (d) Funding and services for alcohol misuse had traditionally been directed towards misusers themselves and not to those affected by alcohol misuse. It was important now to redress this balance.
- (e) Previous uncertainty over continued funding for KDAAT's alcohol misuse work had now been lifted with the Government's commitment to three years' more funding. The allocation of that funding, however, was still an issue to be addressed.
- (f) KCC could help support and spread the work of voluntary organisations by taking up the issue via Children's Trusts.
- (g) Members were keen to visit and support the work of local schemes in their areas and would be given details of them.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) The information set out in the report, and in response to questions, be noted and welcomed; and
- (b) The Board receive an update report on the work of the Hidden Harm Group, at the end of its first year of operation.

10. Kent Children's Trust Arrangements

(Item 8 - Report by Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)

(Mrs J Ackroyd, Trust Development Manager, was in attendance for this and the following item)

1. Mrs Ackroyd introduced the report and set out national and local developments since the issue was last reported to the Board in December 2007. The KCC had been identified as the Children's Services Authority and so had the lead responsibility for bringing in the changes in the National Children's Plan – 'Building Brighter Futures'. Children's Trusts were the mechanism by which the aspirations in 'Building Brighter Futures' would be achieved. Mrs Ackroyd pointed out three key aspects of the new changes:

- (a) They emphasised the need to use schools as a medium by which to address the issues;
 - (b) They emphasised the role of the family and the need to support the family as a whole unit; and
 - (c) Changes would be phased over a period of time so they could mature and develop, to affect long term and lasting change.
2. Arising from discussion, and from Mrs Ackroyd's and Mr Mitchell's responses to questions put by Members, the following points were highlighted:-
- (a) The 23 school clusters in Kent were being used as a basis for Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) to keep schools at the centre of developments and to take advantage of existing relationships and networks. This method had been chosen as a good model in Kent, and other local authorities which had not based their arrangements around schools had found that, to be effective, they had had to change their arrangements to follow this model.
 - (b) Similarly, good engagement and inclusion of parents and families had proven vital to the success of the new arrangements.
 - (c) The new Children's Trusts arrangements had three threads:
 - i they changed the way in which professionals worked together to deliver services;
 - ii they produced a range of new services which had arisen from this new joint working; and
 - iii they led to the establishment of new Children's Centres (of which, 8 were planned for Kent by the end of 2008).
 - (d) Pathfinder Projects which had run across the County had now produced measurable results and had shown how the new arrangements could work. The final evaluation of Pathfinder Projects was due to be published in June 2008.
 - (e) Members expressed a range of individual views about how Trusts would relate to and impact upon the respective roles of CFEPOC and the Children's Champions Board, and how the Trusts' work should be scrutinised, and expressed concerns that the role and profile of the Board should be protected from being eroded. Mrs Ackroyd assured Members that Member engagement had been a well debated issue around other local authorities as the Trust arrangements had developed.
 - (f) Members also expressed concern that some detail of how the new arrangements would work was, as yet, unknown, but would need to be known before they could see and judge the whole and how it fitted together and impacted upon the role of Members. Members expressed

anxiety that a single, prescriptive template should not be imposed, as one size did *not* fit all. Mrs Ackroyd reassured Members that it was not the intention to impose a standard template.

(g) Leading on from the views expressed in (e) above, Members were keen to fit the review of the Board's Terms of Reference into the timetable of the incoming KCT arrangements.

3. RESOLVED that the information set out in the report, and the clarification given in response to Members' questions and views, be noted, with thanks.

11. Development of the Terms of Reference of the Board

(Item 9 - oral item)

1. The Chairman explained that this issue had been added to the agenda as the impetus to review the Board's Terms of Reference had increased in recent months with the ongoing development of Children's Trusts arrangements and emerging changes to the Corporate Parenting role.

2. Members acknowledged the increasing urgency of the issue and expressed various views and concerns, in addition to those expressed in paragraph (e) of the previous minute, about how the development of Kent Children's Trusts would relate to and impact upon the role of the Board. Views contributed to the discussion were:-

(a) Members should be able to consider and comment on changes to the Terms of Reference privately and in closed groups, not just in the public at Board meetings.

(b) Many children and young people were not in the two groups covered in the Board's current TOR, so were not looked at. There was a whole area of the population just at the edge of the most needy groups, and the review offered an opportunity to include them.

(c) Terms of Reference should be a clear indication of what the Board was, and the Board ought to do exactly what the Terms of Reference promised. The Board had the power to focus where it wanted to, and was a good vehicle to influence and affect change.

3. RESOLVED that:-

(a) A draft of suggested new Terms of Reference be prepared by the officer team in time for Members to consider at the second Corporate Parenting briefing event on 8 July; and

(b) A report setting out the Board's desired revision to its Terms of Reference be presented to Cabinet on 15 September.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS BOARD

MINUTES of A meeting of the Children's Champions Board held in the Swale 1, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 24 September 2008.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chairman), Mr M J Vye (Vice-Chairman), Mr J Curwood, Mrs V J Dagger, Dr T R Robinson, Mr J D Simmonds and Mrs M Newell (Substitute for Mrs C Angell)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr L B Ridings

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss T A Grayell (Democratic Services Officer), Mrs K Lambourn (Policy & Performance Manager, Child Protection) Ms S Hammond, (Policy and Performance Officer, Safeguarding) and Mr A Heather (Principal Educational Psychologist)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

12. Minutes of Board Meetings held on (a) 12 March 2008 and (b) 21 May 2008 *(Item A3)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2008 are already signed and had been included for reference only.

13. Dates of Future Meetings *(Item A4)*

The Board noted the dates of its future meetings, as follows:-

Wednesday, 11 March 2009 (Child Protection)
Wednesday, 20 May 2009 (Looked After Children)
Wednesday, 23 September 2009 (Child Protection)
Wednesday, 2 December 2009 (Looked After Children)

All meetings will start at 2.00 pm at County Hall.

14. Chairman's Announcements *(Item A5)*

1. The Chairman welcomed the new Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Educational Achievement, Leyland Ridings, to his first meeting in his new role. She also welcomed Sarah Hammond, new Policy and Performance Officer for Safeguarding, who was observing, and Andy Heather, Principal Education Psychologist, who would be attending and reporting to the Board in place of John Mitchell.

2. She thanked Members of the Board who had attended the very successful meeting with young care leavers on 14 August. The event had been enjoyed and had a very positive outcome. The meeting notes were still awaiting comments from young people and would be sent when they were cleared. The next meeting would be in the October half-term week at Oakwood House, Maidstone and would be preceded by an evening meal. Marilyn Hodges, Director of Strategy Policy & Performance, had kindly offered to cover the cost of the event.

3. Later in the meeting it was announced that Kent had scored a 'Good' rating in its recent adoption inspection, and this news was welcomed by Members.

