

By: Laura Froud, LCSP Manager
To: LSCP Sub-Committee- 22 April 2009
Subject: Annual Report of Ashford 1 LCSP

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report sets out the background to the Ashford 1 (AS1) LCSP (the Partnership) and considers the progress made since it was launched in September 2008. The management structure and effectiveness of the Partnership will be considered in Section 2; Section 3 will look at the Partnership's agreed priorities, Action Plans and achievements and Section 4 contains feedback from partners. The report is concluded at Section 5.

1. Introduction

(1) The population of Ashford is approx 110,000 (forecast 141,000 by 2021). Between 2000 and 2005 there was an 8.7% increase in numbers of children and young people (aged 0-18) in the District – this is forecast to increase by a further 8% by 2016, in contrast with an overall decrease in numbers of children and young people in Kent (-8.1%)

(2) Ashford has a broad spectrum population with some high levels of deprivation. Stanhope is the most deprived ward in the District with an IMD score of 44.73 (ranked within the top 20% nationally deprived areas). Stanhope ward also has the lowest life expectancy in Kent, despite the District life expectancy being higher than the national average. There are over 5000 council properties in Ashford District.

(3) AS1 Partnership leads and delivers services for some 15,000 children and young people. The Partnership comprises 21 primary schools, 5 secondary schools, 2 special schools, 2 independent schools and 36 early years settings. There are 5700 children in AS1 secondary schools and 5601 in primary schools (*at March 2009*). At the time of writing, there are 146 Looked After Children in AS1 (60 Kent, 86 other Local Authority).

2. Management, Structure and Effectiveness of Partnership

2.1 Board & Management Structure

Membership of the Partnership is set out at Appendix A. Links to strategic groups are illustrated at Appendix B and the LCSP Teams and Management Structure is at Appendix C. The Partnership has established a Finance Sub Committee, with elements of the budget which relate to schools being delegated to a Headteacher Group.

2.2 Vision & Strategy

The overarching strategy and vision growing within the Partnership is to develop One Children's Workforce, joining up effectively to serve Ashford One communities. This would be through clear prioritising of need and targeted delivery of first class integrated services, ensuring children have full safe, healthy and rewarding lives.

2.3 The Partnership has made considerable progress in defining a clear strategy and vision for AS1. In February, the Partnership (supported by the Strategic Planning & Review Team) delivered a dynamic and creative conference for partners from a diverse range of relevant organisations to introduce the concept of "One Children's Workforce" – a workforce development tool to encourage reformed and integrated children's services developed by the Children's Workforce Development Council – please see: <http://onechildrensworkforce.cwdcouncil.org.uk/walkthrough/framework> AS1 was the first Partnership to introduce this concept to the wider workforce. The event was extremely well attended with very positive feedback and work is continuing to build upon the foundations established at the conference. The use of the workforce development tool is part of a Kent wide initiative to develop a Kent wide workforce strategy to support the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.

2.4 Overall Effectiveness

This is a quickly developing Partnership that although only seven months old, has strong roots of collaborative working. This originates firstly from effective collaboration of schools through the Cluster Structure, which was put in place in 2003 and multi-agency development of key priorities which started in January 2008 in preparation for the launch of the Partnership in September 2008. It should also be noted that multi-agency working was also developed through the District Consortium Structure in place since 2004.

2.5 Children's Centre teams and the Behaviour Improvement Partnership have also been areas where multi-agency work has been developing over the last three years.

2.6 The outcomes of this collaboration have been a clear and evidence based local plan and several examples of effective delivery are in Children's Centre and schools are shown in the movement of key outcome indicators.

2.7 Children's achievement in school will continue to be a key outcome indicator for the Partnership demonstrating that multi-agency work to remove barriers to learning is effective. There is evidence that the targeted support given to schools in challenging circumstances is having significant impact. The effectiveness of the current and developing Children's Centres is also critical to address outcomes in relation to early intervention and support for families.

2.8 Standards in Secondary Schools in the Ashford One Partnership

Of the 5 secondary schools in the Ashford 1 LCSP, 3 are high schools and 2 are selective.

2.9 All three high schools are in the national challenge programme because, in 2007, fewer than 30% of year 11 secured 5A*-C including English and Maths.

2.10 The schools face challenging circumstances but were making progress towards the floor target before the advent of the National Challenge programme. The additional advice and support available through National Challenge has meant that two of the schools are now viewed as a low risk of failing to meet the 2011 floor target. Indeed tracking and monitoring processes suggest they are expected to come very close to or exceed the floor target in 2009. The third school is due to become an academy before the 2011 deadline, but is making progress with expectations of a significant rise in performance this year – again coming close to or exceeding the 30% floor target.

2.11 Attainment in the two selective schools is naturally very high. Norton Knatchbull has been designated a high performing specialist school and has successfully bid for a second specialism in science which takes effect from 1st April 2009. Highworth has recently been graded outstanding in a March 2009 Ofsted inspection.

2.12 There has been a slight drop in the proportion of students securing 5A*-C reflecting some curricular changes in the schools and an increased focus on the new key measure of 5A*-C including English and Maths. **On this (of 5 A* - C including Maths and English) measure partnership performance has risen more rapidly than the national in the last year (National Indicator 78 KCYPP Priority 7). In Ashford 1, 47.6% of students achieved 5A*-C including English and Maths, compared with 47.2% nationally.**

	5+ A* - C incl. English & maths		
5+ A* - C incl English & maths	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
05/06	46.3	46.8	45.8
06/07	46.5	48.5	46.7
07/08	47.6	50.3	47.2

2.13 Recent Ofsted Reports for all Ashford One Secondary Schools

Ashford Christ Church	February 09	Satisfactory
Highworth Grammar	March 09	Outstanding
North School	June 06	Good
Norton Knatchbull	Nov 07	Good
Towers	May 08	Good
Goldwyn	June 08	Good
Wyvern	January 07	Good

2.14 Standards In Primary Schools in the Ashford One Partnership

There are 21 schools in the primary sector in AS1 located in a wide variety of contexts from small rural schools to large urban schools in one of the most deprived wards in the county. Ofsted gradings have improved and across the partnership there are no schools in category. One school is outstanding across all indicators and has applied to become a national support school so that it can provide outreach to other schools within the locality. 11 schools have been recognised for being good with 8 satisfactory. On reinspection two schools moved to a higher grade with 4 schools being graded outstanding for certain aspects of their care, welfare and guidance. Ofsted grades for all AS1 schools are set out below.

School	Date of Ofsted	Grade
Aldington Primary	January 08	good
Ashford Oaks Community Primary School	new school no report yet	
Beaver Green Community Primary School	December 08	satisfactory
Brabourne CE Primary	January 09	good
Brook Primary	January 09	good
Challock Primary School	January 09	good
Downs View Infant School	February 08	good
East Stour Primary School	March 06	satisfactory
Kennington CE Junior	June 08	satisfactory
Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary	January 09	outstanding
Linden Grove Primary	February 09	satisfactory
Mersham Primary	March 09	good
Phoenix Community Primary	June 06	satisfactory
Smeeth Community Primary	January 08	good
St Mary's Ashford	May 07	good
St Mary's Chilham	June 08	satisfactory
St Simon of England RC	June 08	good
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	November 08	good
Victoria Road	July 07	good
Willesborough Junior	January 07	satisfactory
Willesborough Infants	July 2006	satisfactory

2.15 KS1 attainment has been rising across all indicators with the 2007/8 figures the highest for 3 years at all levels in all subjects. In writing level 2

attainment was above the local authority figures at 80.4% with L3 attainment for the most able pupil above national figures in both reading and maths.

2.16 In KS2 there has been a three year rising trend in standards in both English and maths at L4 with results in English matching the local authority figures at 78.3%. Combined Maths and English targets for both maths and English at L4 show a 3 year rising trend with a large improvement in 07/08, at 69.2% they are just above the county figures

2.17 Schools continue to work collaboratively to share expertise and raise attainment for pupils and have set challenging targets for 2009. The combined English and maths partnership target is set at 76.3% an increase of 7.1%, English L4 set at 84% an increase of 5.7% and the maths L4 at 78.6% an increase of 8.1% There are some schools in challenging circumstances in South Ashford. These schools are receiving support from ASK and the Partnership team and 2008 saw a general improvement in results and a reduction of the number below floor targets in both English and maths in KS2 from 6 schools in 2007 to 3 schools in 2008. In KS1 the numbers of school below floor targets in reading and maths reduced from 3 in 2007 to 2 in 2008.

