



## 2008 Annual Review

# Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009

**Suffolk's vision for children and young people:**

***To enable all children and young people in Suffolk to aspire to, and achieve their full potential, giving them the basis for a successful life as active members of their community***

Through radical change and improvements in the way that services for children and young people are planned and delivered we will:

- ❖ aim for every child and young person in Suffolk to achieve their aspirations, to be healthy and stay safe, to contribute successfully to their community and have a successful transition to adulthood
- ❖ provide accessible, high quality integrated services with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention
- ❖ give extra attention and support to vulnerable children and young people and those who have additional needs
- ❖ involve children and young people, and parents and carers in the design and delivery of services;
- ❖ strive to achieve ever-higher standards and improved outcomes for all children and young people in Suffolk within available resources, by improving performance and efficiency
- ❖ work across all organisations working with children and young people to develop a shared culture and values.



**Produced by Suffolk County Council on behalf of the Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership**

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## Foreword

### Welcome to the second annual review of Suffolk's Children and Young People's Plan

The *Children and Young People's Plan* is a three year document setting the strategy for Suffolk's Children's Trust Partnership, and our vision and key priorities for 2006-2009. The plan was based on an extensive needs assessment and analysis of performance and service gaps, and was informed by the views of children, young people, parents, carers, schools and a wide range of partners from across Suffolk.



The plan has been used to help focus individuals, teams and whole services within the local authorities, health services, the police, voluntary and independent sectors to ensure core business is directed towards the Children's Trust's priorities, while ensuring all our statutory obligations are also met and focused on high quality outcomes.

This review provides an update on what has been achieved during the last year. 2007 was an important year for us as we had our Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection. We were delighted that we had such a positive outcome from the JAR, and that our Children and Young People's Plan was highlighted as a particular strength in the JAR report. The performance information and actions included in this review are informed by the outcomes of the JAR, and in particular the recommendations and areas for improvement identified through the inspection.

The plan is intended to be read alongside an overview of our performance information - summarised in our *Performance Handbook* - and the most recent survey of young people's views - the *TellUs Survey*. Action and areas for improvement have been agreed by the Children's Trust Partnership, along with a final overview of the priorities to focus the key areas for our collective endeavours in the year to come.

We hope that this review conveys some of the flavour of our desire to build a spirit of collaboration and enthusiasm, celebrating the many genuine achievements in children's services, while setting out our serious intent and collective ambitions on behalf of all children and young people in Suffolk.

2008-09 will be the last year of our current Children & Young People's Plan. We will be developing a new plan over the coming year, which will be a two-year plan for 2009-11. In preparation for this we will reviewing what we have and have not achieved over the lifespan of our first plan and undertaking a comprehensive needs analysis to ensure that the priorities included in our second plan are based on the most up-to-date information and intelligence that we have, and is fully grounded in the views and aspirations of children, young people and their families.

Our second Children & Young People's Plan will be published in the Spring of 2009 and we look forward to working with our partners over the coming year in developing the plan.



**Cllr Patricia O'Brien**  
Chair of Suffolk Children's Trust  
Partnership Board



**Rosalind Turner**  
Suffolk County Council's  
Director for Children and Young people



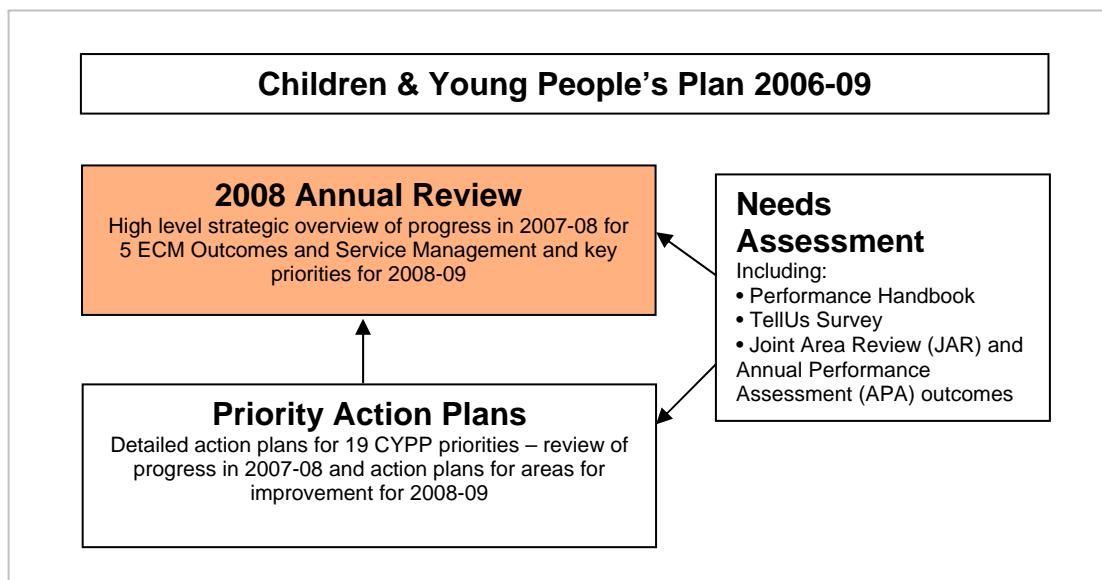
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# Key Components of the 2008 Review