15. Child Trafficking

(Item B1 – Report by Director, Strategy, Policy & Performance)

(Teresa Gallagher, Team Manager, West Transitions Team, was in attendance for this item)

1. Ms Gallagher introduced the report and highlighted key facts about trafficking:-
 - (a) the absence of any quantity of research into the subject, with research started to be done only recently, in 2003/04. Some pilot work was being undertaken in London boroughs, eg., Harrow.
 - (b) the difficulty of defining "Trafficked" as opposed to smuggled or unaccompanied young people. This difficulty hinders research into the extent of the problem and also the ability to bring cases to court.
 - (c) Trafficking is not necessarily into the UK from abroad – young people can also be trafficked within and around the UK.

2. In debate, and in response to questions from Members, the following points were highlighted:-
 - (a) The UK was still very attractive to young people from abroad who still believe they can find easy prosperity here. Finding relatively low paid work with wages which are exploitative by UK standards still gives them more than they would earn at home and allows them to send some money back to their families. Many, however, become trapped in exploitative and abusive relationships, working for those who brought them into the country.
 - (b) The UASCYP team do not send a young person to live with a putative relative in the UK unless and until a detailed kinship assessment has been undertaken. This will look at the relative's ability and motivation to care for the young person and check that they have suitable accommodation for them. A kinship assessment is similar to that undertaken prior to a Foster placement. Members of the team will then attend a supervised visit of the young person to the relative before allowing them to be placed there.
 - (c) As trafficking is difficult to detect, Social Services rely on colleagues in other disciplines/professions to help pass on information, as well as the

public to report suspicious behaviour. To help with this, however, the public need to be able to identify signs of trafficking before being able to judge what is or is not suspicious. The public also need one central, well-publicised point of call to report suspicions, similar to the 'Childline' number.

- (d) The Contact Point processes scheme would help in identifying a child who may have been trafficked, as databases of information from different disciplines come together. Schools are a good first source of information (eg., to identify a child who suddenly stops attending and may have been moved on to another part of the UK). However, some children do not enter the education system at all.

3. From discussion, a number of ideas for possible work were put forward:-

- (a) KCC could produce a Pledge for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children and Young People (UASCYP), similar to that produced for Looked After Children; and
- (b) A public awareness campaign to raise public knowledge of the issue could also send the message to traffickers that we are watching them. School children could be asked to design posters and publicity material for the campaign, and an awareness week like Fostering Week or Adoption Week could also be helpful.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) information set out in the report, and given in response to questions, be noted, with thanks;
- (b) a report be presented to a future meeting of the Board to set out outcomes of the Harrow pilot work. To this meeting it would be useful to invite representatives from the Police and the Immigration Services, the latter to tell the Board about training given to Immigration Officers around the issue of trafficking;
- (c) The Leader of the County Council be fully briefed on the issued of trafficking to give it a higher profile as part of the immigration issue; and
- (d) The ideas for suggested future works set out in paragraph 3 above be developed.

16. Aiming High Pathfinder Program

(Item B2 – Report by Director, Children’s Social Services)

(Liz Totman, Head of Specialist Children’s Services was in attendance for this item)

1. Mrs Totman introduced the report and set out key points of the program and the way it operated. In discussion, and in response to questions, the following points were highlighted:-

- (a) Kent had done very well to win Pathfinder status for short-term breaks and was one of only 21 other local authorities to do so. Kent was well

placed to deliver this service and had a good reputation with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for innovative service delivery, and had one more than the basis funding to run the scheme.

- (b) Although there were localised initiatives and good provision around Kent, there had previously not been sufficient co-ordination and dedicated funding to build a project like Aiming High.
- (c) Aiming High will apply to Kent's own children as well as those placed in Kent by other local authorities. However, it could only apply to children with single, not multiple, disabilities.
- (d) The purpose of funding under the Aiming High Scheme was to add value and it could not be used to provide services which should already be provided – eg., to allow disabled children to join in with a school outing. Members expressed concern that funding was not ring-fenced but were advised that services provided under the Aiming High programme could be accessed using Direct Payments.
- (e) The short break service would link to and make use of Sports for Disabled Children. Members suggested adding cricket to the sports on offer.
- (f) Members suggested using the celebration of the UK's Olympic and Paralympic success to raise the profile of and advertise the Aiming High programme.
- (g) It was suggested that Aiming High could link to and feed into the work of the ASD Select Committee, in relation to the transition phase.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) information set out in the report, and given in response to questions, be noted, with thanks;
- (b) regular future update reports on the development of the programme be made to the Board, suggested every 6 months; and
- (c) the ideas for suggested future work, set out in paragraphs in (e), (f) and (g) above, be developed.

By: Marilyn Hodges (Director of Strategy, Policy and Performance)

To: Children's Champions Board

3rd December 2008

Subject: The future inspection framework for Children's Services 2009

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report seeks to update Members on the outcomes of the JAR inspection and inform the Children's Champions Board about the proposals for the new national inspection framework as it relates to Children's Services.

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

1. The Government have signaled through a variety of policy and legislative documents that they intend to change the national performance framework for local authorities. Some of the consistent themes of these policy initiatives are that in future local authorities will be judged on how well they:

- Work in partnership with other public and private providers notably through the local strategic partnership arrangements
- Consult and involve local communities in policies and decisions they make
- Plan for a respond to the needs of vulnerable sections of the community eg disabled children, looked after children etc

There are currently two consultation documents on the new national performance framework; one relates to the overall approach to CAA (response 20th Oct), the other to CAA as it will particularly affect children's and young people's services (deadline for response 3rd December 2008). Ofsted will develop the detailed methodology for the 3 yearly inspection of LAC and safeguarding over the coming months and will carry out pilot inspections from January 2009.

JAR Findings

2. The overall findings of the Kent JAR inspection were very positive, and were among the highest scores achieved by two-tier authorities nationally:

Area of service activity	Kent service score overall	JAR Assessment
Safeguarding	3	Good
Looked after children	3	Good
Learning difficulties and /or disabilities	3	Good
Service management	4	Outstanding
Capacity to improve	4	Outstanding

The recommendations from inspectors were:

Immediate action

The local partnership should:

- Disseminate the report findings to children and young people in the area
- Ensure that all eligible young people have a Pathway plan that is regularly reviewed

Health partners should:

- Improve IT infrastructure and data collection to enable continuous assessment of performance and early recognition of variations in teenage conception rates and sexual health data so that services can be more effectively targeted.
- Avoid young people in need of in-patient mental health services being admitted to adult psychiatric wards

Action over the next 6 months

Health partners should:

- Commence work to ensure there is sufficient and accessible specialist CAMHS provision for children and young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities

The action plan also includes actions on any other important weaknesses mentioned in the JAR report, including additional actions on the following areas:

1. Increasing the numbers of looked after children receiving annual health checks
2. Extending the provision of lead professionals to support LDD children and their families
3. Improving the time taken to secure adaptations to meet the needs of families with LDD children
4. Improve the accommodation and resources available in alternative education centres

Each of these recommendations and important weaknesses is addressed in detail in the attached JAR Action Plan (see Appendix 1) and the action plan was agreed by the KCT at its board meeting on 17th July 2008 and by KCC cabinet. This final version was submitted to Government in September 2008.

