

By: Graham Badman, Managing Director, Children, Families & Education

To: Children, Families & Education Policy Overview Committee -
30 January 2008

Subject: HALF-YEAR MONITORING 2007/08

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report summarises the 2007/08 CFE half-year monitoring results for the *KCC Annual Plan 2007/08*, the annual Business Unit Operating Plans, the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and includes the Managing Director Summary of progress to date.-

Process

1. The Directorate has completed the half-year monitoring of the priorities set out within the KCC Annual Plan 2007/08, the annual Business Unit Operating Plans and BVPIs. Some of these BVPIs appear in the regular 'Staying Excellent' report, the full set is set out in Appendix 2.

Summarised Outcome

KCC Annual Plan

2. (1) Directorate strategic objectives are consistent with the priorities for improvement published in Sections 3 and 6 of the 2007/08 *KCC Annual Plan*. Progress against all of them was checked as part of this year's half year monitoring process and all were categorised as either 'On course' or 'Done and ongoing'.

Annual Business Unit Operating Plans

(2) As part of the half-year monitoring, Directorates checked progress against each of their unit business plans. The Managing Director's statement outlining progress is included in Appendix 1. All the projects/developments/key actions set out in the 2007/08 Annual Unit Business Operating Plans are either 'on course' or 'done and ongoing'.

BVPIs

(3) Mid year positions and full year forecasts for all statutory BVPIs are provided in Appendix 2.

(4) Last year there was concern about how many targets were being missed for BVPIs and action was taken to ensure a more robust target setting process for the current year. Results this year in general show good performance however a number continue to

show variance against target due to targets being negotiated and agreed with government rather than being set locally.

(5) Commentary is provided in Appendix 2 for indicators showing variance to targets – however small those variances may be. Many of these indicators are already included in the Staying Excellent exception report, and have detailed action plans to support improvement. The next Staying Excellent report will be available in January and the indicators included will be reviewed on the basis of the results of the BVPI mid year monitoring as well as comparative 2006/07 data .

Recommendations

3. Cabinet Members are asked to NOTE the report.

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Background Documents:

None

Other Useful Information:

None

Managing Director's Statement - CFE Annual Business Unit Operating Plans Half Year Monitoring 2007-8

The CFE Directorate continues to focus on its vision to ensure that every child and young person and their family is supported, achievement exceeds aspiration and children are positive about their future.

All service units within the Directorate also share a common commitment to the successful achievement of other cross-cutting strategic objectives such as the Supporting Independence Programme, 2010, The Kent Agreement, the Vision for Kent and the Children and Young person's plan.

We have now received confirmation of the results of our 2007 Annual Performance Assessment (APA). Crucially Strategic Management and Capacity to Improve has been graded as outstanding (4) with all of the other Every Child Matters Outcomes being rated as good (3) including Children's Services overall - there still remains the possibility of a moderation upwards to 'outstanding' for the 'Making a Positive Contribution' outcome.

The Government Office for the South East has **also** commented positively on Kent's performance, recognising our robust service management and highlighting attainment at Key stage 4, partnership working with Health, development of a parenting strategy and seeking the views of Children and Young People as particular strengths.

This excellent feedback stands us in good stead as we approach the Joint Area Review in early 2008.

Once again students and their teachers have produced outstanding GCSE results, outstripping the national rate of improvement and heading towards a record level of almost 65% of students achieving 5+A*-C grades - an increase of approximately 3.5% from last year. Similar substantial improvement was seen with the A-Level results and the good news continues with primary schools also performing well in the Key Stage 1 and 2 results. In Key Stage 1 Kent now exceeds the national average at reading, writing and maths at the higher level three.

The development of Children's Trusts continues with national evaluation of the pathfinder trusts showing that there are early signs of local positive outcomes for Children and Young People. Kent's own evaluation shows that Trusts are key enablers that are helping to ensure that children and their families are placed at the centre of everything we do and that services are personalised to meet the needs of individuals. The Children's Trust mandate is to influence, inform and transform relationships and attitudes. It will promote the positive influence parents bring to their children's lives, bridge the gaps between children, families and professionals and aspire to instill learned optimism, resilience and capability in families and communities.