This review is part of a family of documents that together represent the *2008 Annual Review of Suffolk's Children and Young People's Plan*. It has built upon the needs assessment and is derived from detailed work captured in the action plans for each of the 19 priorities and should be read alongside:

- [The Suffolk Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy](#)
- Suffolk's new [Local Area Agreement \(LAA2\)](#)
- [Suffolk's Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09](#)
- The 19 Priority Action Plans that support this Annual Review
- [Performance Handbook 2008](#)
- [The Joint Area Review \(JAR\)](#) and [Annual Performance Assessment \(APA\) 2007](#) inspection reports
- [Suffolk's APA Self-Assessment for 2007](#)

All of the documents relating to the Children & Young People's Plan are available on the Suffolk County Council website at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/cyp](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/cyp)



## Be healthy

### **What is it like for children and young people in Suffolk? Progress in 2007-08**

Children and young people in Suffolk are generally very positive about their health with 87% reporting themselves as healthy or very healthy in the 2007 TellUs survey, and fewer Suffolk children reporting that they have smoked, drunk alcohol or taken illegal drugs than reported nationally. The survey responses indicated a need to improve access to information on health-related issues, which therefore remains a priority for action for services in the county.

Health information and performance data also indicates generally good levels of health at county level, with key indicators for the percentage of mothers initiating breastfeeding, the percentage of low birth weight babies, teenage conceptions and infant mortality at least in line with national averages. However, county level indicators present only a partial view and mask issues of health inequalities across the county. The Director of Public Health's report for 2007 focused on the health of children and was influential in informing the selection of the two high focus areas agreed by the Children's Trust Partnership Board for 2007-08. Reducing childhood obesity and reducing teenage conceptions reflects the partnership's ambition to focus on preventative strategies to improve the health and well-being and are featured in the current and forthcoming Local Area Agreement (LAA2). In addition, the Joint Area Review (JAR) and Annual Performance Assessment (APA) inspections in 2007 made a number of recommendations regarding the improvement and development of child and adolescent mental health services which have been an additional focus of work in the last six months of 2007-08.

The focus on reducing childhood obesity is driven through the BH1 priority for supporting healthy lifestyles. Suffolk data for 2007 broadly confirmed the pattern from 2006 with around 10% of reception children in Year 6 obese and 16.2% of children in Year 6. Participation rates in the Child Measurement Programme were very good with 97% of reception children and 84% of Year 6 children measured compared to 57% and 42% nationally. A Healthier Lifestyle Project working with children aged 12-19 years in a local Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) has reported very positive outcomes for the family and young person with 4 out of 5 families changing lifestyles and improvement in behaviour both in school and at home.

The current LAA target for childhood obesity focused on an intensive support programme - MEND (Mind Exercise, Nutrition, Do It!) - that works with the child and family together to

encourage adoption of healthier lifestyles. Although the LAA target was not met, the results for the 126 individuals who have completed the programme have been very positive with measurable reductions in waist measurement and improved self-esteem. The stigma attached to being overweight was evidenced by the difficulty in recruiting to this programme and has suggested that a different approach will be required going forward to achieve a sustained and widespread improvement across the whole population.

Some other approaches trialled in 2007-08 included Getting Suffolk Fit for the Future - a summer holiday campaign to weigh and measure children working with local pharmacists based in supermarkets and other major stores throughout the county. This generated a number of enquiries relating to weight management and in addition to signposting to local services all participants were given a pack containing healthy lifestyle advice and an active toy.

Approximately 45% (£500,000) of the Suffolk Primary Care Trust's 'Choosing Health' funding has been allocated to the children and young people's agenda for 2008-09 and 50% (£700,000) has been allocated for 2009-10. Specific areas include Chlamydia screening, 48-hour access to Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) services, improving sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancy and access to termination services, alcohol, smoking and childhood obesity. New health improvement posts to develop the health trainer and obesity pathways will further assist with progress.

Partnership initiatives to support vulnerable groups working from Children Centres include: Ormiston Children's Centre outreach service to Hollesley Bay Prison to work with prisoners who have young families; Wellington Children's Centre has worked in partnership with FWA to support women from the Bangladeshi community who have experience domestic violence; the Sunflower Group for teenage parents now runs at the Quayside Children's Centre; this Centre is also working in partnership with the Icen project to provide supported childcare for the children of parents on drug and alcohol programmes; these parents are then supported into training through Suffolk College; Wellington Children's Centre has close links with the West Villa homeless families unit in Ipswich.

The teenage conception rate in Suffolk continues a downward trajectory with the latest data (2006) recording a rate of 30.8 conceptions/1,000 15-17 year olds, which is below the national rate of 40/1,000. This represents a 17.9% reduction on the 1998 baseline rate which is greater than statistical neighbour and national rates of reduction (16.7% and 13.4% respectively). Analysis of data at ward level over the last three years has confirmed that, despite this overall positive picture, there are 'hotspots' across the county where rates of two and three times the national rate have been recorded. A new Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board has been established this year to drive improvement and strong commissioning processes are now in place. Targeted work in the 'hotspot' wards to improve services, information and advice is now underway.