To maintain excellent performance in children and young people's services the CFE senior management team and partners have agreed to incorporate all the areas outlined in the JAR action plan into the revised CYPP. This will ensure the actions have a high profile with all partner agencies. The implementation of the actions in the JAR Action Plan

will be monitored through the Trust's CYPP performance monitoring arrangements for the revised Children and young people's plan.

Comprehensive Area Assessment

3. This focus on outcomes for local people will mean that CAA is designed to look across councils, health bodies, police forces, fire and rescue authorities and others responsible for local public services, which are increasingly expected to work in partnership to tackle the challenges facing their communities. The intention is that CAA will be developed and delivered jointly by all the inspectorates responsible for assessing those organisations and services. The proposals are that it be tailored to the priorities for each area, focusing on those outcomes most in need of improvement.

The Comprehensive Area Assessment proposals have been developed by seven partner inspectorates. They will work together to deliver joint judgements when CAA is introduced from April 2009.

Proposed methodology for CAA

(1) The proposals suggest CAA will take locally agreed priorities in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the sustainable community strategies as its starting point.

New Local Area Agreements in this sense will be at the heart of the new local performance framework. LAA's will be the only vehicles for agreeing targets between local government and their delivery partners and central Government (except for the 16 statutory education and early years targets).

The proposal is that CAA will have two main elements, which will inform each other:

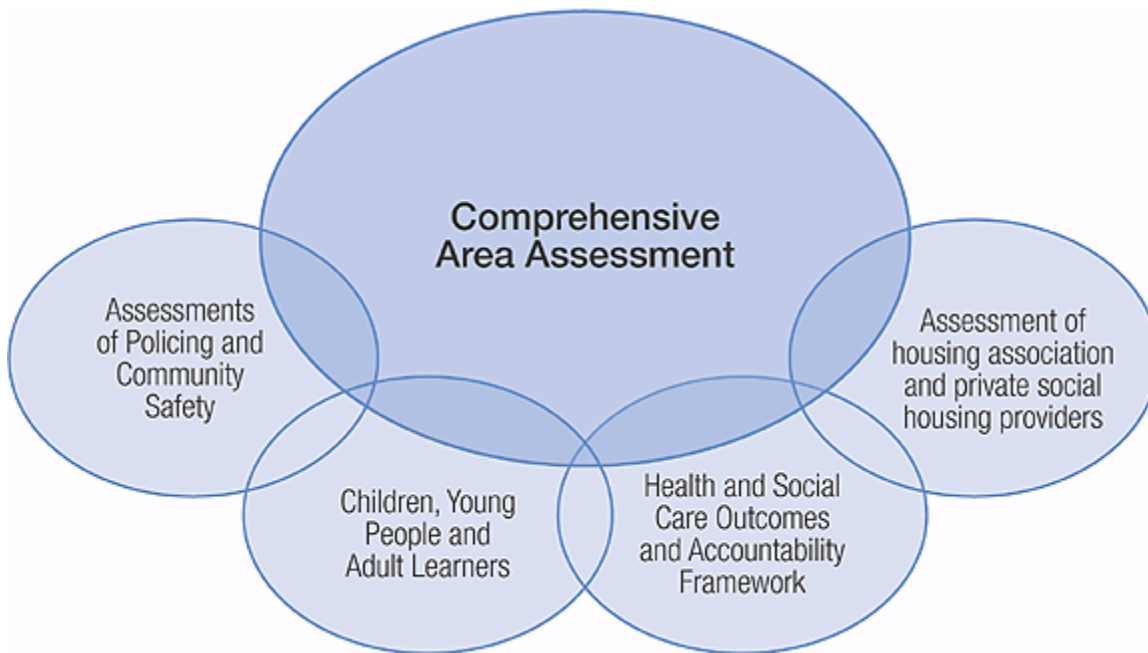
1 Area assessment that looks at how well local public services are delivering better results for local people in local priorities, such as health, economic prospects and community safety, and how likely they are to improve in the future. There will be red given for any areas of concern or and green flags to signal outstanding or notably performance in a particular aspect of partnership working.

2 Organisational assessments of individual public bodies. For councils and fire and rescue services, these will combine use of resources and managing performance themes into a combined assessment of organisational effectiveness. For fire and rescue services, the managing performance theme will be tailored to reflect the specific performance and service delivery priorities within the sector, and will draw on the peer review of operational assessment of service delivery. For primary care trusts and police authorities, they will include use of resources assessments linked to the separate performance frameworks for the National Health Service and police authorities respectively. Both elements of the organisational assessment: use of resources (including data quality arrangements) and performance management will be scored and the combination of these 2 scores will provide an overall organisational score of 1 – 4 where 1 is performing poorly 2 adequately, 3 well, 4 excellent.

Apart from rolling programmes of inspection for children in public care and safeguarding and for Youth offending teams other inspection activity will be triggered by the area and organisational assessments.

CAA aims to draw on evidence from a range of organisational assessments to assess how well partners are working together to deliver the priorities for the area. The figure below shows how the main assessment frameworks align with the area focus of CAA. For example, adult social care will be a key issue for CAA in relation to its focus on vulnerable people in an area, as well as a key component of the health and social care accountability framework. Inspectorates will use consistent evidence sources, treated in the same way, and they will co-ordinate their activity so that evidence is only collected once.

Figure 1 - The inter-relationship between performance frameworks



National indicator Set

(2) The National Indicator Set (NIS) is a vital part of the new performance framework. The NIS aims to provide a group of performance indicator measures that will support public sector partners in monitoring how effectively they are addressing outcomes for local people. As outcomes are a condition of well being for children, adults, families or communities (eg Being healthy, staying safe) and indicators are measures which help quantify the outcomes, it is important that local partners understand their own indicators in the context of the outcomes they are trying to improve.

The Single Set of 198 National Indicators (NIS) was announced by CLG in October 2007, following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. The NIS (some of which is still being consulted on) will be the only set of indicators on which central government will performance manage local government, replacing all other existing sets of indicators, including Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) indicators, from 1st April 2008. However partners will continue to provide statistical returns as requested by relevant departments which will also contribute to the assessment.

The government and the inspectorates are committed to streamlining approaches. For example, the new national indicator set includes indicators that will be used by primary care trusts and councils in assessing the performance of health and adult social care services, and by police and councils in relation to community safety.

CAA will use the National Indicator Set as a key evidence source for both the area and organisational assessments, performance against each of the 198 indicators will be published annually by the Audit Commission, as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. (The new National Indicator Set contains 20 indicators that are to be determined by measuring citizens' views and perspectives collected through a single Place Survey, to be administered by all local authorities.)

68 (34%) of the 198 indicators relate to performance areas particularly relevant to children, families and education. 13 of these 68 relate to social care responsibilities including LAC.