2.18 Effectiveness of Partnership Team

There are 68 members of staff in the Partnership team, including 40 Children's Centre staff. There are 12 vacancies, 10 of these in the new and developing Children's Centres. The Partnership Manager has a Senior Management Team made up of 6 Team Managers. Their responsibilities are

0 – 7 age group team
8 – 13 age group team
14 – 19 age group team
Children's Centre teams
Adolescent Resource Centre team

2.19 The overall budget for the coming year is £2.7 million. This now includes Children's Centre budget and devolved alternative curriculum funding. (See Appendix K for the end of year position of the Partnership Board budget).

2.20 The age group teams and Adolescent Resource Centre support children in school with emotional, cultural and social needs, as well as learning difficulties and/or disabilities. These teams work across 28 schools, working with staff, individual children and groups.

2.21 The schools in South Ashford have been a focus over the last 2 years. When Beaver Green opened as a newly amalgamated school in September 2007 there were significant behaviour problems with children and a history of high rate exclusion. A Partnership team made up of educational psychologists and specialist teachers worked in school between September 2007 and July 2008 on interventions to improve behaviour. **Exclusions reduced from 182 in 2006/07 to 2 in 2007/08. The team were able to withdraw, having built capacity in school for staff to deal with the challenging nature of the children.**

See Ed Psych report 18.7.08 – no. 6.

2.22 A recent inspection report, Ashford Christ Church School, commented within the report on the overall effectiveness of the school. “Partnerships with external agencies and other student services contribute sound expertise and help to secure satisfactory care and support for students, especially for those with more severe or complex learning needs and physical disabilities.” See OFSTED Report February 2009.

2.23 Attendance and Exclusions in Primary and Secondary

Partnership teams support schools through the deployment of Behaviour and Attendance staff with targets to improve attendance and reduce exclusions.

2.24 Attendance

(See Appendix G)

Primary attendance was most improved by Partnership in 2006/07 moving from 2005/06 from 5.9% absence to 5.2%. This has been mostly retained as the 2007/08 absence rate was 5.3%. Kent overall absence for primary is also 5.3%. Secondary attendance has improved between 2006/07 8.3% absence and 2007/08 8.2% absence, but remains high in relation to the Kent average which is 7.5%.

2.25 Exclusions

(See Appendix F)

There have been nil permanent exclusions between January 2008 and March 2009.

2.26 An effective In Year Fair Access panel ensures Heads collaborate to place children at KS3 in the most appropriate school provision and at KS4 either in school or in alternative curriculum. Head Teachers in the Partnership have decommissioned the KS3 PRU facilities and devolved funding is now going back into school to support the inclusion of all children. The PRU facilities now house the Adolescent Resource Centre which provides outreach services within the Partnership for adolescents in need. Goldwyn Community Special School provides good quality additional support and expertise for children with emotional and behaviour difficulties in mainstream schools. The Headteacher of the school sits on the Ashford 1 Partnership Board.

2.27 The closure of Hopewell School in 2007 and Ashford South in 2008 has contributed hugely to reducing fixed term exclusions in primary schools and to the nil permanent exclusion rate, as these schools historically had very high exclusion rates.

2.28 Fixed term exclusions have reduced in primary schools from 64 in 2006/07 to 39 in 2007/08.

However, secondary fixed term exclusion rate went up from 802 in 2006/07 to 922 in 2007/08.

2.29 Children's Centres

The Children Centres in Ashford One have been developed building upon experiences and evaluations of the former Sure Start Local Programme (SSLP). Currently we have three Children's Centres operating (two of these serve the top 30% areas of deprivation) and have three more planned by 2010.

2.30 The SSLP in Ashford has been continually evaluated and audited and is evidenced as reaching high standards in all key areas (latest inspection summary as commissioned by KCC officers and conducted by Elspeth Davis Appendix 1, breastfeeding rates as mentioned within the report Appendix 2, audit report summary for financial management Appendix 3).

2.31 Since the start of the SSLP in 2002 we have been successful in developing very strong partnership and integrated management boards to lead on the development and roll out of Children's Centres (as highlighted in external inspections). This structure is well established in our locality and has proved to be an excellent starting place for the partnership agenda and in addition has provided the basis for the Early Years focus of our Children and Young People Plan (Children Centre management/steering group structure Appendix 4).

2.32 There is a high commitment by staff and management boards/steering groups to the achievement of expected outcomes, which is underpinned by a robust evaluation process in terms of quality, quantity, value for money and effectiveness.

2.33 The evaluation process supports and drives service delivery and also contributes to the mainstreaming agenda which can lead service redesign, both internally and within statutory provision. An example here being the way maternity services provides its antenatal provision. This won nursing times award in 2007.

2.34 The Centres have a clear focus upon outreach and the table below highlights numbers of families and individuals served over the past three years from the SSLP only.

Financial Year	Families	Individuals	Contacts
Number	Number	Number	Number
2005/6	494	1147	15826
2006/7	500	1034	15781
2007/8	597	1393	19566
2008/9	603	1563	22864

Recent satisfaction survey (completed November 2008) confirms that 94.3% of customers are either satisfied or very satisfied with the services provided.

3. The LCSP Priorities and Achievement

The latest version of the Partnership's Children and Young People's Plan (Working Draft) can be accessed via this link:

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Clusters/cl_asone.cfm

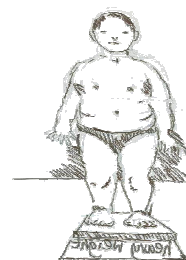
The Partnership has agreed 13 Priority areas and activity against the outcomes beneath each priority heading. The Plan is summarised below.

Areas highlighted below each Priority indicate some evidence of improving outcomes at this early stage.

3.1 Priority 1:

Improving nutrition and supporting parents, children and young people to adopt healthy lifestyles Cross References LAA2 (II) KCYPP priority 2C (*Reduction in the proportion of children who are not a healthy weight*).

- *Fruit and vegetable bag schemes have been introduced in the Willow Centre and the Ray Allen Centre. Community Cafes have opened in two Centres and cookery courses are being introduced*
- *18 schools (64%) have achieved new Healthy Schools status, 10 further schools have committed*
- *In 2006/07 9.6% of the 644 children measured were classified as obese. In 2007/08 12% were classified as obese (Kent average 9%) **However, Year 6 Obesity rates are the 3rd lowest in Kent at 13.9% (Kent average 16.9%) and also the 2nd most improved from 2006/07 when they were 17.4%***
- *Youth Conference on 27th March at International Hotel with workshop sessions on relationships, diet and stamina, healthy eating, a healthy menu competition and market stalls.*



3.2 Priority 2:

Promoting the benefits of, and increasing the opportunities for, physical activity in schools and the community Cross References LAA2 (II) KCYPP priority 2C

- *Kent School Games was introduced in 2008. All schools signed up to 20in12 Education Programme working towards the Olympic Games in 2012.*
- *Kent Freedom Pass to be launched in June 2009 – seminar for Ashford schools to be held in March*
- *Health Walks have been set up in two Children's Centres (Willow and Ray Allen) with volunteers and Community Involvement Workers being trained to become Health Walk Leaders. "Active Movement" is being funded by Sure Start through the Health Visiting Service*
- *Ashford Play Strategy being reviewed with partners. Big Lottery Go4 Play festival delivered Aug 08. Work continues to roll out programme*

3.3 Priority 3:

Reducing the effect of alcohol and drug misuse and smoking *Cross References LAA2 (II) KCYPP priority 2B (Reduction in inappropriate risk taking behaviour, drug, alcohol misuse and teenage pregnancy).*

- *CDRP report progress with Trading Standards on reducing ease of underage access to alcohol and cigarettes from shops*