The development of a parenting strategy is a first step to fulfilling this aspiration. Its aim is to build parents' and carers' confidence in parenting and supporting their children effectively to enable them to be happy, healthy and fulfilled and in so doing deliver the 5 ECM outcomes.

Other key developments include:

Being Healthy

The effective partnership and full contribution of Health services in the emerging children's trust arrangements is a considerable strength. The Children's Health Division and the Children's Trust Board has started to develop our ambitious vision to ensure joint working, planning and commissioning of services that will create accessible services and target resources to address health inequalities and promote social inclusion.

The publication of a draft strategy for Public Health in Kent brings together the full range of activity by KCC, PCTs and our partner organisations that contributes to public health and sets out our priorities for the future.

Kent also aims to target the health and well being of all its C&YP through a number of complementary 2010 and Kent Agreement targets which together will provide the support needed at all stages of their development to enable them to develop the emotional intelligence to make informed choices.

There are now 306 healthy schools in Kent - ahead of the national average and 96% of schools are working towards accreditation. Improved pupil behaviour including punctuality and attendance has been reported by schools following their increased uptake of initiatives for healthy eating and physical activity (such as breakfast clubs and walking buses).

A strategy for children and adolescent mental health has been developed to shape joint commissioning and delivery of a range of services. An innovative Kent Agreement target is supporting the trial of an assessment measure to test the effectiveness of services. This will ensure that Children and Young People are experiencing good outcomes.

Staying Safe

Kent's multi-agency Safeguarding Board continues to work vigorously to achieve good outcomes for children. Draft new procedures have been produced to provide up to date, comprehensive information and guidance on all aspects of child safeguarding across a broad range of agencies and the establishment of the Safe Recruitment & Employment Group will support safer working practices.

Tackling bullying remains high on the agenda with a 2010 target in place that aims to encourage a zero tolerance approach towards disruptive behaviour, bullying and vandalism. Partnership working with Kent Police is particularly aimed at providing support to schools to implement restorative approaches. Restorative justice workshops have been held across Kent and the materials published to support implementation.

New guidance has been issued on cyber bullying (text/e-mail/phone) and a monitoring system is now in place. An anti-bullying co-ordinator is in post to support school staff, parents and children to develop strategies to tackle bullying

For children in need key performance indicators showed Kent as very good for core assessments completed in time and 98.4% of child protection cases that should have been reviewed during the year were reviewed.

We continue to develop preventative services to help families experiencing problems before they reach crisis point.

Enjoy & achieve

Kent continues to work hard to drive up performance and tackle those areas that we recognise as needing improvement. A number of 2010 and Kent Agreement targets are in place to ensure we continue to focus resources on improving the quality of provision and to make sure every child is given every opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Kent continues to work with internationally renowned experts to develop new ways to improve the quality, well being and engagement of young children and has extended the 'Leuven Project' to 71 primary schools in the Swale, Dover and Gravesham areas. The extension of the project to include local schools as well as pre schools/nurseries is enabling the authority to strengthen the links between schools and settings through joint training, network meetings and shared resources. This training is enabling schools to use the Leuven approach, already successful in the settings and will provide improved continuity for children.

Twenty three early years advisory teachers and twenty five special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) who work in pre-school settings have been appointed to work within the clusters and provide links between pre schools/nurseries and schools. This strengthens the work of the seventy five leading early years practitioners based in schools.

Results in Kent in 2007 for our seven year old children improved in five out of nine indicators. Kent performance exceeded national results for higher achieving seven year old children in reading and mathematics. The focus on narrowing the gender gap has been particularly successful. For example the three year trend for higher achieving boys shows a 3% gain in Kent compared to a 1% decline nationally. Year on year rates of progress in writing place Kent children in the top quartile. The implementation of the Communication, Language and Literacy Development pilot in ten schools has resulted in gains of 5% in reading. During the year, the capacity of clusters to improve reading has been enhanced by training 24 reading recovery teachers as part of the 'Every Child a Reader' programme. This development is already improving reading progress for those struggling to develop basic skills.