Young people have been involved in improving services, which have included the extension of clinic opening hours and the development of the 'No Worries' brand which young people recognise as a trusted name to integrate support and advice on a range of issues important to young people such as sexual health, substance misuse and mental health. Training for health staff, including school nurses, health visitors and community nurses, on delivering sex and relationships education in schools in response to young people's expressed preference for this to be delivered by professionals other than teachers continues. Support for young parents is now being delivered through the network of Children's Centres, through Young Parent Support Workers, ensuring that this group and their children can access the full range of mainstream services offered through the centres. Training in the use of condoms is being delivered through young parent support workers linked to Children Centres.

A further strand of preventative work has been a review of the effectiveness of the ten school-based health services in the county in order to identify a sustainable model for wider roll-out, including the role of extended schools in delivering sexual health advice. The project started in February 2008 and is expected to report its findings in early 2009.

The National Healthy Schools Programme underpins the whole health and well-being agenda. By March 2008, 99% of Suffolk schools were participating in the programme (352 schools). Slower progress has been made in converting participation to accreditation, with 27% of schools having achieved Healthy Schools status by March 2008. Schools will be supported to move on to accreditation to meet the December 2009 target of 75% of schools. A Healthy Schools Board has been established to take responsibility across different organisations for meeting this target. Two new Consultant posts are currently being recruited, so each area has a dedicated Healthy Schools Consultant to work with the schools.

Particular attention within the 'Be Healthy' Outcome has been focused on Looked After Children (LAC) and 86.5% of LAC have been immunised and have regular health screening and dental and optical checks. In addition 94.4% of LAC have had a health assessment completed, health plan agreed, and regularly reviewed.

A review of the LAC mental health services in the east and the west of the county has been completed, with a new service specification commissioned to provide dedicated Primary Mental Health Worker (PMHW) time as well as education and training, consultation and liaison to professionals, multi-professional system review of individual complex cases and limited therapy. A more detailed model and care pathway is being developed and a project will shortly start to look at integration of LAC health nursing team in the east and west with the east and west LAC mental health services, with a joint management post with health and corporate parenting as part of the proposal. Additional funding has been approved to improve Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services to residential homes in the north of the county.

Every looked after child in Suffolk now has a named health professional. The children are seen at home or in a clinic at a mutually convenient time and place. Children are seen and supported continuously from when placed in care. The nurses see all children and young people quickly and only those with identified specific needs are referred to a Paediatrician. Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) jointly fund the LAC team. Feedback on services has been positive and the team was commended in both the APA & JAR inspections in 2007 - "excellent attention paid to the health needs of looked after children and young people".

The LAC Team have had some concerns about access to CAHMS service but in consultation with partner agencies, and with the support of our Corporate Parent, we hope to develop the LAC Health Team to include mental health workers so we can meet the needs of young people. The Team is now considering how best to meet the needs of those young people leaving care so they can still access health advice and are able to be responsible for their own health care.

A further area of focus has been on children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD). There has been a change of focus for adolescent in-patient unit from rehabilitation to an assessment and treatment unit with outreach services has been agreed with a specification and Service Level Agreement in place for 2008-09. The LDD/CAMH Consultant has worked with 54 cases, plus the special schools and LDD Nursing Teams. Training on a tool to assess the mental health needs of young people with LDD has been undertaken and implemented. The next steps are to increase the nursing investment and work with children and young people on the integrated services for children with special

educational needs, and the 'aiming high' pathfinder project to further improve our range of respite services.

Comprehensive community paediatric medical services are provided across the county via 3 dedicated Child Health Centres and 3 Child Development Centres. The centres offer multi-disciplinary assessment, child surveillance and therapies. Clinicians work with sensory services running joint clinics in all district hospitals, and are involved in school reviews, working directly with school staff where relevant. Irrespective of disability there is an established protocol to enable children and young people who have complex health needs to have emergency access to acute paediatric services, which are appropriate for their needs.

Children's Centres across the county provide other hubs for service coordination benefiting integrated teams including Portage and Public Health Nursing. Suffolk has implemented the Early Support Programme for disabled children that enable families with young disabled children to work with providers in a more coordinated way.

Children with learning disabilities are a priority group within the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) strategy, and work is well underway to identify a CAMHS pathway for this client group. A new comprehensive Tier 4 service providing multi-agency in patient and outreach care has been commissioned for 2008. There has been ongoing and significant progress in the planning, commissioning and delivery of CAMHS over the past year.

A refocusing of the governance and accountability structures has enabled the CAMHS Strategic Board to focus on creating a high level vision for CAMHS to provide leadership, direction and a framework for delivering a comprehensive CAMHS in Suffolk with identified standardised pathways with allowance for local variation dependant on need, and give greater attention to commissioning decisions whilst allowing the CAMHS Partnership Group to focus on particular work streams such as User Participation and pathways between agencies such as the Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). The role of the Primary Mental Health worker has been re-modified, with a clear 'core offer' available to all community clusters and every cluster having protected and identified PMHW resource. An additional £200,000 was made available from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to enable this as well as to appoint to a Clinical and Strategic Manager for the whole county.