NFER Survey Results

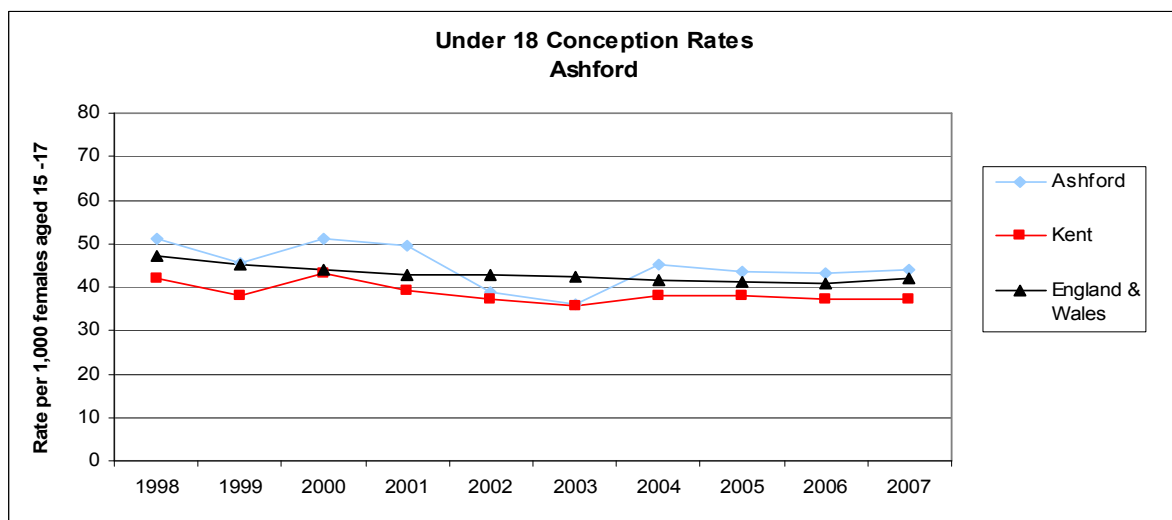
- **5% of secondary children and young people reported drinking alcohol most days in 2006/07, compared with 4% in 2007/08 (Kent average 4%)**
- **In 2006/07, 10% of secondary children and young people reported smoking on most days compared with 6% in 2007/08, an improvement of 4% (Kent average 7%)**

3.4 Priority 4:

Reducing incidence of teenage pregnancy *Cross References: LAA2 (II) KCYPP priority 2B (Teenage Pregnancy LIG Plan)*



- *Clinics in place at The North and Christ Church*
- *Pinnacle Co-ordinator now in post. Sure Start is supporting the delivery of the YAPs programme at the Ray Allen Centre. Significant take up of Care to Learn programme since January.*
- *Enhanced School Nursing Service provides a named nurse for each school.*
- *Chlamydia Screening being arranged in all secondary schools*



Currently Ashford remains above the Kent and National Rate

3.5 Priority 5:

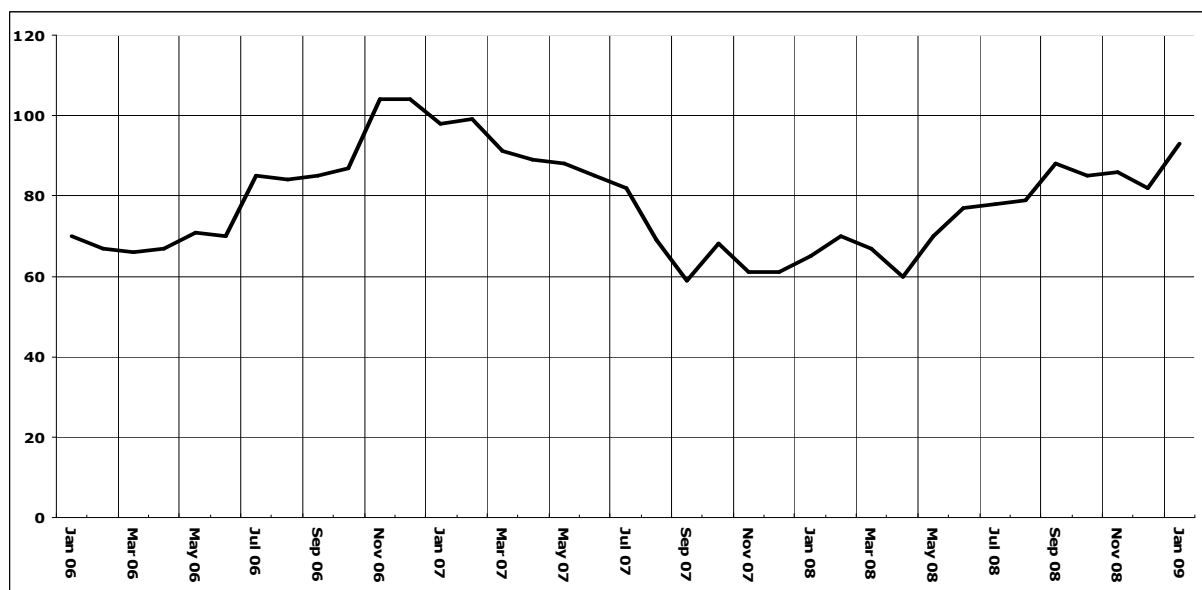
Improving the mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people and reducing the incidence of self-harm Cross references DCSF Children's Plan LAA2 (II) KCYPP priorities 2D (**Improved access to Mental Health Services**)

- *Lenworth Clinic – waiting times went down to 11 weeks, now back up to 18 weeks*
- *150+ multi agency colleagues have trained so far in the Solihull approach with two training packages for up to 12 new trainees arranged for 08/09. Practice Development sessions facilitated monthly in line with Solihull Approach. Some trained colleagues could become trainers or PD facilitators to build capacity*
- *All Eps in AS1 have received introductory Cognitive Behavioural Therapy training.*
- *1 EP has been trained in Video Interactive Guidance and pilot models of intervention. 1 EP with experience in this has been appointed. Another EP in Ashford is about to start training. Total EP resource in Ashford = 2 full time.*
- **13% of 11-19 year olds said they felt very sad or depressed most days in 2006 / 07, which was 4% higher than the Kent average compared with 9% in 2007/08, which is 1% lower than the Kent average and a reduction of 4%. (NFER Survey)**
- *A Healthy Minds conference took place in March to promote the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in Ashford.*

3.6 Priority 6:

To work together to protect all children from harm, with particular reference to incidents of domestic violence, and to develop effective and appropriate children's services referral processes Cross references DCSF Children's Plan LAA2 (III and VI) KCYPP priorities 3C (*Reduction in repeat incidences of domestic violence*), 8C (*Ensure vulnerable children are safeguarded*)

- *In line with the Kent wide experience, referrals and Child Protection registrations to Social Services have increased due to high profile media case – see CP Registrations for Ashford diagram:*



- *Helpdesk Advisors now appointed to support Social Services with Child in Need cases an Common Assessment Framework.*
- *Common Assessment Framework now being used, Single Point of Access in place. Multi agency group taking this forward steadily.*
- *DV co-ordinator contract finishes 31.3.09. Funding stream no longer available. Partnership looking to re-distribute work to Children's Centres. DV forum to be supported by Children's Centre Manager. **DV data needed.***
- *Enhanced nursing service needs full evaluation. Primary headteachers giving good feedback*
- *Guidance issued. Kent Safe Schools*
- *Safety in Action Week – 2008 completed, 2009 planned*

3.7 Priority 7:

To implement restorative justice principles in all schools with support from YOS and the Police (YCRO) Cross references LAA2 (VIII) KCYPP priorities 6B, 8B (Reduce youth offending and perceptions of youth crime) CDRP Plan

- *RJ Conference Facilitator Course taking place for 11 participants*
- ***Permanent exclusions, both primary and secondary, nil. Fixed term exclusions – Primary 06/07 64, 07/08 a reduction to 39. Secondary fixed term exclusions went up from 802 in 06/07 to 922 in 07/08. One particular school has had a growth of 137. (See appendices).***
- *Guns and knives initiative agreed by Board. Cost for roll out £400. All schools can now access this.*

Youth Offending data update needed.