Eight of the ten performance indicators for our 11 year old children showed improvement in 2007. Performance in writing for the higher achieving 11 year olds exceeded national figures and a 0.9% improvement in English maintained year on year improvement. In 2007 Kent paralleled national performance.

Schools engaged in intensive support programmes have made significant gains in attainment. For example the 20 schools which implemented the Intensifying Support Programme improved by 10% in English at level 4+ and 11% in mathematics

KCC continues to transform education and school provision to ensure it is fit to meet the needs of the children of Kent in 21st Century. The primary strategy and the review of special schools are ongoing. Our visionary secondary strategy is being realised through the Building Schools for the Future project, development of Academies, Specialist Schools and Federations.

By September 2008 there will be eight academies established in Kent. KCC has secured capital investment for academies in the order of £220 million to date and is an active sponsor of each school.

Making a positive contribution

Our aim is to ensure all C&YP feel engaged and inspired to learn and that they have the opportunity to share their views and to know that they can make a difference. A 2010 target is in place to ensure we continue to listen and respond to their views.

A strategic framework for the 'Participation of Children and Young People' was approved by the Kent Children's Trust to guide participation work at a county and local level.

In May 2007 the National Foundation for Educational Research carried out a survey on our behalf asking 43,000 Children and Young People aged 7 to 19 from more than 450 schools for their views on a variety of subjects.

The results have been a powerful tool to help us understand what life is like for young people in Kent today and are already helping us to shape our services for the future. The outcomes have been used to inform 2010 action planning and included within performance data to measure children and young people's perceptions. Results have also been used to inform local clusters planning, District Integrated Youth Strategies and shape the next LAAs priorities as identified by the Kent Children's Trust.

The good news is that 68% of young people aged 11-16 are positive about their future but we still have much to do with 11% feeling sad or depressed most days and worries about personal safety and accessible recreational activities featuring strongly

'Student Voice' and school councils continue to provide an opportunity for pupils to influence their learning and school life in general. At the 2007 Kent Show a key theme was 'Student Voice' and 600 children and young people gave their views on their school and the neighbourhood where they live that provides us with further information to help future planning.

Achieving Economic well being

Preparing young people for employment is such an important priority for Kent that 5 of the 2010 targets have been developed to ensure that school leavers have the right skills to access jobs and opportunities. The creation of the 14-24 Innovation unit with responsibility for professional skills and training, Educational Business Partnerships, careers guidance and vocational programmes will ensure that our young people become the workforce of tomorrow bringing economic success to Kent

Vocational courses, including engineering, construction, electrical, motor vehicle maintenance, media studies, hair and beauty, land based industries, retail, hospitality and catering, are helping young people in their future career and supporting industries in Kent. 4000 14-16 year olds attend vocational courses, Kent intends to expand these programmes to more than 6000 students. The development of new facilities will enable secondary schools to access specialist facilities for the delivery of diplomas. The new diplomas will be available to all learners and Kent will be piloting new courses in construction, engineering, creative and media, health and social care and IT from September 2008

Extended Schools and Children Centres are at the heart of Local Children's Trusts developments and will have an important role to play in providing childcare to help working parents as well as providing extra support to children and families and quick and easy access to wider services. There are now 187 extended schools delivering the full core offer and 20 Children Centres established with another 52 currently in development that will

serve the most disadvantaged areas and reach over 42,000 children under five from March 2008.

Looked After Children

In response to the requirements of Care Matters: Time for Change, Kent has produced its pledge for children and young people in and leaving care. It was developed with what GOSE describe as an imaginative approach that involved wide ranging consultation and two residential events with children who have experience of being looked after.

Kent has introduced a range of services to ensure that it is rare for a child to become looked after and for those that do come into care there is stability and opportunities and support to achieve at school. Family group conferencing, which has proved to be a success in preventing older children from becoming looked after has been made mandatory for all children aged 10 or under at risk of coming into care.

Increases in the school nursing service have improved looked after children's access to regular health checks and Ofsted judged Kent as very good for LAC reviews completed on time.

There is still much to do to ensure we close the gap between children in care and all other children. Improving education and life chances for looked after children remains our priority and new initiatives, such as a pilot scheme to encourage learning and enhance attainment through individual support from mentors should help us achieve this goal.