How CAA Will Affect Children's Services

4. The consultation on how the CAA will relate to children's services is proposing that:

(1) Overview of children's services in an area

Self-Assessment

1) Ofsted are proposing to follow the CAA council wide process and ask CS authorities to provide a self evaluation. Each year CS will write an evaluation that includes a commentary on the effectiveness of Children's Trusts in promoting and improving the well being of children and young people, including those in care and who are in need of safeguarding.

Performance Profile

2) The annual performance assessment will be replaced with the development of a 'Performance Profile' that will provide OFSTED's assessment of strengths and weaknesses in outcomes and services for children and young people.

3) To meet the requirement in the Education and Inspection Act 2006 of an annual performance rating, the performance profile will be used by OFSTED to arrive at an annual performance rating for each council's children's services. The overall rating will be subject to thresholds eg inadequate in staying safe or enjoy and achieve will affect the overall grade given.

4) The Performance profile will contain 3 sections:

a) Inspected Services outcomes summarising the results of Ofsted's inspection and regulation activity e.g. Early years inspections, fostering & adoption, maintained schools, colleges and children's homes.

b) ECM indicators – the profile will include an assessment against the NIS and a small number of additional indicators. The additional indicators will be drawn from the data collected by Govt departments primarily DCSF.

c) A direction of travel element drawn from a summary of benchmarked performance and trends against targets.

Ofsted will update the profile 4 times a year in Sep, Dec, March and June. They intend to publish the first profiles in September 2009 so that they can be used for the first area assessments in November 2009.

5) Performance bands will be applied to indicators this will be based on fixed cut off points to highlight strong or poor performance and will be used to inform summary judgements. The profile will consider trends in local performance make comparisons against local targets and averages for similar areas and the national context. This will

lead to banding which will highlight areas of concern; such concerns may trigger an inspection or survey of specific groups or a focus to be followed up in other inspection related activity.

LAC/Safeguarding

- 6) A 3 yearly inspection of LAC and safeguarding proportionate to the current performance level will be conducted.
- 7) An annual unannounced safeguarding inspection to explore thresholds, referrals mechanisms and assessment.

Other evidence

- 8) Other evidence that will be important in all evaluations of CS across the CAA process including:
 - Listening to and acting on the views of users
 - A clear policy framework for integrated processes
 - Effective needs analysis and commissioning
 - Feedback from YJB, GOSE etc

Specific LAC/Safeguarding inspections

(2) The consultation document suggests the following approach to LAC and safeguarding inspection:

Annual

- Annual unannounced visit to children and young people social care services to look at thresholds, referral and assessment. Typically visiting duty manager sampling files and sampling CAF's and having a dialogue with partners. Areas with more than 5 contact or referral points inspectors will include 2 or more visits. Outcome of this will contribute to the annual organisational and area assessment. Concerns may bring forward the 3 yearly inspection of safeguarding/LAC.

3 yearly LAC safeguarding inspection

- The three yearly inspection will also be based on a self evaluation that should explore: outcomes for LAC and safeguarding (including those placed at home or out of area or in custody), impact of commissioning, impact of local safeguarding board, advocacy services, support for families/carers, children in care councils, reviews of children's cases, how users views are used to help improve services.
- 3 yearly inspection of LAC safeguarding will give 4 weeks notice. Will involve case tracking a sample of children/young people and meeting with some of them to listen to their views on living in and receiving care, safeguarding issues and extent to which their views are taken into account by the Independent Review Officers in planning and care support.
- The intention is to involve managers in parts of the inspection process to build a dialogue and get a better understanding of strengths and weaknesses.
- Reporting will be in the form of a single report that will give a grading for LAC and another grade for safeguarding – outstanding, good, satisfactory, inadequate. Thresholds will be applied for key judgements.

Recommendations

Members of the Children's Champion's Board are asked to:

- (a) Discuss and note the proposals for the new performance framework and how they are likely to affect Children's Services inspection in the future

Sally Morris
Head of Strategic Planning and Review
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Background Documents: None

Other useful information:

- Communities in Control: Real people, real power – Improving local accountability Consultation (DCLG, August 2008)
- Comprehensive Area Assessment – Joint Inspectorate Proposals for consultation (Summer, 2008)
- Comprehensive Area Assessment: proposals for assessing local authority services for children and young people (OFSTED, September, 2008)

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - JOINT AREA REVIEW ACTION PLAN 2008

1 DISSEMINATE THE FINDINGS OF THE JAR TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Action: COM01 - Ensure the successful dissemination of the JAR report findings to children and young people in the area, through appropriate means

Priority: Recommendation

Lead Agency: Kent County Council

Lead Manager: Shelley Whittaker

Multi Agency Group: na

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
a) Summarise report findings for children and young people; develop and implement appropriate formats for children and young people and means to access findings (including posters, web)	KCC Corporate Communications	Existing staff in Communities Directorate and Corporate Communications	September 2008
b) Align with reports back to children and young people about EYI and YOS inspection findings.	KCC Communities Directorate	Within existing budgets for SPP division	Sept/08 release
c) Disseminate in a variety of formats and venues accessible to children and young people	KCC CFE		

2 REGULARLY REVIEW PATHWAY PLANS FOR ELIGIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE

Action: LAC 01 - To ensure that young people eligible for services and support under the Children (leaving care) Act 2000 have an up to date Pathway/Transition plan

Priority: Recommendation / Important Weakness

Lead Agency: KCC - CFE

Lead Manager: Paul Brightwell

Multi Agency Group: LAC Strategy

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Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
1. Undertake a practice audit on pathway planning (quality and quantity) during 2008/09 within SUASC, 16plus and children's disability teams. The action plan that will result from this audit will be used to improve performance	CFHE Children's Social Services (SUASC) and Children's Disability Teams – Karen Goodman & Liz Totman	No additional resources required – audit included in regular CSS audit plan for 2008/09	During annual auditing cycle for 2008/09
2. Pathway planning performance monitored by the Data and Performance LAC Issues Group	Rainer 16plus service – Mick McCarthy	No additional resources required	July 2008 onwards
3. The issue of quality pathway plans reviewed on time for all LAC and Care Leavers is to be incorporated into the revised 16plus service contract	Adult Social Services	No additional resources required	September 2008

Indicator to monitor improvement – Pathway Planning

- Number of up to date pathway/transition plans in place for relevant groups of young people (2038SC)

3 IMPROVE ICT & DATA COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE MONITORING AND TARGETING OF ACTIVITY TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Action: TP 01 – Improve IT infrastructure and data collection to enable continuous assessment of performance and early recognition of variations in teenage conception rates and sexual health data so that services can be more closely monitored

Priority: Recommendation / Important Weakness

Lead Agency: EKC PCT

Lead Manager: Richard Murrells

Multi Agency Group: T P Strategy Group

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
<p>a) The five Kent maternity units have been requested to send data to public health data analysts on a three-monthly visit. Data relating to 2006 and 2007 is being forwarded.</p> <p>Termination data already sits with this team. Whilst provision of this data is being made through goodwill, efforts are being made to get PCT maternity contracts amended to ensure this is provided more consistently.</p>	TP Strategy Co-ordinator	People in maternity units and public health data informatics team	September 2008
<p>b) Sexual health data is collected currently and provision of this is not an issue if requested with notice. Information leads have been identified and cycle of circulation being agreed.</p>	TP Strategy Co-ordinator	None	September 2008