3.8 Priority 8:

To further develop family learning opportunities and parenting support programmes Cross references DCSF Children's Plan LAA2 (III) KYCPP priority 3A (Parents and carers have help when they need it)

- *WRAP Project at Christ Church has developed service further*
- *Senior FLO, PSA, EWOs working more closely with Social Services, Health and parents.*
- *Extended Schools audit shows 65% of schools now have full offer. The Early Bird Plus course for parents of newly diagnosed autistic spectrum disorder children asks for a member of staff to come along with the parent on this 8 session course*
- *Credit Crunch cookery classes started at Christ Church and Willow Children's Centre.*
- ***3 more Children's Centres planned. Use of services continues to grow (see Effectiveness of Children's Centres)***

3.9 Priority 9:

To ensure equality of access for all CYP (including those with complex needs / learning difficulties and / or disabilities, EAL and LAC) – within Kent Pledge

Cross references DCSF Children's Plan LAA2 (VII) KCYPP priority 5B, 5C & 5D (LAC are fulfilling their potential and have help and support when needed)

- *SPA developing steadily. Good multi agency group*
- *Integrated LAC services being restructured*
- *LAC funds now targeted to needs. LAC steering group designated funding to help most vulnerable. All LAC resources allocated through clear and easy process, apart from £500 outstanding. Free swims / lessons offered to LAC through PCT partners with ABC, leisure centres and Social Services*
50% of Kent LAC children who were in care for more than 1 year reached national targets in 2007/08.
- *Lead school action plans are in place for delivery of services in September 2009.*

3.10 Priority 10:

To provide targeted support to schools where attainment is in the lower quartile and to children and young people at risk of underachieving *Cross references DCSF Children's Plan KCYPP priorities 1& 7 (Improved outcomes for all, early years to 19)*

- *Heads and Children's Centre Manager in South Ashford meeting as a group to develop early intervention strategy, with two representatives attending LCSP Board*
- *WRAP project is active at Christ Church School. Report on progress available. Partnership team has targeted South Ashford schools. Report available from Beaver Green.*
- *National Challenge support to 3 schools in the area. (See Effectiveness of Schools)*

3.11 Priority 11:

To improve community cohesion by developing inclusive strategies to support and engage all sections of the community, including minority ethnic groups and families new to the area *Cross references DCSF Children's Plan LAA2 (VII) KCYPP priority 7(Improved outcomes for all)*

- *Minority Ethnic Achievement service has delivered training accessible by all schools.*
- *Parent English classes are running at three centres.*
- *Ethnic Minority Achievement Service language support assistance capacity has grown by 50%*
- *Ethnic minority population in schools has grown by 500+ between 2006/08*

3.12 Priority 12:

To focus activity in South Ashford and children's centres to support the most vulnerable children, young people and their families *Cross references DCSF Children's Plan LAA2 (I, III, VI and VII) KCYPP priorities 5, 6, 7 (See report on Children's Centres effectiveness).*

3.13 Priority 13:

To promote and foster higher aspirations for young people and their families *Cross references DCSF Children's Plan LAA2 (I and VII) KCYPP priority 7 (Improved outcomes for all)*

- *Adolescent Resource Centre now in place. Manager post has been made substantive. Building has been networked. Services are moving in from end of February. CAF co-ordination is happening from this Centre. Two helpdesk advisors have been appointed*
- *WRAP project includes Tea and Toast Girls group and counselling drop in services aimed at this group*
- *Mayoral Debate is planned. Good links with Ashford Borough Council*

4. Information from the individual agencies

4.1 Health – I have recently joined the Ashford One Partnership Board. I have been made to feel welcome and have already been able to make a contribution towards the "health" priorities of the CYPP. I am able to attend meetings and hope to be able to make a valuable contribution, certainly regarding children's mental health needs. I have been able to address these with my multi-agency partners through the CAMHS LIG process.

4.2 Regarding resources, I am able to make suggestions regarding how Partnership monies are targeted, however I do not hold a budget but am able to influence commissioning processes through our health structures. We have developed our operating plans for the next five years, focusing on vulnerable children, teenage pregnancy, disabled children and child and adolescent mental health. We will join up with our Partnership agencies and focus on particular groups of children and young people to meet their health needs together. – *Barbara Salter, Locality Commissioning Manager for Ashford & Shepway Districts*

4.3 Children's Social Services – The Children's Social Services representative attends all CPSB meetings. The representative does have a time restriction in attending meetings and collating information for the Board as this has to be balanced with the core business of a very busy Social Services district. Currently Children's Social Services funds voluntary organisations to a total of approximately £410K to provide services to children and families at Tier 2 and above. Next financial year it will be the Board deciding on service provision, and meanwhile consultation has taken place and discussion is ongoing about the commissioning of services that will contribute economically and effectively to the priority outcomes in the Local Children's plans.

4.4 I feel fully involved in discussions and am confident that all services are motivated to work together, learn from each other and develop an integrated approach that will improve outcomes for vulnerable children.

4.5 As District Manager for Ashford, I sit on both town and rural Boards. There are contrasting needs in these areas. In the town there is an area of severe deprivation in South Ashford and the numbers of children with a Child Protection plan has increased significantly in the last year, as has the number of referrals to Children's Social Services. Unfortunately it is not currently possible to identify postcode information with the new data collection system. – *Diane Butler, District Manager, Ashford Children & Families Team*

4.6 Education – Secondary, primary and special school representatives are fully engaged on the Partnership Board and are enabling the Cluster School Partnership strengths to underpin the new development multi-agency collaboration.

4.7 Youth - The Partnership is an eye opener as far as what other services/organisations are delivering. The opportunities for joint working are huge, however, from the Youth Service point of view at local level there is still a gap in recognising and developing existing joined up projects. The Youth Service in Ashford One has four projects situated strategically on three school sites and a Connexion Access Point in the town centre, and each project has historically worked a joined up approach to service delivery for young people from the age of 13 to 19. We feel that the Partnership needs to consider more the teenage agenda with a focus on the 16 to 19 years of age. They can easily be forgotten in a forum which can be very school led and so do, in association, the services who are working with that age group. – *Gaelle Jezequel, Senior Youth & Community Worker, Sk8side Connexions Access Point Manager*

4.8 Police – Police have been represented at Board level by 2 Chief Inspectors, currently Inspector Andrew Judd, and the Partnership Manager is a representative on the CDRP. Effective links between the Tactical Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan, are progressing. Prevent strategy in relation to anti-terrorism is a newly emerging focus.

The Youth Crime Reduction Officer provides proactive support to schools in the Partnership.

4.9 Voluntary Sector and Other - The Voluntary Sector is represented by David Putnam, Acting Assistant Director of Children's Services with Action for Children. As one of the UK's largest children's charities, Action for Children provides services that respond to and meet local needs. In January 2009 the LCSP Manager approached the organisation to provide a representative because of the breadth of services they deliver, both locally and nationally. It will be a challenge to ensure there is true representation of the Sector (an issue Kent wide) and that effective two-way communication is established, but work is already underway to take this forward. David has met with others from the Sector and an agreement has been reached by the LCSP to invite different Voluntary Sector Groups to make short presentations to highlight their work and the differences they make to the lives of children and young people.- *David Putnam, Acting Assistant Director of Children's Services – Action for Children*

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Schools and Children's Centres are at the heart of Ashford 1's communities and will with the Primary Capital and Building Schools for the Future (secondary) strategies provide a sound infrastructure for the development of integrated multi-agency working.
- 5.2 The overarching strategy for Ashford 1 to develop "One Children's Workforce" bringing together all agencies who work with children gives a solid framework on which to build Partnership, supported by Kent and National strategy.
- 5.3 The Children and Young People's Plan has 13 clearly evidenced priorities. The ability to measure local performance against the national and Kent key indicators for improving outcomes for children, will be easier with the production of Partnership's performance indicator data. (To be published by KCC Strategic Planning April 2009).
- 5.4 Membership of the Partnership Board now includes all key stakeholders and the recent addition of the voluntary services helps give a further opportunity for development.
- 5.5 The Partnership Manager has formed an effective management team with a support officer giving good capacity to continue to improve outcomes for children.

Recommendations

Members of the LCSP Sub Committee are asked to note the report.