The Suffolk Mental Health Partnership Trust (SMHPT) specialist CAMHS has now fully implemented the clinical system - CAPA (Choice and Partnership Approach) - which has resulted in full choice booking of all appointments and zero waiting lists. The Waveney area has received additional investment to extend the age range of CAMH services from 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Norfolk & Waveney Mental Health Partnership Trust (NWMHPT) is developing an on-call service to enable 24/7 access for adolescents (11yrs+) to include access to advise from a Consultant Psychiatrist to cover the 24/7 access which was one of the key proxy targets, whilst Suffolk Mental Health Partnership (SMHP) has extended the previous trial and has a full out-of-hours CAMH service. A new strategic CAMHS manager post has been created in NWMHPT.

Child and adolescent mental health services were a special focus of the Joint Area Review (JAR), and the subject of recommendations regarding equality of access to services and improved pathways for vulnerable groups. These have been progressed:

- ❖ A referral pathway and central referral system has been agreed; this will enable a single point of referral into specialist CAMHs in the east and west of the county. The referred pathway will be open to all professionals working with children and young people. Clear referral pathways already exist in the North.

- ❖ A lead clinical Primary Mental Health Worker (PMHW) was appointed in December 2007, with a further 3.5 additional PMHWs to support schools and other professionals to support advise and training for frontline professionals. The lead PMHW is working with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to enable a clear pathway and joint working on identified cases.
- ❖ Following a needs assessment a proposal for mental health nursing input into Youth Offending Service (YOS) teams will be considered by the CAMHS Commissioning Board.
- ❖ In the north of the county increased funding for 16 and 17 years old has been transferred into the CAMHS service in line with national direction regarding transition. In the east and west of the county a systemic transition post has been agreed for October 2008. An Early Intervention Psychosis service has been implemented for people aged 14-35 years with CAMH Nursing and Psychiatric time allocated to the service.
- ❖ The work with the 'Investors in Children' programme has commenced. Training of staff in CAMH teams in SMHPT and in Waveney has taken place. The next steps are for the trained young people from Investors in Children to set up 'agenda days' with young people who have used CAMH Services or related services.

Good progress has been made during the year on supporting young people affected by substance misuse issues. This has included delivering improvements in targeted support, e.g. screening and referral of young offenders and support for children whose parents misuse drugs or alcohol.

1.5 FTE posts have been created in Suffolk Young Carers whose work focuses on meeting children's individual needs, taking into account their parents lifestyles. Residential opportunities for 5 young carers focused on the effects of the rehabilitation cycle of change on the person they support and their own lives. For all the participants this represented the first opportunity they had to share the experience of living with substance misuse and follow on work on a one-to-one basis has complemented regular monthly young carers social club meetings. The 'Hidden Harm' group is ensuring that advice, information and support is integrated into mainstream services, and the increased numbers of parents accessing drug treatment through the Childcare Project pilot has supported their children in accessing new social and educational opportunities.

Improved accessibility and coordination of services for children who substance misuse and have emotional health issues has been secured following a Dual Diagnosis Workshop involving DAAT and CAMHS has improved access to services. Further work is committed for 2008-09. An evaluation of the 'DUST' screening tool, commissioned by Suffolk DAAT and published in March 2008, will inform future training, planning and commissioning to ensure it is used appropriately in support of young people.

Suffolk benefited from being a High Focus Area in 2007 which focused on support for truants and excludees. The work is now being progressed by the NORCAS Youth Team in conjunction with the Education Attendance Service. As a result of this work NORCAS have provided input to the Attendance Service on tackling substance misuse related absence. Exclusions for drug and alcohol related incidents remain low; 7% for permanent exclusions in 2006-07. This is up slightly on the previous year although caution must be used, as the cohort is very small, the increase is in fact due to their being 1 more exclusion than the previous year. For fixed term exclusions the figure is down from 2% in 2005-06 to 1% in 2006-07. However caution is again needed in interpreting this given the small cohort.

## **Priorities for 2008-09**

The Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership Board has confirmed that the four priorities for 'Be Healthy' will remain the same for 2008-09:

- BH1 Children and young people and their families and carers are supported and encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyles**
- BH2 Young people are well-informed about sexual health and supported in making informed choices**
- BH3 The emotional well-being of all children and young people is developed, and their mental health needs appropriately addressed**
- BH4 Children and young people can access information, advice and support for issues concerning substance misuse**

## **Areas of focus for 2008-09**

### **BH1**

- ❖ Implement the postnatal pathway following the Lord Darzi Maternity review
- ❖ Continue work to promote and improve maternity services (reducing smoking in pregnancy; support for breastfeeding)
- ❖ Develop healthy lifestyles programmes – within schools through the National Healthy Schools Programme and through other services
- ❖ Develop a range of stop smoking interventions aimed at difficult to reach groups and focus on young people that are addicted to nicotine
- ❖ Develop a method of robust breastfeeding data collection at 6-8 weeks post birth
- ❖ Development of a cohesive commissioning plan for implementation of the childhood obesity pathway