Action: TP 02 - IT infrastructure in (a) GUM and (b) outreach settings is underdeveloped

Priority: Important Weakness

Lead Agency: EKC PCT

Lead Manager: Richard Murrells

Multi Agency Group: TP Strategy Group

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
a) IT infrastructure for contraceptive/outreach services is being updated – new computers are being installed in East Kent	TP Strategy Co-ordinator	None	Dec 2008
b) West Kent is improving paper process collation until finances allow expansion of computer programmes			

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Action: TP 03 - Continued high rates of teenage conception in some areas with significant variability across the county

Priority: Important Weakness

Lead Agency: EKC PCT

Lead Manager: Richard Murrells

Multi Agency Group: TP Strategy Group

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
a) The successful Shepway model is currently being implemented in all districts across the county	TP Strategy Co-ordinator	Funding for more school nurse time to implement a high standard of SRE/ services	Oct 2008
	Child Health Commissioner Public Health West Kent PCT	Funding to ensure sustainability for development of West Kent clinics, presently will be delivered from Teenage Pregnancy Strategy monies, PCT may not core fund 2008-09	Oct 2008

Indicators to monitor improvement – Teenage Pregnancy

- Regular review of data submission
- Children and Young People of Kent survey to review SRE
- Number of schools assessed as delivering a high standard of SRE
- Number of clinical sessions available to young people in West Kent
- Outreach sessions where IT resources are available
- Monitor data entry in clinics and outreach sessions and currency of data available to KCC
- Number of new fathers projects in operation

4 AVOID PLACING YOUNG PEOPLE IN ADULT PSYCHIATRIC WARDS

Action: SG01 - Avoid young people in need of in-patient mental health services from being admitted to adult psychiatric wards

Priority: Recommendation / Important Weakness

Lead Agency: EKC PCT

Lead Manager: Trish Dabrowski

Multi Agency Group: CAMHS Strategy

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
a) Review 2007-08 u18s admitted to adult wards and number of serious untoward incidents produced	Child Health Commissioning Trish Dabrowski / Duncan Ambrose	Data from health providers Commitment and protected time from health commissioners and health providers	September 2008
b) Change KMPT contract to remove u18 activity from adult mental health contract (July) Letter to introduce CAMHS performance measures into the KMPT and EKHT contracts (immediate)	Child Health Commissioning Trish Dabrowski / Duncan Ambrose	Commitment and protected time from health commissioners and health providers Input from contracting teams and financial teams	June/July 08 August 08
c) Letter to provider to ensure admission of an u18 to an adult ward triggers a serious untoward incident report which is reported to commissioners (immediate) Letter to ensure serious untoward incident reporting by providers to commissioners	Child Health Commissioning Trish Dabrowski / Duncan Ambrose	Within existing child health commissioning budget	June/July 08
d) Performance management of CAMHS activity to monitor placement of u18s and serious untoward incident monitoring	Duncan Ambrose	Contractual arrangements for specialist CAMHS providers from financial year 2008-09 Information Technology support for collation of data and analysis of information (July)	September 2008

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
		CAMHS commissioner protected time (quarterly)	
e) Appointment of placement officer to monitor all in-patient admissions Introduction of regular Tier 4 reviews by an experienced Tier 4 clinician	Trish Dabrowski	Investment by host PCT and/or SHA	September 2008

Indicators to monitor improvement – Safeguarding – CAMHS under-18

- Formal report on u18s on adult wards 2007-08 produced
- Number of u18s admitted to adult wards reduced
- Number of serious untoward incidents regarding u18s admitted to adult wards reduced

5 IMPROVE THE SUPPLY OF SPECIALIST CAMHS FOR CHILDREN WITH LDD

Action: LDD 01 - Commence work to ensure that there is sufficient and accessible specialist CAMHS provision for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Priority: Recommendation / Important Weakness

Lead Agency: EKC PCT

Lead Manager: Trish Dabrowski

Multi Agency Group: CAMHS Strategy

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Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
<p>a) A multi agency project group will be tasked with looking at improving access to CAMHS for learning disabled children (May to September 2008). This will build on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and will help to align the range of provision which currently exists across the county</p> <p>A user reference panel system will be established to support service development</p> <p>This area of activity has been supported by investment in Eastern & Coastal Kent Teaching PCT and West Kent PCT in 2008-9 to increase the provision on non-verbal therapies within mainstream specialist CAMHS</p> <p>6 month project of service development, followed by building business cases for multi-agency investment in the following commissioning cycle</p>	<p>Child Health Commissioning</p> <p>Trish Dabrowski / Duncan Ambrose</p>	<p>Commitment and protected time from health commissioners, health providers, children's social services and education</p> <p>Approximately £170,000 of additional health funding will be available from April to September 2008, which is part of the £250,000 recurrent health investment in 2008-09</p> <p>Review of multi-agency spend on LDD CAMHS services</p>	<p>From September 2008</p>
<p>b) Performance management of CAMHS activity to monitor uptake of services by children with learning disabilities</p>	<p>Duncan Ambrose</p>	<p>Contractual arrangements for specialist CAMHS providers from quarter four financial year 2008-09</p>	<p>September 2008</p>

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
		Information Technology support for collation of data and analysis of information Additional resources for voluntary organisation providers may be required on a case by case basis CAMHS commissioner protected time	

Indicators to monitor improvement – LDD CAMHS

- CAMHS mapping proxy measures for LDD CAMHS
- Needs assessment conducted for children with learning disabilities and mental health needs
- Number of children with learning disabilities referred to Tier 3 CAMHS
- Number of children with learning disabilities accepted by Tier 3 CAMHS
- Change of referral criteria for Tier 3 CAMHS to accept children who would be unable to use a verbal therapy
- Number of children with learning disabilities admitted appropriately to Tier 4 services

6 IMPROVE THE NUMBER OF LAC RECEIVING ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS

Action: LAC 02 – Improve performance on the number of looked after children (KCC LAC) receiving annual (review) health assessments

Priority: Important Weakness

Lead Agency: KCC - CFE

Lead Manager: Paul Brightwell

Multi Agency Group: LAC Strategy

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Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
<p>1. A detailed action plan has been produced to address performance under PAFC19 – health of LAC, which focuses on both annual health assessments and dental checks. The action plan has already been approved by CFHE Senior Management Team and Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and is subject to regular review</p>	<p>CFHE Children’s Social Services – Paul Brightwell</p> <p>CSS area managers (LDD)</p> <p>Trish Dabrowski</p>	<p>None – action plan already in place/actioned</p>	<p>December 2008</p>
<p>2. A detailed analysis of annual health assessments and dental checks by the Data and Performance LAC issues group – to include an analysis of performance by district to establish any district variations in performance and reasons for this</p>		<p>None</p>	<p>July 2008</p>
<p>3. Request (via Richard Murrells) for the extension of Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT’s dental screening at the initial health assessment to West Kent PCT area</p>			<p>Completed – April 2008</p>
<p>4 To establish a baseline and develop an Action Plan where it applies to disabled LAC (LDD)</p>		<p>None – action plan in place</p>	<p>December 2008</p>