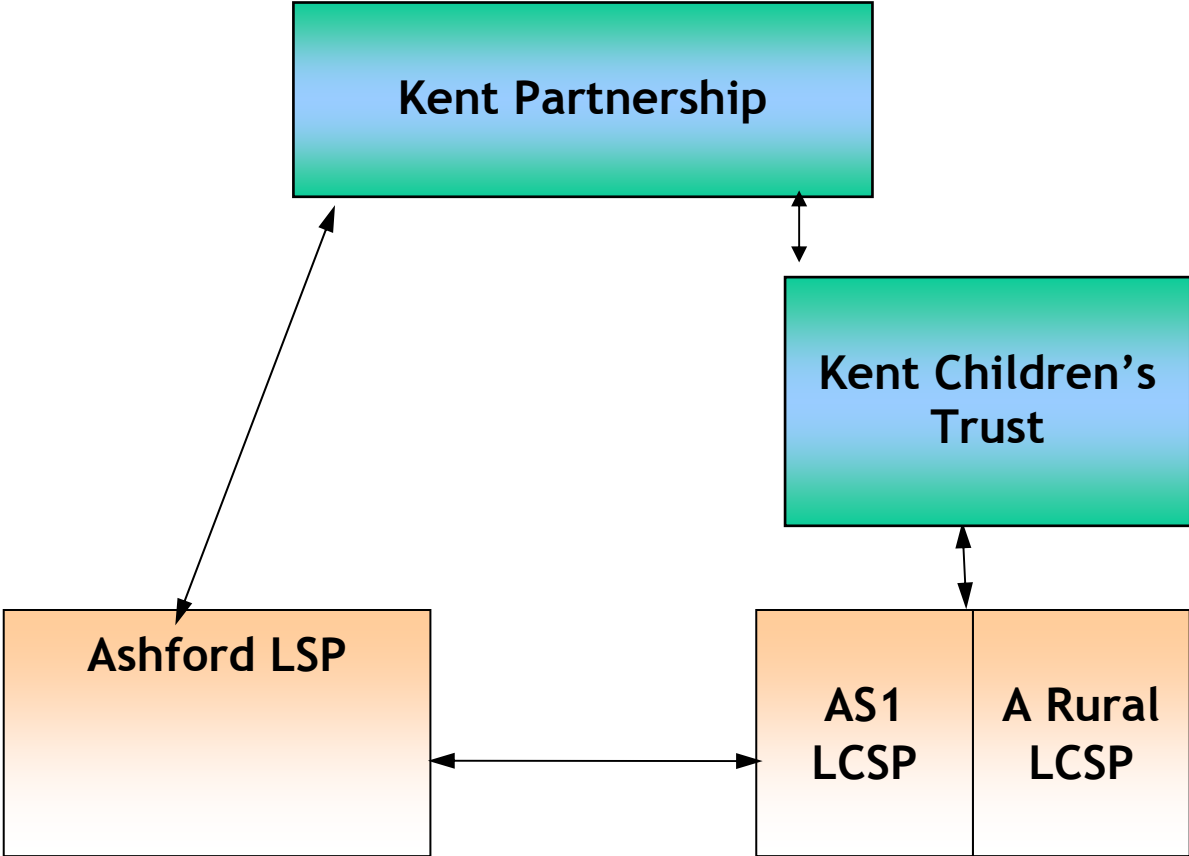
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APPENDIX A

Ashford 1 Local Children's Services Partnership Board Membership

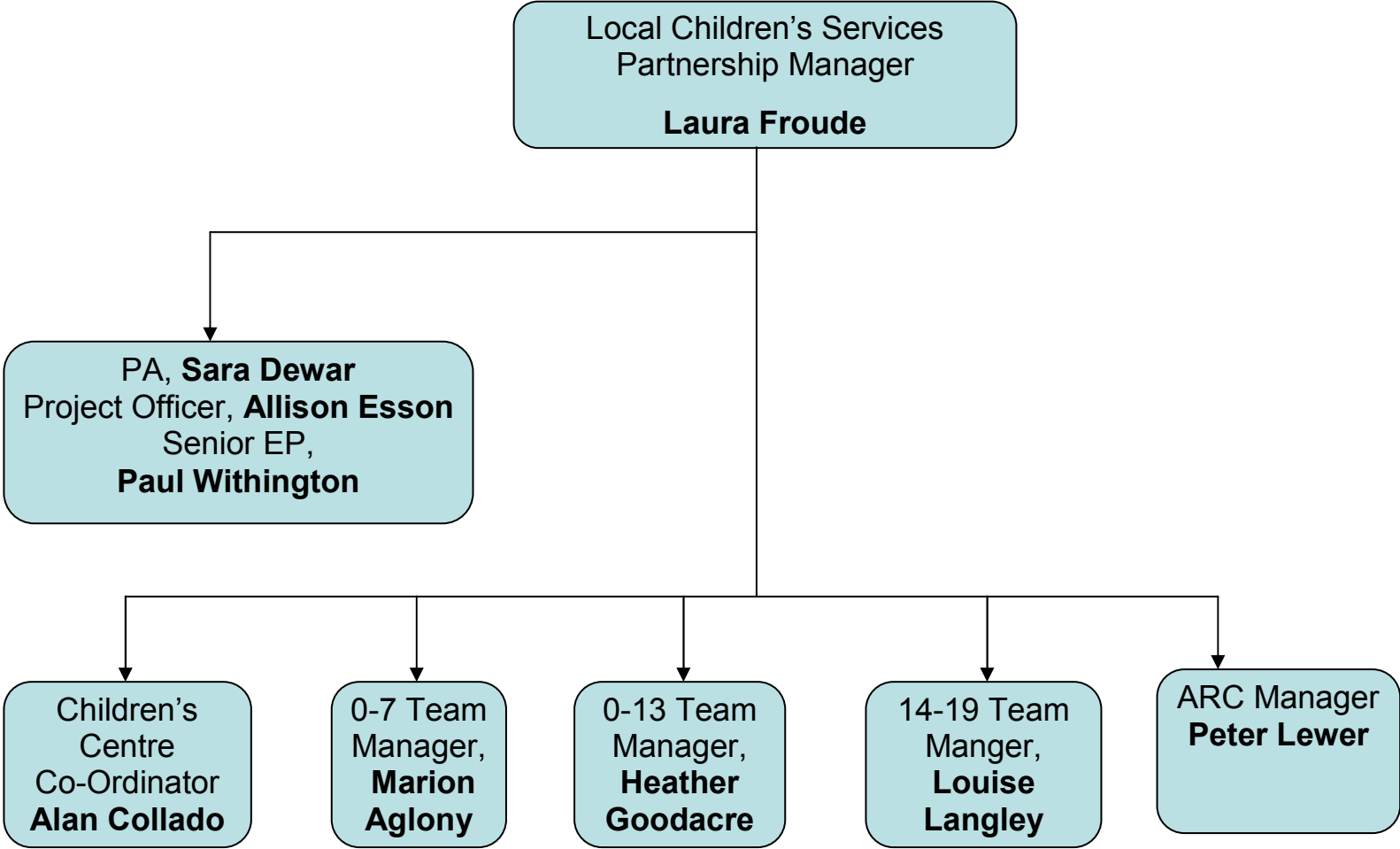
Core Membership	Name & Job Title
FE Provider/14-19 Sector	Malcolm Ramsey, Chair & Headteacher, Towers School, Ashford
District Council Officer	Christina Fuller, Vice Chair & Cultural Projects Manager, Ashford Borough Council
Local Children's Services Partnership Manager	Laura Froude
Children's Social Services	Diane Butler District Manager, KCC
Early Years	Alan Collado Children's Centre Manager
Health	Barbara Salter Children & Young People's Health Locality Commissioning Manager, KCC
Police	Inspector Andrew Judd Neighbourhood Policing Manager
Primary Headteachers	Andrew Macey Headteacher, Beaver Green Community Primary School Keith Simmons Headteacher, Linden Grove Primary School
Secondary Headteacher	Lesley Ellis Headteacher, The North School
Special School/Lead School	Bob Law Headteacher, Goldwyn Community Special School
Voluntary/Community Sector	David Putnam Assistant Director, Action for Children
Youth Offending Service	Andy Birkin Area Manager, KCC
Youth Service	Colin McCadden Area Youth Officer, KCC
Area Children's Services Officer	David Adams Area Children's Services Officer KCC
Additional Membership	Name & Job Title
GP Representative for Ashford	Dr Navin Kumta GP & Sub Clinical Lead, Ashford LAC

Kent Partnership Arrangements



Perspectives on the local and Kent Structure

The LCSP Teams and Managers



APPENDIX D

Ashford 1 Primary Summary

There are 21 schools in the primary sector in AS1 placed in a wide variety of contexts from small rural schools to large urban schools in one of the most deprived wards in the county. Ofsted gradings have improved and across the partnership there are no schools in category. One school is outstanding across all indicators and has applied to become a national support school so that they can provide outreach to other schools within the locality. 11 schools have been recognised for being good with 8 satisfactory. On reinspection two schools moved to a higher grade with 4 schools being graded outstanding for certain aspects of their care, welfare and guidance. Ofsted grades for all AS1 schools are set out below.