### **BH2**

- ❖ Develop the 'No Worries' brand and services
- ❖ Reduce teenage conception rates in all areas, with a particular focus on Ipswich and Waveney
- ❖ Increase the Chlamydia screening rates of 15–24 year-olds to 15%

### **BH3**

- ❖ Continue work to improve support for vulnerable groups
- ❖ Develop the work of the Primary Mental Health Workers - Further development of tier 1 and 2 early intervention and prevention services for universal provision e.g. infant mental health and to Looked After Children

- ❖ Joint working with Drug and Alcohol Action Teams and the Youth Offending Teams
- ❖ Further work on appropriate services for young people in particular vulnerable young people who do not meet the criteria for adult mental health
- ❖ Improve access to and provide appropriate mental health services for children and young people including meeting the specific needs of children with learning difficulties

#### **BH4**

- ❖ Increase the number of referrals to services for children of parents who substance misuse
- ❖ Increase the number of referrals of vulnerable young people into specialist services
- ❖ Implement the Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2008/09
- ❖ Develop a Needs Assessment, particularly in relation to alcohol
- ❖ Maintain the Youth Offending Service target of assessment within 5 days at a consistent, acceptable level.



Stay Safe

## What is it like for children and young people in Suffolk? Progress in 2007-08

We continue to face significant challenges in relation to service pressures and the change agenda locally and nationally. Despite this there has been further improvement in outcomes and many of the initiatives planned and implemented to deliver our priorities are beginning to have a measurable impact. For example, members of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) panels report they are starting to have a positive impact and our Family Assessment and Support Team (FAST) has had a 100% success rate.

There is a sense of opportunity to continue to improve outcomes and where we are experiencing challenges e.g. increasing numbers of children subject to Child Protection Plans and Looked After Children (LAC), we have a very good understanding of the reasons and robust plans in place that we are very confident will address the causes. In some areas we have more work to do to ensure that we have reliable baseline data to measure improvements against but in most we have well established robust data that clearly shows positive strides forward in improving outcomes and the life experiences of vulnerable children and young people.

This is a pivotal time and the introduction of the Children in Need planning procedures provides the tools to take services past the 'tipping point' and make significant strides forward with the preventative agenda. There is a commitment and confidence that over the next 12-18 months the measures that have been introduced will have a very positive effect on outcomes and this will be evidenced by an increase in the percentage of children helped to live at home without statutory interventions.

A significant amount of work has been undertaken over the past year to strengthen partnerships and raise awareness of the cross-cutting nature of the priority to provide safe environments for children, young people and their families. While this work does not directly lead to measurable outcomes it is nevertheless essential if we are to achieve our stated priorities. Examples of positive progress made in joint working include the positive liaison between the Fire and Rescue Service and the Safeguarding Services in having shared priorities in relation to safety in the home. The Fire and Rescue Service has also developed a Children and Young People's Strategy that complements the work of the Children's Trust. The use of data provided by the Police and Environment and Transport has meant more

effective targeting of effort and further improvement in outcomes in relation to young people killed or seriously injured on Suffolk's roads for the most vulnerable groups (newly qualified young drivers). Cross-cutting work implementing the Suffolk Play Strategy in partnership with Borough and Districts to provide safe areas within communities where children can play has enabled us to agree measurable outcomes for 2008-09.

Excellent progress has continued in reducing numbers killed or seriously injured and in the target group for this year (young people aged 16-18 years) there has been a further reduction of 24%. We have exceeded our Local Area Agreement (LAA) target for 2010. There have been continued improvements in increasing take up of road safety initiatives for children and young people and increasing numbers of participating schools, e.g. School Safety Zones, 20's Plenty Campaign.

Improving outcomes for children and young people in care is a high priority together with a focus on prevention and early intervention. Increasing numbers of children and young people referred who have significant or complex needs has resulted in an increase in children in care from 46.7 per 10,000 in 2006-07 to 48.3 per 10,000 in 2007-08. We have implemented a Children in Need Planning framework designed to address the trend.

Performance measures have remained very good overall in particular placement stability and timeliness of reviews, and audits evidence improvements in quality outcomes. Despite the increases in children looked after, the proportion of families supported at home without the need for a statutory intervention has fallen only slightly from 85% to 84.9%. Qualitative data relating to outcomes is good with the majority of outcomes performing better than our comparator authorities and national average.

The new Children in Need Planning framework has been introduced with guidance for robust multi-agency planning to engage children and families without the need for statutory interventions. This has been positively welcomed and is expected to have a significant impact on the current trend of increasing numbers of children and young people requiring more formal interventions.

We had a very good outcome from the fostering inspection. The judgement was that the service was good with excellent educational support for children in foster care through the Looked After Children Education Support Service (LACESS) team. The methodology for judging services has changed from last year when the service received an 'outstanding' judgement. The inspector reported that the service had improved further since last year's inspection. The Fostering Service continues to develop and broaden the choice of carers available and has successfully recruited a further 5 foster carers from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities building on the 6 recruited last year. This represents a very positive increase.

The Family Assessment and Support Team (FAST) became operational in November 2007. To date the team has exceeded its target of achieving 80% of all young people referred remaining in the family home following a three-month intensive support programme with a 100% success rate.