Supporting Children and Young people with a Learning Difficulty and/or Disability

A 2010 target is in place to ensure better planning to ease the transition between childhood and adulthood for young people with disabilities and to promote their independence. KCC has established an Executive Board which involves Health, Education, Social Care, Connexions and the Learning and Skills Council to improve service planning and the delivery of educational, social care and health services. Good progress is being made in updating the transition policy and the commissioning of a survey of young people and their families about their experience of the transition process. A single 'County Transition Information Pack' has been developed for young people and their families.

A transition support pathway is being developed to focus on helping young people to consider a range of opportunities to enable them to access education, training, employment and supported living.

A new group has been established to commission services to promote the achievement of vulnerable children, including those with Special Educational Needs/Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (SEN/LDD).

Six local LDD Collaborative Groups have been established across the county to increase curriculum choice and vocational opportunity, and address pathways and transition issues. They comprise FE Colleges, Special Schools, Connexions, AEN Advisers, providers from the private and voluntary sectors and PCTs.

Windchimes, East Kent's resource centre for children with a disability is in development. The centre will support more than 500 families from right across Swale, Thanet, Dover and Canterbury districts whose children have physical or learning disabilities.

Ofsted Inspections from September 05- July 07 judging how well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress shows that 95% schools inspected achieved satisfactory or better and 61% of those achieved good or outstanding

Service management

The establishment of the Trusts with joint planning, new commissioning processes, integrated management structures, pooled budgets, co-located services and delivery points continues to be challenging but rewarding and we are already seeing early indications of positive outcomes from the LCT pathfinders.

The Directorate has continued to review its structures to ensure we are fit for purpose. Workforce reform and integration are key to delivering services through Children's Trusts. The implementation of the Common Assessment Framework, lead professional role and Contactpoint are moving forward and will be the tools that help make integrated working a reality and improve outcomes for Children and Young People

The review of the Policy, Performance and Planning unit and Management Information unit has resulted in new structures that will strengthen the performance management function, and support local children's trusts as they prepare their local Children and Young People plans. Key elements of safeguarding have been integrated for the first time by bringing together the school and vulnerable children safeguarding teams.

Preparations continue for Kent's Joint Area Review (JAR) which is undertaken by a multi disciplinary inspection team and assesses the quality and impact of services for Children and Young people across all agencies. Inspectors will be undertaking fieldwork in Kent during January.

BUSINESS UNIT OPERATING PLANS All objectives on target.

Performance Indicator	Business Unit/Division	Good Performance is:	Actual 2006/07	Mid Year 2007/08	Forecast 2007/08	Target 2007/08	Change from previous year	Progress to target
Children, Families & Education								
BV 43a : Statements of special educational need prepared within 18 weeks – excluding those affected by “exception to the rule”	Commissioning	High	99.6%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	Worse Result	On Target
BV 43b : Percentage of statements of special educational need prepared within 18 weeks – all statements	Commissioning	High	88.1%	87.5%	90.0%	90.0%	Improved Result	On Target
BV 45 : Percentage of half days missed due to total absence in secondary schools in previous academic year	Commissioning	Low	8.1%	8.0%	8.0%	7.8%	Improved Result	Behind Target
Progress made but behind target – however the performance trend is tracking national average. Covered by Staying Excellent and LAA monitoring.								
BV 46 : Percentage of half days missed due to total absence in primary schools in previous academic year	Commissioning	Low	5.7%	5.3%	5.3%	4.7%	Improved Result	Behind Target
Comment on progress to target: Progress made but behind target – however the performance trend is tracking national average. Covered by Staying Excellent and LAA monitoring.								
BV 222a : Percentage of early years leaders with level 4 qualification and above	School Organisation : Early Years	High	33.9%	33.9%	33.9%	33.9%	No Change	On Target
BV 222b : Percentage of early years settings with input from staff (0.5 FTE or more) with graduate or part graduate training in teaching or child care development	School Organisation : Early Years	High	15.8%	15.8%	15.8%	15.8%	No Change	On Target
BV 38 : Proportion of 15 year old pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent	Standards and Achievement	High	61.2%	65.0%	65.0%	64.0%	Improved Result	Ahead of Target