School	Date of Ofsted	Grade
Aldington Primary	January 08	good
Ashford Oaks Community Primary School	new school no report yet	
Beaver Green Community Primary School	December 08	satisfactory
Brabourne CE Primary	January 09	good
Brook Primary	January 09	good
Challock Primary School	January 09	good
Downs View Infant School	February 08	good
East Stour Primary School	March 06	satisfactory
Kennington CE Junior	June 08	satisfactory
Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary	January 09	outstanding
Linden Grove Primary	February 09	satisfactory
Mersham Primary	March 09	good
Phoenix Community Primary	June 06	satisfactory
Smeeth Community Primary	January 08	good
St Mary's Ashford	May 07	good
St Mary's Chilham	June 08	satisfactory
St Simon of England RC	June 08	good
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	November 08	good
Victoria Road	July 07	good
Willesborough Junior	January 07	satisfactory
Willesborough Infants	July 2006	satisfactory
Ashford Christ Church	February 09	satisfactory
Highworth Grammar	March 09	Outstanding
North School	June 06	good
Norton Knatchbull	Nov 07	good
Towers	May 08	good

KS1 attainment has been rising across all indicators with the 2007/8 figures the highest for 3 years at all levels in all subjects. In writing level 2 attainment

was above the local authority figures at 80.4% with L3 attainment for the most able pupil above national figures in both reading and maths.

In KS2 there has been a three year rising trend in standards in both English and maths at L4 with results in English matching the local authority figures at 78.3%. Combined maths and English targets for both maths and English at L4 show a 3 year rising trend with a large improvement in 07/08, at 69.2% they are just above the county figures

Schools continue to work collaboratively to share expertise and raise attainment for pupils and have set challenging targets for 2009. The combined English and maths partnership target is set at 76.3% an increase of 7.1%, English L4 set at 84% an increase of 5.7% and the maths L4 at 78.6% an increase of 8.1%

There are some schools in challenging circumstances in South Ashford. These schools are receiving support from ASK and the Partnership team and 2008 saw an increase in results and a reduction of the number below floor targets in both English and maths in KS2 from 6 schools in 2007 to 3 schools in 2008. In KS1 the numbers of school below floor targets in reading and maths reduced from 3 in 2007 to 2 in 2008

Standards in Secondary Schools in the Ashford 1

Summary

Of the 5 secondary schools in the Ashford 1 LCSP, 3 are high schools and 2 are selective.

All three high schools are in the national challenge programme because, in 2007, fewer than 30% of year 11 secured 5A*-C including English and Maths. They are therefore considered to be at risk of not meeting this floor target by the DCSF deadline of 2011. The schools face challenging circumstances but were making progress towards the floor target before the advent of National Challenge. The additional advice and support available through National Challenge has meant that two of the schools are now viewed as a low risk of failing to meet the 2011 floor target. Indeed tracking and monitoring processes suggest they are expected to come very close to or exceed the floor target in 2009. The third school is due to become an academy before the 2011 deadline, but is making progress with expectations of a significant rise in performance this year – again coming close to or exceeding the 30% floor target.

Attainment in the two selective schools is naturally very high. Norton Knatchbull has been designated a high performing specialist school and has successfully bid for a second specialism in science which takes effect from 1st April 2009. Highworth has recently been graded outstanding in a March 2009 Ofsted inspection.

The only Ashford 1 secondary school in an Ofsted category (Ashford Christ Church – placed in notice to improve in January 2008) was re-inspected in February 2009 and judged to be making satisfactory provision and so no longer required a notice to improve.

Trends (See tables overleaf for detailed comparative Data).

Key Stage Three

There remain concerns nationally over the validity and organisation of the Key Stage three SATs tests. There will in future be a much greater reliance on teacher assessment evidence. However, within the partnership students consistently and significantly exceeded National and Local authority averages for performance at level 6, but fell short of these benchmarks at level 5. The partnership performance at level 5 was best in Maths where the gap closed with both National (4.3% down to 3.2%) and Local Authority (2.3% down to 1.5%) figures. In English the gap widened, in Science it remained broadly stable. A likely contributory factor to these changes is the increasing proportion of EAL students in the schools due to inward migration and for whom Maths is a greater strength than English.

APPENDIX E (CONTINUED)

Key Stage Four

There has been a slight drop in the proportion of students securing 5A*-C reflecting some curricular changes in the schools and an increased focus on the new key measure of 5A*-C including English and Maths. On this measure partnership performance has risen more rapidly than the national in the last year. In Ashford 1, 47.6% of students achieved 5A*-C including English and Maths, compared with 47.2% nationally.

Proportions of students securing 5A*-G including English and Maths fell nationally and locally, but the fall was more severe locally. However, the proportion leaving school with no qualifications remained stable at 2% and below the Authority average.

Key Stage Five

Three schools in the partnership entered students' for A'levels in 2008. There was a reduction in the average points per student and the proportion of students securing 2 A-E grades, but a slight increase in the average points per entry. This reflects improved information advice and guidance so that students are better matched to courses. The level 2 courses that a number of students took, within a mixed economy of level 3 A'levels and other qualifications, are not reflected in the published statistics.

The sixth form contextual value added score, a measure of progress taking account of prior attainment at GCSE, was either in line with or significantly above average for the three schools.

Barriers to Progress

Recruitment difficulties with key staff. Qualified and experienced specialist staff, particularly in English and Maths for national Challenge Schools, are in short supply and schools are obliged to either heavily incentivise posts or to accept less competent practitioners with a view to developing them on the job.

Side effects of National Challenge. The National Challenge places an emphasis on meeting a high stakes target through work with students in the middle of the ability and achievement range (those on the cusp of securing 5A*-C including English and Maths). This creates a counter pressure to the work schools are doing to narrow the gap between the bottom 20% and the rest, which could be reflected in future figures for students securing 5A*-G.

Changing patterns of need. An increasing proportion of EAL students on role in schools are requiring adaption of school approaches and recruitment of suitable staff to help all such students acquire the literacy skills to access the curriculum.

APPENDIX E (CONTINUED)

Key Stage Four Data

Key Stage 4
Achievement Data
07/08
Ashford (AS One)

SUBJECTS	KS4 % Attained		
	5+ A* - C		
5+ A* - C	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
05/06	62.2	61.4	59.2
06/07	62.4	64.9	62.0
07/08	59.2	67.2	64.6

	5+ A* - C incl. English & maths		
5+ A* - C incl English & maths	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
05/06	46.3	46.8	45.8
06/07	46.5	48.5	46.7
07/08	47.6	50.3	47.2

	5+ A* - G incl. English & maths		
5+ A* - G	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
05/06	88.5	91.5	90.5
06/07	92.6	92.5	91.7
07/08	90.6	92.1	91.3

	TOTAL (uncapped) APS		
No passes	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
05/06	4.2	2.3	2.2
06/07	2.0	1.9	1.1
07/08	2.0	2.2	1.4

APPENDIX E (CONTINUED)

Key Stage Three Data

Stage 3
Achievement Data

07/08

Ashford (AS One)

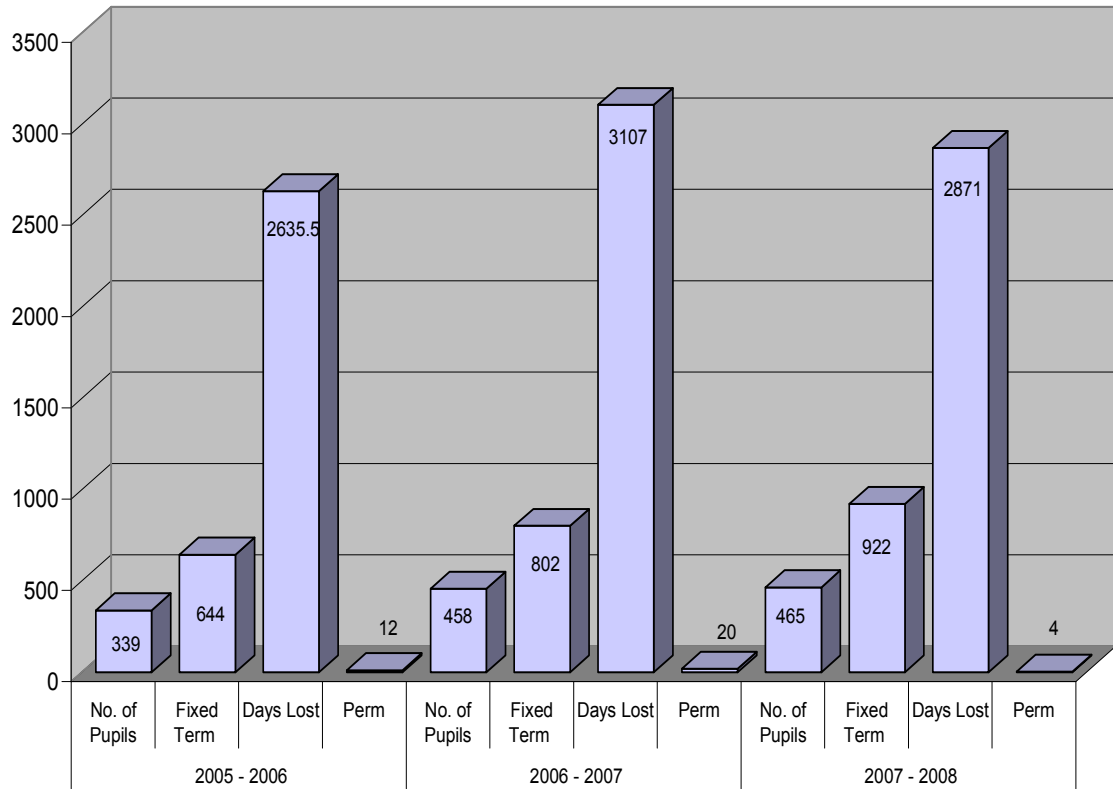
SUBJECTS	KS3 % Attained					
	Level 5+			Level 6		
	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
English						
05/06	65.0	72.0	73.0	34.9	38.0	34.0
06/07	67.4	73.0	74.0	35.5	35.0	33.0
07/08	65.6	73.2	73.0	42.8	37.1	33.0