Indicators to monitor improvement – LAC Annual Health Checks

- Number of LAC with up to date annual health checks (PAFC19)

7 EXTEND THE PROVISION OF LEAD PROFESSIONALS / WORKERS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT LDD CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Action: LDD 02 – A lack for some families of a ‘lead worker/professional’ to support them in securing a coherent package of support spanning more than one service

Priority: Important Weakness

Lead Agency: KCC - CFE

Lead Manager: Joanna Wainwright

Multi Agency Group: Integrated Processes

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Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
<p>a) The Pathfinder Delivery Plan, for 2008-2010 to transform short break services, has recently been approved by DCSF. Key tasks include engaging with parents and disabled children and young people to design the service. For further detail see draft Planning Tool</p> <p>The Partnership with Parents (PwP) service will provide improved information and support for parents and carers and disabled children and young people with dedicated Disabled Children and Families Independent Supporters and Participation workers. PwP will work with other sources of support such as the Parents Consortium and SMAP. This improvement will be delivered through the Aiming High programme and the further development of the Kent Resource Directory for Children’s Services as part of the implementation of the ECM agenda through Local Childrens Service Partnerships</p>	<p>Education/ Disability Children’s Service</p> <p>Liz Totman</p> <p>Joanna Wainwright</p> <p>CSS</p> <p>DCS</p> <p>SDU</p> <p>Health/Lead Locality Commissioner</p>	<p>Resources identified in the Pathfinder Delivery Plan.</p>	<p>2008-2010</p>

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
<p>Expand the use of the Children's Disability Register to inform a wider range of parents</p> <p>The Short Breaks Pathfinder Programme will ease the pressure on referrals and access to support by reviewing the eligibility criteria and developing a self assessment tool for parents/carers to have direct access to support services</p> <p>The early support model is to be expanded to primary aged children to ensure Lead Professional/Key Worker support</p>			
<p>b) Continued roll out of CAF/Lead Professional training</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>Mary Burwell</p>	<p>Currently resourced via the CAF budget. Future resource needs have been included as part of the MTP submission.</p>	<p>Detailed in CAF delivery plan on-going</p>
<p>c) To ensure staff feel mandated to implement Lead Professional/key worker role</p> <p>Rob Semens to advise regarding a blanket variation to job descriptions</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>Mary Burwell</p>	<p>Currently resourced via the CAF budget. Future resource needs have been included as part of the MTP submission.</p>	<p>Detailed in CAF delivery plan on-going</p>

Indicators to monitor improvement – to address lack of lead worker / professional to offer support

- The LCSP will provide quarterly statistical reports including the breakdown of the agency and professional of those undertaking the Lead Professional functions
- An evaluation questionnaire is being sent to Practitioners, Parents/Carers, Children and Young People to support the evaluation of the impact of CAF and Lead Professional in these Pilots
- Critical performance indicators on integrated processes have been agreed – these will be monitored through the monthly highlight reports for the CAF/Lead Professional/Contact Point Project Board
- The LCSPs will also provide reports on Action Plans that the Lead Professional agrees with the Parents/Carers and the other professionals in the team around the child

8 IMPROVE THE TIME TAKEN TO SECURE HOUSING ADAPTATIONS FOR LDD CHILDREN

Action: LDD 03 – The time taken to secure housing adaptations to meet the needs of families with children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities and limited publicity for their entitlements in such respects

Priority: Important Weakness

Lead Agency: District Councils

Lead Manager: Chair of JPPB for Housing

Multi Agency Group: JPPB

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Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
<p>a) Scoping exercise with district councils to identify each of the council policies on disabled children (because they are all different). Then to identify best practice and agree a policy that is the same across all districts – with the aim of introducing a fast track approach</p> <p>b) Through the 2010 County Transition Group improve engagement and planning with District Councils, Housing Associations and other partners to secure appropriately adapted independent living accommodation on a planned basis for young adults going through transition</p> <p>c) To establish a baseline to understand the reasons for delay. District Councils have to agree DFG before CSS</p>	<p>Liz Totman</p> <p>Children’s Trust</p> <p>CSS Area Managers</p> <p>District Councils</p> <p>Occupational Therapy in Adult Social Services</p>	<p>To be agreed by chair of JPPB</p>	<p>To be agreed by chair of JPPB</p>

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
funds any necessary top-up. District Council waiting lists for funding vary across the county. To improve the referral to assessment time, two additional OTs will be recruited d) Agree indicators to monitor progress			

9 IMPROVE THE ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTRES

Action: PAN 01 – The quality of accommodation and resources in alternative education centres

Priority: Important Weakness

Lead Agency: KCC CFE

Lead Manager: Sally Williamson

Multi Agency Group: 14+ Strategic Partnership

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
a) Service Level Agreements from September 2008 for Alternative Curriculum will contain minimum requirements for accommodation	Commissioning Attendance and Behaviour Service Sally Williamson Simon Fox	Allocation secured for Capital Funding as behaviour PRUs Further resources will be secured as part of Medium Term Planning process	The new model SLA will be available for Partnership use by September
b) Future funding allocations in respect of alternative curriculum buildings will be determined by Members	Joanna Wainwright	This has been included as part of the MTP submission.	Review complete before

Action Summary	Partners/Officers Involved	Resources	Timescales
	SMT		September
c) Training to be delivered to Cluster Staff and PRU leaders regarding effective tendering and commissioning of alternative provision	Commissioning Attendance and Behaviour Service Sally Williamson	This will be funded from the Attendance and Behaviour budget.	September

d) BSF and the Primary Capital Programme will incorporate, wherever possible, the co-location of alternative provision and existing PRUs	Commissioning Attendance and Behaviour Service SW AEO and LEOs in the relevant areas	BSF resources	From December 2008
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Indicators to monitor improvement – to address quality of accommodation and resources in alternative education centres
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SLAs in place specifying minimum requirements for accommodation ▪ Alternative Curriculum Monitoring Team reporting improved standards of provision

Contact for further information on the KCC JAR Action Plan: Sally Morris (Head of Strategic Planning & Review -Children, Families and Education KCC)

By: Joanna Wainwright, Director of Commissioning

To: Children's Champions Board – 3 December 2008

Subject: Education Provision for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates the Children's Champions Board on access to education, employment and training for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People (UASCYP) (age 14 to 19). It sets out the actions taken with Strategic Partners to develop the range of provision for this vulnerable group in order to improve education outcomes.