The Children's Centre programme remains on target incorporating Family Support alongside other services in those centres that provide the 'full care offer'. Five Children's Centres now provide the 'full care offer'.

A full review of Leaving Care Services has been undertaken and this will lead to the re-tendering of services in 2008-09. The focus will be on providing better targeted services that will improve outcomes particularly in relation to Education, Employment and Training for Care Leavers. The focus of the review has resulted in marked improvements in outcomes for young people leaving care.

Overall Children and Young People in Suffolk feel safe and believe they have good facilities and access to appropriate services (Tell Us Survey). Concerns about bullying are an issue for young people with 33% having experienced some form of bullying. 40% of children in Suffolk feel that bullying is not well handled in school compared to 34% nationally. It is planned to introduce a pilot reporting tool to capture more sophisticated information on bullying and perceptions of bullying. It is hoped that the information gathered will provide a much fuller picture of bullying and related issues and will lead to a more strategic approach to tackling the causes.

There has been a 12% reduction in the numbers of young people who are victims of crime from 3,550 in 2006-07 to 3,039 in 2007-08. This is seen as a positive measure that reflects the work done to raise awareness of racism, including having a lead governor in each school. Where there have been increases in incidents the reasons are fully investigated and this will continue to be given a high focus. We are seeing the benefits of specific initiatives noted in last year's action plan e.g. the multi-agency Anti-Bullying Strategy, and the joint work undertaken with the County Council and the Police in Suffolk Children's Homes to reduce crime and children going missing from care.

The impact that joined up initiatives has had on the lives of children and young people living in care have been measurable. Data shows that young people are now less likely to be reported missing, more likely to be in education and stay out of trouble.

The focus of work on domestic violence, including multi-agency awareness raising events, the introduction of the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (pilot in Ipswich Magistrates Court), has had a significant and positive impact on addressing the problem of domestic violence and protecting children involved in the household. This has also resulted in an increase of children and young people subject of child protection plans.

We have gathered very positive evidence from children and young people who have benefited from the 'Positive Futures' programme. Young people are discussing feelings and identifying anger issues that they used to hide. They report that they feel calmer and can control their feelings better. Three local high schools have all reported improved behaviour by young people involved in the Positive Futures activities.

The Police Education Partnership (PEP) Education Programme is now working with Pupil Referral Units to offer lesson plans. Anti-social behaviour and vulnerable children are building relationships with Police officers and learning responsibility for their actions.

In 2008-09 further work is needed to prioritise the increasing numbers of young people from new and emerging communities to ensure they have access to support and are protected from crime. E-safety issues are seen as an emerging issue that will be a focus for action in 2008/09.

The Joint Area Review (JAR) and Annual Performance Assessment (APA) identified a need to improve communication in relation to managing joint working on domestic violence. New guidance and procedures were implemented and this has led to an increase in referrals of children who are present when a domestic violence incident occurs.

The Suffolk Safeguarding Children's Board has completed its second year of operation. The Board has re-organised the sub-committee structure and produced safeguarding guidance and policies including: Domestic Abuse guidance where children are members of the household, Anti-Bullying Strategy, Child Sexual Exploitation, Safe Recruitment, Management of Allegation Against Those in a Position of Trust, and Children in Need procedures.

Governance and accountability arrangements have been strengthened to ensure effective partnership working and independent scrutiny of safeguarding services in Suffolk. Parents and children have been actively involved in the design of a range of leaflets providing relevant information about Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures. Feedback from parents who attend child protection case conferences indicate that 95% thought the social worker and chair of conference were clear about the purpose of the conference and 80% felt that the conference set out a protection plan that they understood and found helpful.

Training has been provided to over 9,000 staff during the year. The training ranges from basic awareness training to multi-agency training and specialist advanced level courses. Feedback from training events continues to be extremely positive with 95% of participants finding the training good or excellent.

The focus on domestic violence, together with increased violence associated with mental health and substance misuse problems, has meant an increase in the number of children subject to child protection plans from 27.2 per 10,000 in 2006-07 to 30.9 per 10,000 in 2007-08. Performance in relation to managing the processes of the child protection system remains excellent with all reviews being held within timescales and all cases having an allocated social worker. Action has been taken to address the increase in children subject to child protection plans with the introduction of the Children in Need planning system. We expect that this will have a positive impact on reducing the number of children subject to child protection plans and in time the number of children in care.

We have continued to focus on referrals and assessments and improvements have been maintained with re-referrals to Children's Social Care Services being reduced to 13.7%, well below our Local Area Agreement (LAA) stretch target of 17%. 63.7% of initial assessments were within 7 working days and 75.7% of core assessments have been completed within 35 working days, these figures represent very good improvements.

Suffolk has developed its Parenting Strategy in accordance with national requirements and has been invited to join a national parenting implementation project to develop best practice.

Two young people's participation workers have been appointed to strengthen the involvement of young people who use our services and to enable them to be fully engaged in influencing and shaping the development of services.

Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken to ensure that all Children's Social Care and Safeguarding policies and strategies fully reflect and take account of the needs of children from minority ethnic groups and those with additional needs.