	Level 5+			Level 6		
	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
Maths						
05/06	75.8	76.0	77.0	61.9	58.0	57.0
06/07	71.7	74.0	76.0	55.6	56.0	56.0
07/08	73.8	75.3	77.0	57.3	57.6	57.0

	Level 5+			Level 6		
	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
Combined English & Maths						
05/06	61.6	67.0	67.0	34.5	35.0	32.0
06/07	61.8	67.0	68.0	33.0	33.0	30.0
07/08	62.6	66.9	66.0	40.5	34.4	30.0

	Level 5+			Level 6		
	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL	LCSP	LA	NATIONAL
Science						
05/06	69.9	72.0	72.0	45.0	42.0	41.0
06/07	69.6	72.0	73.0	46.4	42.0	41.0
07/08	67.7	70.8	71.0	48.4	42.8	41.0

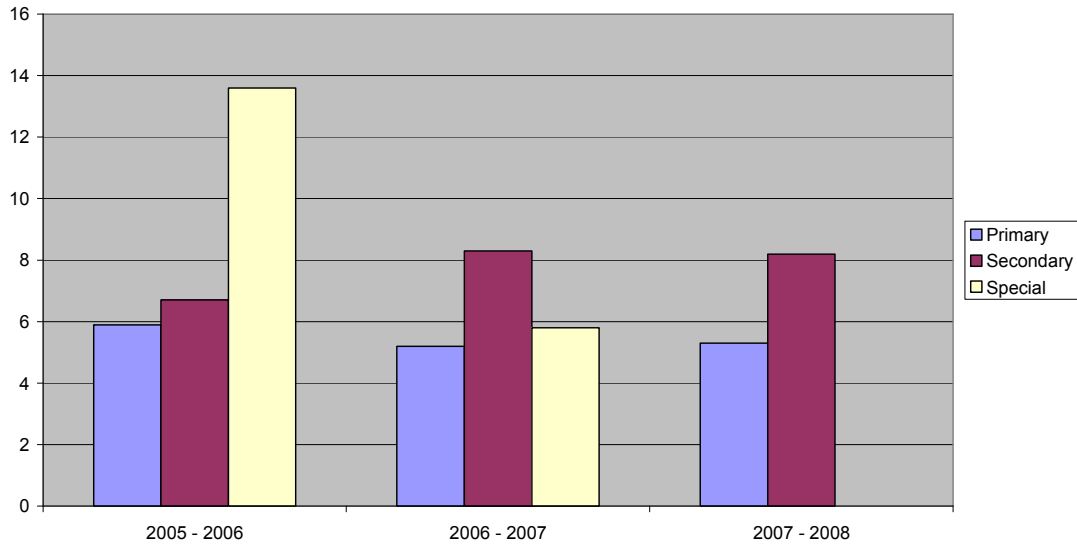
ASHFORD 1 LCSP EXCLUSIONS



Please note January 2008 – current time, there have been nil permanent exclusions in Ashford 1.

Appendix G

ASHFORD 1 LCSP % OVERALL ABSENCE



	2007 - 2008	2006 - 2007	2005 - 2006
Primary	5.3	5.2	5.9
Secondary	8.2	8.3	6.7
Special	Not available	5.8	13.6

Primary absence was most improved by Partnership in 2006/07.

Kent Primary overall absence is 5.3%

Kent Secondary overall absence is 7.5%

David Hill
Chief Executive

Memorandum

From Brian Parsons – Audit Partnership Manager

To Alan Collado – Sure Start Programme Director

Copies To David Hill – Chief Executive, Paul Naylor – Deputy Chief Executive, Ian Kirkland – Director of Community Engagement, Mark Carty – Head of Cultural Services

Our Ref 31 2007 – 2008

Date 26 March 2008



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT REVIEW – SURE START

The attached report documents the findings, conclusions and recommendations arising from the recent Internal Audit review of the administrative and financial arrangements operated by the Ashford based Sure Start. Ashford Borough Council currently acts as the 'Accountable Body'.

The annual audit is carried out principally to provide assurance to the Management and the Board of Sure Start that proper financial controls are in place. In addition it provides assurance to the Council in terms of its responsibilities as accountable body.

The audit evaluated and tested the controls in place for income and expenditure and sought to confirm that spending is in accordance with both the Sure Start programme and any stipulations of government funding.

The audit report concludes that the controls operating at Sure Start are robust and are being consistently applied on an ongoing basis, despite a change in finance administration staff within the current reporting year. Sound controls are in place to ensure that administrative and financial procedures are followed. These reflect the commitment of staff to the Sure Start Programme which was evidenced during the audit. All previous audit recommendations have been implemented where appropriate. The report identifies several areas where minor improvements can still be made.

It was noted that a significant amount of work has already been undertaken by Sure Start management towards ensuring that the risks to both the Council and the programme as a whole are minimised during the potential transfer of Accountable Body status to Kent County Council during 2008/09, and for this management are commended.

On the basis of the findings during the audit, the level of assurance provided by the controls and processes in place for Sure Start is **high**.

An electronic version of the Action Plan has been sent separately for you to utilise for your response. I would be grateful for your views and details of any intended action on the recommendations by 25 April 2008 in order to fulfil our remaining obligations. If circumstances are such that you are unable to respond within that period, please let me know so that I can reset the response period to reflect your circumstances.

In the meantime I will of course be happy to discuss or advise further on any matter arising from the report if you would find this helpful.

I am grateful for the assistance of your staff during the audit.

Brian Parsons
Audit Partnership Manager

**NOTE OF VISIT TO THE WILLOWS CHILDREN'S CENTRE
ASHFORD. 19 JANUARY 2009**

Thank you to all the staff and parents of The Willows Children's centre for making my visit so enjoyable. What follows represents my impressions and opinions of what I saw read and heard on the day.

The Willows is a very good centre. It is dynamically and effectively led by an excellent Director and a strong, cohesive senior team. The atmosphere in the centre is warm, welcoming and professional. There is some outstanding practice in terms of impact on outcomes in areas such as breastfeeding. There is a 'can do' positive attitude that pervades all the relationships especially between the staff and between staff and parents and staff and children.

The community café is excellent; it provides a non- threatening, relaxed entrance to the building and is having an impact on healthier eating (the vegetable bags) and on healthier cooking for families. An exciting new extension to the café is currently underway.

The vision for The Willows is based around the word PRIDE:

Promote positive working relationships

Respect, understand and support each other

Involve the local community in all aspects of work

Develop and deliver quality services that make a positive difference

Evaluate all services to ensure appropriateness and value for money.

The vision is clearly displayed all around the building and is very clearly known and acted upon by all the staff I met with. This modelling of the vision is fundamental to the effectiveness of the centre and provides a constant reminder to all staff, parents and partners of the underlying principles and values of their relationships together.

The staff appraisal system is also linked to the vision and is built around the twin concepts of progress and planning. This positive emphasis assuming progress and then looking forward is a very good motivator for staff and makes them feel valued.

There is an excellent programme for recruiting, training and supporting volunteers. There are many success stories of vulnerable individuals going on to develop confidence and enter employment.

The background, skills and interests of staff are actively built upon so that people are empowered to step out of their traditional job titles and take on new areas of work. It is impressive that all members of the senior team see themselves first and foremost as children's professionals and secondly in their specialist roles.