Background

1. (1) Context - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children and young people continue to arrive in Kent in increased numbers. The Education Assessment Service assessed 229 (and a further 11 young people were subsequently determined to be over 18) children and young people in the period September 2007 and August 2008. This reflects a considerable increase on previous years in terms of the number and pattern of arrivals each month (See Appendix 1). The total number of unaccompanied children and young people and their distribution across Kent is set out in Appendix 2 (Source: Services to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People). The majority of children and young people continue to be over 16 (57% of arrivals since September 2007) and are placed in LSC funded provision in Colleges of Further Education.

Current Provision

1. (2) The Education Assessment Service supports the assessment and placement of children and young people, Table 1 shows a snapshot of the caseloads for Advisory Teacher Refugee Outreach for March 2007 and March 2008. This shows the increase in the number of children and young people but also a reduction in the percentage of those who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The majority of young people at Colleges of Further Education are working towards Entry or Pre Entry level English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) as a pre-requisite for all other studies. Although they eventually master the Speaking and Listening elements most struggle to achieve the Reading and Writing skills and the functional literacy required for vocational and academic programmes of study. The majority of the young people remain on ESOL dedicated provision for 2 or even 3 years.

Table 1: Caseloads for Advisory Teacher Refugee Outreach

Placement/ point in time	No of Young People on MCAS¹ Caseload	Secondary School	Primary School	College of FE or other training	Not in Education, Employment or Training
March 2007	161	24 (15%)	1 (1%)	98 (60%)	38 (24%)
March 2008	236	34 (14%)	4 (2%)	153 (65%)	45 (19%)

Disaffection from ESOL provision is a significant feature due to the absence of progression and the impact of the asylum process on mental health and well-being. Hence many UASCYP fail to complete their studies and become NEET.

Of those young people who arrived in the period September 2007 to August 2008, 44% declared that they have had two years or less of education in their own country. Therefore, ESOL may not meet the needs of all young people nor is it likely to achieve the retention, achievement or success rates required by the Learning and Skills Council.

Impact of the New Asylum Model

1. (3) Kent has UASCYP who are subject to procedures pre the New Asylum Model and those whose cases are managed within the New Asylum Model. Children and Young People in either system experience stress and trauma. Those within the New Asylum Model have to complete a significant number of meetings and processes within the first 2 months of their arrival in the UK. In addition, those young people whose cases are dealt with under processes before the New Asylum Model experience long term uncertainty in terms of the outcome of the asylum process. Asylum processes impact significantly on the capacity of young people to engage in assessment and education provision.

Education Assessment Service

1. (4) A jointly commissioned Education Assessment Service commenced in September 2006. Strategic partners in the Service include Connexions, Learning and Skills Council, secondary schools, KCC Children Families and Education (MCAS and SUASC) and Colleges of Further Education. The Service is managed by the Minority Communities Achievement Service.

Actions and Outcomes taken to develop Education Provision for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Young People

2. (1) Communication with Strategic Partners and Agencies
The Education Assessment Service Manager briefed a range of strategic partners (including the Kent and Medway Learning and Skills Council, Kent Association of Further Education Colleges and Kent Approved Training Organisations, Senior Management Teams in Further Education Colleges and KCC Youth and Community

¹ Minority Communities Achievement Service

Service) to raise awareness of the number of NEETs, the needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people and identify ways forward. As a result the following outcomes were achieved:-

- LSC identified project funding (£46,000) to pilot an Independent Living Skills Programme at Appledore.
- LSC identified E2E funding and European Social Funding conferred to NACRO to fund a 6 month pilot (September to March 09) of certificated independent living skills to be delivered by the Riverside Project.
- Kent Enterprise for Youth Training Services were commissioned to deliver the pilot programme (commenced November 2008).
- Thanet College provided targeted programme within their ESOL portfolio.
- West Kent College integrated catering within their ESOL programme with the intention of enabling progression to other catering programmes.
- Canterbury College have continued to develop the ESOL programme to ensure they are more relevant to the children and young people's needs and they have extended their capacity.
- Kent NEETs Prevention and Reduction Strategy 2008-11 includes actions to address specific support for vulnerable groups including unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people.

2. (2) Developments within the Education Assessment Service

A number of developments within the Service have contributed to improving children and young people's capacity to sustain access to education and training:-

- The specialist Connexions Personal Adviser delivers a rolling modular programme focused on 'Living in the Community'. This is a preventative programme and is delivered to groups of young people with interpreters and the feedback from young people and other professionals has been positive.
- The education assessment methodology has been reviewed by an independent education consultant and this has resulted in a number of recommendations for development focused on greater co-ordination across agencies in terms of information sharing, pedagogy, young person's voice and maximizing the information in the assessment report to inform the education opportunity. These will be implemented during 2008/9 and as part the MCAS Business Plan and continuous development of the service.

2. (3) Improved outcomes for children and young people.

The Service has considered evidence on progression following assessment and initial placement. As a pilot Canterbury College of Further Education monitored progression by young people. Of the 57 young people who attended ESOL provision at the College during 2006/7 18 continued to study ESOL, 22 progressed to vocational studies (including engineering, information technology, motor vehicle maintenance, art and design, catering and hospitality, business retail and administration, health and social care, applied science and public services) and 17 progressed to other programmes.

In terms of sustaining access to education there is still progress to be made, however, analysis of the caseload for Advisory Teachers Refugee Outreach (who support the placement and induction of young people into education) indicates 81% are successful in an education placement in March 2008 compared to 76% in March 2007.

3. Priority Actions for 2008/9

- Develop the education assessment process (see 2(2) above)
- Engage Colleges of Further Education in discussions about the development of appropriate provision for this group.
- Work with Kent Youth and Community (through the Positive Activities for Young People initiative and the main locality based Youth provision)
- Work with strategic partners to evaluate the KEY Training (Appledore) and Riverside pilot programmes.
- Work through the NEETS Strategy Group
- Engage 14 to 19 Forums in localities to develop provision

Recommendations

4. The Children's Champions Board is asked to:-
- (i) To note the progress made in developing and extending the education provision for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people; and
 - (ii) Support the on-going discussions with strategic partners to ensure better outcomes for this vulnerable group and the commitments set out in the LAC Pledge.