## **Priorities for 2008-09**

The Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership Board has confirmed that the four priorities for 'Stay Safe' will remain the same for 2008-09:

- SS1 Safe environments are provided for children, young people and their families**
- SS2 Children and young people in care are safe, have stability and achieve their full potential**
- SS3 Children and young people are protected from crime, anti-social behaviour or bullying**
- SS4 Children and young people are safeguarded from neglect and harm**

## Areas of focus for 2008-09

### SS1

- ❖ Continue the focus on young people killed or seriously injured on Suffolk's roads. Reducing numbers of fatal and serious accidents involving young people is very important.
- ❖ The development of a preventative strategy to reduce the number of accidents taking place in the home has proved problematic. We will work with the Fire and Rescue Service and the Health Service to gather baseline data and set a measurable target.
- ❖ The role of parents and children in shaping the provision of play and leisure facilities is an area of development and with the success of the lottery bid (£1.3m for play facilities), this provides an opportunity to involve children, young people and parents in the shaping of services/resources. We have identified a new target of providing 14 new play areas in 2008-09.

### SS2

- ❖ Implement the actions in relation to children in care following the Policy Development Panel recommendations to the County Council's Cabinet.
- ❖ Involve and consult children in care with evidence of their role in influencing and shaping service development.
- ❖ Increase the proportion of children helped to live at home without the need for a statutory intervention.
- ❖ Target work through the Looked After Children Education Support Service (LACESS) to further reduce exclusions of children in care and improve attainment.
- ❖ Improve leaving care services and key outcomes in relation to achievement including employment, training and education through the implementation of the recently completed Leaving Care Review.
- ❖ Reduce the numbers of children and young people subject of child protection plans and care proceedings with a subsequent increase in the numbers of children and young people supported to live at home without the need for statutory interventions.
- ❖ Targeting of children placed at home on care orders.
- ❖ Continue to focus on the recruitment of a range of carers who can provide choice and stability for children in care as well as support through short breaks.
- ❖ Implement the 'Aiming High' investment.

### SS3

- ❖ Bullying occupies a high profile in the perceptions of both young people and local communities. The introduction of more sophisticated data capture tools linked to awareness raising in schools and communities will enable more focussed targets that are consistent.

- ❖ Include emerging areas of concern such as E-safety and also consider vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities and minority groups. We are particularly interested in the experiences of new and emerging communities as the profile of local populations is changing rapidly.
- ❖ Obtain the views of vulnerable groups and so better target those areas/groups of children and young people who are more likely to be subject of racist incidents, victims of crime or fear that they may be.
- ❖ Continue to focus activities through our well established partnerships to reduce young people being victims of crime and the fear of crime.

## **SS4**

- ❖ Continue to ensure young people are safeguarded from neglect and harm. This is a cornerstone of providing effective services to children and young people and our ability to do so impacts on how well our services perform.
- ❖ Measure the effectiveness of our family support and preventative services in diverting children away from the need for child protection plans. The impact of the Children in Need Planning Strategy will also be evaluated.
- ❖ The involvement and feedback from families and children on their experiences of using our services will be crucial in shaping and influencing how we provide support. Investments in the Children's Rights Service will increase our ability to engage and involve young people.
- ❖ Consider how we can better evidence the positive partnership working in contributing to better outcomes and the role of the voluntary sector in supporting the preventative agenda.



## Enjoy & Achieve

### What is it like for children and young people in Suffolk? Progress in 2007-08

Young children continue to make a good start to their education in Suffolk and perform well compared to nationally. 75% of Suffolk children achieved an average score of more than 6 across all personal, social and emotional development scales as compared to 71% nationally preparing them well for engagement. 42% of Suffolk children achieved an average score of more than 6 across all 13 scales in Personal, Social, and Emotional Development along with Communication, Language and Literacy, in line with national results. Girls performed better than boys in all areas, however, the gap between boys and girls has narrowed in 11 or 13 scales. The foundation stage profile shows 75% of children achieved 6+ in all these PSED scales, which is above the national average and further work is planned.

The foundation stage profile results indicate that the achievement gap between the lowest achieving 20% of the children and the rest is 37.3%, in line with the national position. The gap narrowed by 1.7% between 2006 and 2007. 65% of Suffolk children living in the 30% most disadvantaged super output areas scored more than 6 across all personal, social and emotional development (PSED), compared to 61% nationally.

There is in place a robust system for identifying settings of concern, which informs the deployment of support teachers. As a result, between April 2005 and March 2007, Ofsted undertook 772 childcare inspections in Suffolk. 3.1% were judged to be outstanding compared to 2.5% nationally and 0.8% judged inadequate compared to 2.3% nationally. During the same period 179 Nursery Education Inspections were carried out and 5% were judged outstanding, in line with the national position, with 1.1% judged inadequate compared to 1.6% nationally.