The partnership with health professionals is very strong and well established. There is some outstanding partnership health service provision on site such as the ante- natal and contraceptive clinics, the community vegetable bags scheme, Sing to Smile classes, trailblazing work in breastfeeding support and health walks.

Senior staff sum up what makes The Willows so effective in the following terms:

- Staff are willing to go the extra mile because we believe in what we are doing and are passionate about improving life chances for children and families.
- The involvement of partners, parents and the community is an embedded part of the way we work.
- There is very strong support for one another under the excellent leadership of the Director.
- Communication is well managed. People feel involved and informed.
- The day to day operations are not neglected in the drive to increase performance and reach.
- The senior team and Advisory Board work together well and there is a good understanding of our strengths and areas for development.

There are always areas to develop in any setting and these are known and understood by the senior team. Raising standards in the nursery, improving the outside area and supporting the development of the Self-Evaluation Form are some of the issues currently on the agenda of priorities.

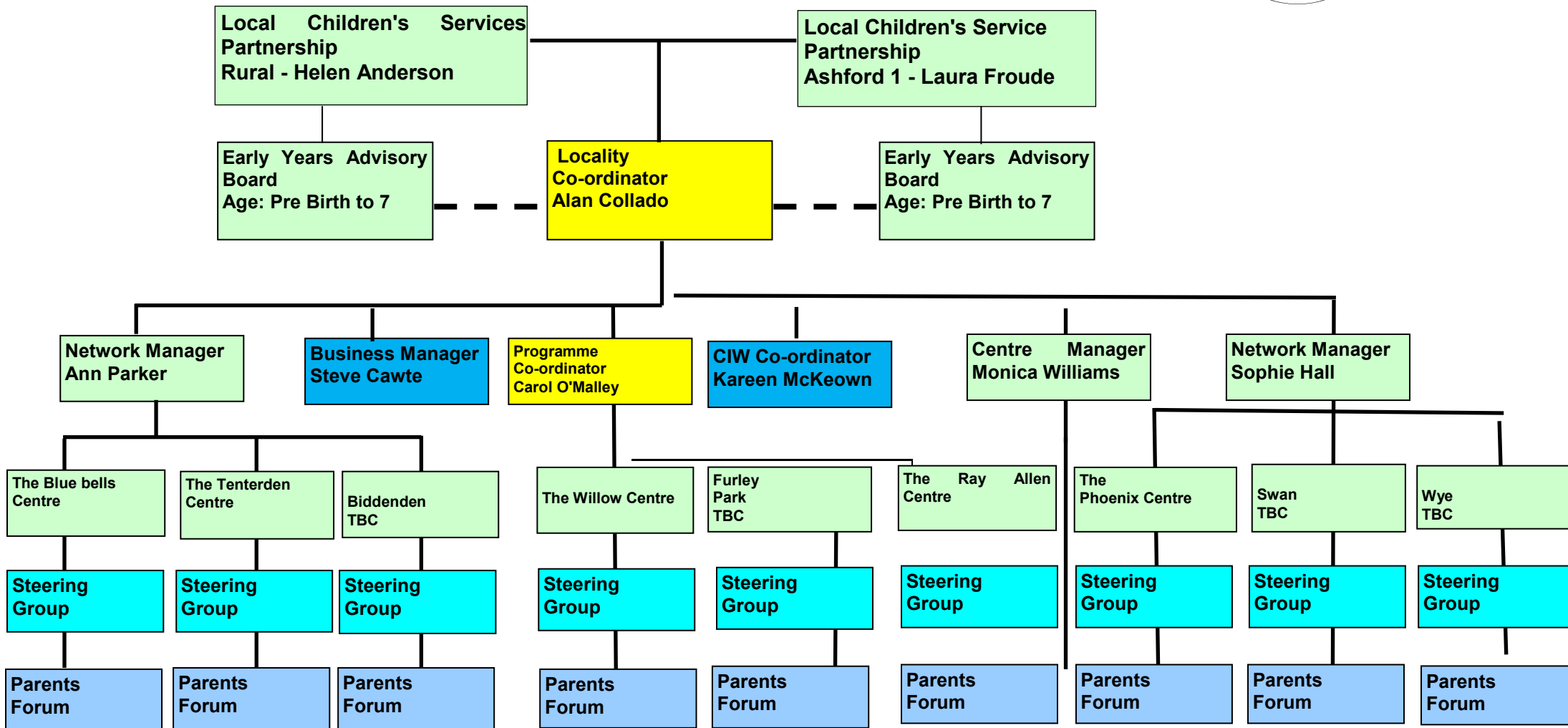
In summary; The Willows is a very effective centre. The warm, professional atmosphere pervades the relationships, the activities and the continuous drive for improvement. It was a pleasure to visit.

Elsbeth Davis

January 2009



Ashford Sure Start Children's Centres (Management Structures)



(Note) Important to keep local focus whilst feeding into locality working.)

Steering Group - Local Partners focussing on Local Performance - links into Locality via Manager to Alan to Advisory Board

Parents Forum - Local parents/Carers focusing on local needs/centre - links into locality as above.

Ashford 1
LCSP Board Report end of 08/09 financial year

Appendix K

Cost Centre	Cash limit (see notes)	Current financial year Commitments	Invoices reconciled/ being processed	Total spent/ allocated	Unallocated/ left to spend	Delegated to Head Teachers?
Partnership Board (08/09)	69,303	3,887	58,511	62,398	6,905	
Kent Children's Fund (08/09)	56,000	21,956	37,655	59,611	(3,611)	
Extended Schools: Sustainability (08/09)	95,300	45,645	48,500	94,145	1,155	Yes
Extended Schools: Start Up (08/09)	48,600	0	48,429	48,429	171	Yes
Extended Schools: TIS funding: (08/09)	5,000	0	3,168	3,168	1,832	Yes
Extended Schools: Parent Forum funding (08/09)	5,000	0	4,887	4,887	113	Yes
Hands on Support (08/09)	63,100	0	63,048	63,048	52	Yes
Looked After Children (08/09)	9,052	0	8,477	8,477	575	
AEN Inclusion Funding (08/09)	16,000	0	16,497	16,497	(497)	Yes
Music (08/09)	31,862	0	20,171	20,171	11,691	Yes
Healthy Schools (08/09)	8,341	0	8,429	8,429	(88)	Yes
Primary Foreign Languages (08/09)	23,310	0	21,910	21,910	1,400	Yes
SEAL (08/09)	8,203	0	0	0	8,203	Yes
Total	439,071.00	71,488.39	339,681.08	411,169.47	27,901.53	

Partnership Board	The above cash limit is made up of: £30K annual allocation, £18,803 rolled over from 07/08; £4.5K 'LCYPP Development Funding'; £1K Hardship Funding and £15K School Nurse funding. There is still £6,905 unallocated. The commitments above include some of the £4.5K LCYPP, the £1K Hardship funding and the Primary Standards allocation.				
Kent Children's Fund	£56K of this allocation has been transferred to the Partnership, the balance is being handled centrally. This funding has to be spent by 31 March 2009. The figures above show a potential overspend because of committed set up costs for the Beaver ARC via ISG (around £11K) which may not all be charged in this financial year.				
Extended Schools: Sustainability	This is new funding for 08/09 and is Standards Funds, meaning that we have until August 2009 to spend. The commitments shown above are for spending between April and August 2009.				
Extended Schools: Start Up	This is 08/09 funding that had to be spent by 31 March 2009.				
Extended Schools: TIS and Parent Forum funding	This is additional funding for 08/09 and has to be spent by 31 March 2009. We are waiting for invoices for the TIS left showing as 'unallocated'.				
Hands on Support	The 08/09 cash limit had to be spent by 31 March 2009.				
Looked After Children	The balance of the 08/09 allocation had to be spent by 31 March 2009.				
AEN Inclusion	Invoices totalling £16,497 have been processed for salary costs for April - August 2008 for Outreach work via Goldwyn.				
Music	The 08/09 funding is Standards Funds so we have until August 2009 to spend.				
Healthy Schools	The 08/09 allocation was £6,800 and is fully spent.				
Primary Foreign Languages	The 08/09 funding is Standards Funds so we have until 31 August 2009 to spend.				
SEAL	The 08/09 allocation is Standards Funding that was transferred from ASK. We have until August 2009 to spend.				
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NOTE: Children's Centre and Alternative Curriculum budgets will be devolved in 2009/10					