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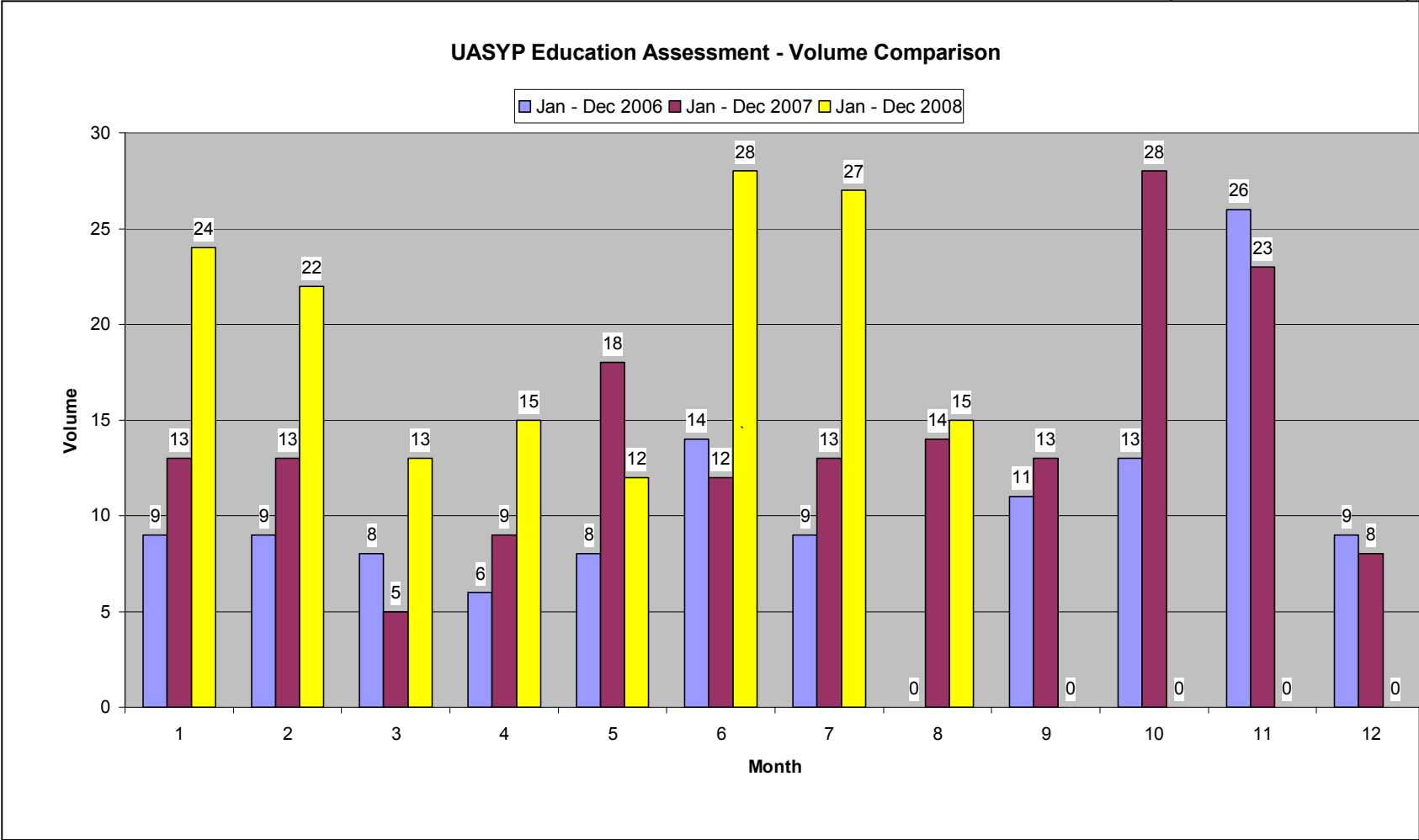
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Background Documents:

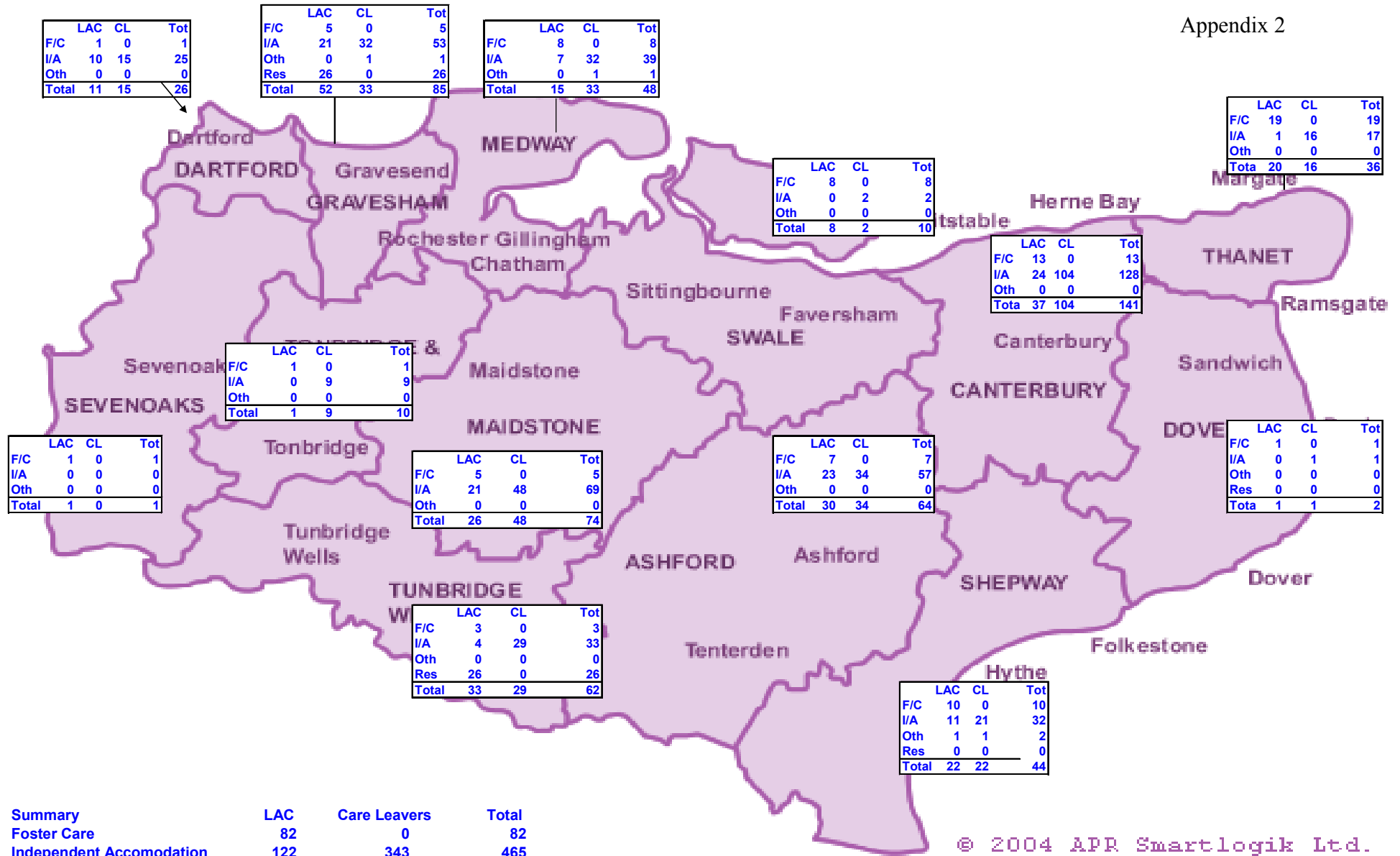
None

Other Useful Information:



Graph shows the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people assessed by the Education Assessment Service.

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Summary	LAC	Care Leavers	Total
Foster Care	82	0	82
Independent Accomodation	122	343	465
Other	1	3	4
Residential	52	0	52
Total	257	346	603