Performance Indicator	Business Unit/Division	Good Performance is:	Actual 2006/07	Mid Year 2007/08	Forecast 2007/08	Target 2007/08	Change from previous year	Progress to target
BV 39 : Percentage of 15 year old pupils achieving 5 GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* - G (including English and Maths)	Standards and Achievement	High	89.6%	91.0%	91.0%	91.0%	Improved Result	On Target
BV 40 : Proportion of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 Mathematics test	Standards and Achievement	High	72%	73%	73%	81%	Improved Result	Behind Target
Comment on progress to target: Action plans and progress reports covered by 2010, Staying Excellent and LAA monitoring.								
BV 41 : Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 English test	Standards and Achievement	High	77%	77%	77%	80%	Improved Result	Behind Target
Comment on progress to target: Action plans and progress reports covered by 2010, Staying Excellent and LAA monitoring.								
BV 181a : Percentage of 14 year old pupils achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 in English	Standards and Achievement	High	72%	73%	73%	77%	Improved Result	Behind Target
Comment on progress to target: Action plans available in previous Staying Excellent reports. However Key Stage 3 is not seen as a priority for secondary schools, who now focus on GCSE and vocational qualifications.								
BV 181b : Percentage of 14 year old pupils achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 in Mathematics	Standards and Achievement	High	76%	75%	75%	78%	Worse Result	Behind Target
Comment on progress to target: Action plans available in previous Staying Excellent reports. However Key Stage 3 is not seen as a priority for secondary schools, who now focus on GCSE and vocational qualifications.								
BV 181c : Percentage of 14 year old pupils achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 in Science	Standards and Achievement	High	72%	72%	72%	77%	No Change	Behind Target
Comment on progress to target: Action plans available in previous Staying Excellent reports. However Key Stage 3 is not seen as a priority for secondary								

Performance Indicator	Business Unit/Division	Good Performance is:	Actual 2006/07	Mid Year 2007/08	Forecast 2007/08	Target 2007/08	Change from previous year	Progress to target
schools, who now focus on GCSE and vocational qualifications.								
BV 181d : Percentage of 14 year old pupils achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 in ICT	Standards and Achievement	High	73%	Not available	Not available	77%		
BV 194a : Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in Key Stage 2 English	Standards and Achievement	High	31%	32%	32%	32%	Improved Result	On Target
BV 194b : Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths	Standards and Achievement	High	32%	31%	31%	33%	Worse Result	Behind Target
<p>Comment on progress to target: Action plans and progress reports covered by 2010, Staying Excellent and LAA monitoring.</p>								
BV 49 : Percentage of looked after children at 31 March who had had three or more placements during the year (PAF A1)	Children's Social Services	Low	10.6%	13.0%	11.0%	11.0%	Worse Result	On Target
BV 50 : The percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A*-G or a GNVQ (PAF A2)	Children's Social Services	High	55.3%	67.0%	70.0%	70.0%	Improved Result	On Target
BV 161 : At age 19, young people in employment, education or training, the rate for children who had been looked after at age 16 as a ratio of rates for all young people (PAF A4)	Children's Social Services	High	0.65	0.80	0.75	0.70	Improved Result	Ahead of Target
BV 162 : The percentage of child protection case reviews during the year which were reviewed on time – within 6 months of last review (PAF C20)	Children's Social Services	High	98.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Improved Result	On Target
BV 163 : Percentage of looked after children that were adopted during the year (PAF C23)	Children's Social Services	High	11.8%	12.7%	12.0%	9.0%	Improved Result	Ahead of Target

Performance Indicator	Business Unit/Division	Good Performance is:	Actual 2006/07	Mid Year 2007/08	Forecast 2007/08	Target 2007/08	Change from previous year	Progress to target
BV 197 : Change in the rate of teenage pregnancy compared to 1998 baseline of 41.5 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17	Health, Children and Young People	Low	-9.7%	-9.7%	-10.0%	-16.2%	Improved Result	Behind Target
<p>Comment on progress to target: Improvement made but behind target – already covered under Staying Excellent report – action plan in place. Quarterly data no longer being provided by national systems. Next annual data available in February.</p>								