Children's Centres have been key in supporting parents to help their children enjoy and achieve. The target for 35 Children's Centres to be designated by March 2008 was achieved and in particular parents and children in the most disadvantaged areas are accessing a wide range of services in their locality. Through the advisory boards children and families are involved in the consultation process for children centre developments. All schools and settings are prepared for the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage for September 2008 giving children and families benefits from integrated early education and

care provision. Outreach services for Children's Centres target vulnerable groups, enabling them to be supported in accessing the range of services available. Health professionals are integrated into the work by linking with Family Support workers in the centres. Equipment and facilities in Children's Centres are allowing therapeutic services to be delivered much more locally. Models for seeking the views of older children in relation to how they would like their childcare provision structured have been constructed. The production of the Children's Centre DVD 'Every Family Matters' will enable more parents to access Children's Centres and benefit from the services they offer. The DVD is provided as part of the parents pack when they have their baby. The development of flexible/responsive models to support parents of vulnerable children is having an impact on outreach services for Children's Centres.

During the academic year 2006–07, the overall picture for children and young people in Suffolk schools was encouraging. We have seen an increase in the number of schools judged outstanding (10% of the 123 schools inspected) with a further 50% being judged good, which is better than the national average. 31% of schools were judged satisfactory, leaving 3% of schools judged inadequate, which was a fall from the previous figure of 6%. In particular the proportion of inadequate secondary schools has fallen from 19% to 7%, which is lower than the national percentage. No Primary, Upper or High School is in an Ofsted category of concern. Clearly there is a positive link between the number of outstanding or good schools and the impact this can have on those pupils attending the schools.

Based on provisional results, the pattern of performance in Suffolk schools for the year ending 2007 was broadly similar to previous years. At Key Stage 1 (age 7) the results were above the national average and compare well with similar local authorities, this is particularly true for more able children. There were some improvements at Key Stage 2 (age 11) but Suffolk remains below the national average. At Key Stage 3 (age 14) results were above the national average. At Key Stage 4 (age 16) the results were in line with similar authorities and at or just above the national average. The increasingly important measure of 5 GCSEs at A\*-C including English and Maths showed Suffolk slightly above the national figure (46.5% national; 47.1% Suffolk).

At Key Stages 1 and 2 there have been a significant number of support strategies to raise standards in schools including targeting the 70+ schools with the largest number of pupils below Level 4. This had an impact on 2007 results and should continue to influence progress as schools organise wave 2 and 3 intervention support more effectively. The work to link 80 schools in partnerships in order to develop and lead improvement is an example of developing longer-term sustainable efforts to improve standards further.

In the third and final year of the project to support schools in the three-tier system to raise attainment at Key Stage 2 there has been an increase of standards in all three core subjects, rising from the 2004 baseline (English from 74% to 77%; Mathematics from 68% to 74%; and Science from 85% to 88%). However there is still further improvement required and three-tier schools still lag behind two-tier primary schools. The School Organisation Review has taken account of this systemic issue with the Council deciding to move towards a two-tier structure as part of its medium- to long-term response to the issue.

At Key Stages 3 and 4 a range of improvement strategies continue to have an impact on progress. Support to subject leaders has been a key feature in developing school self-evaluation and improving Ofsted outcomes. Subject departments working across secondary schools partnerships has led to a significant impact in both partnership departments with improved GCSE results.

With regards to choice and diversity, at a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet in March, a policy was about the Council's response to proposals for Trust Schools and Academies. In relation to Trust Schools, the agreed policy is to encourage schools to consider Trust status

where it is agreed that this would be advantageous for the students and communities which they serve, specifically in the context of raised standards, increased opportunities for students and enhanced partnerships with local communities. In the context of Academies, where a school is underperforming and in an area of high deprivation, it was agreed that the Council in conjunction with the school's governing body, should give due consideration on a case-by-case basis to the possibility of an Academy being established, especially where alternative strategies to tackle underperformance have been exhausted without an appreciable change in measured outcomes for pupils.

School Improvement Partners (SIPs) have been embedded in the work of the secondary team in order to provide the appropriate level of challenge to schools. SIPs continue to focus on narrowing the gap for vulnerable groups of pupils as well as overall progress. Feedback from national strategy monitoring is good with outstanding features.

The monitoring work of the virtual schools continues to drive a focus on the progress of Looked After Children (LAC) and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) pupils. Clear tracking mechanisms have been developed to provide appropriate challenge to the Looked After Children Education Support Service (LACESS) and Minority Ethnic and Traveller Achievement Team (METAT). Continued targeting of additional resources for pupils with Special Education Needs (SEN) and disabilities has led to a reduction in the number of pupils identified by schools as requiring additional support (4 years downward trend).

The evidence from Fischer Family Trust 'value added' data and two levels of progress data indicate that most BME groups make expected progress. From Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 the value added scores of most BME groups are above that of white pupils. Pupils from Asian, Chinese and Mixed backgrounds are above the county average from two levels of progress, except Chinese pupils in Key Stage 2 English who are slightly below. Black pupils are below, with concern for Key Stage 2 maths. From Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, Asian, Black and Chinese groups were above county averages for two levels of progress in English. In maths, Asian and Chinese groups were well above the county average. Black maths scores were significantly below. From Key Stage 3 to 4 all main BME groups are above the county average for two levels of progress in maths and either above or just below in English.

In terms of value added, most ethnic minority groups perform in line with national expectations but there are some significant aspects where targeted improvement needs to focus even further - in particular for Black Caribbean children in mathematics.

For LAC, the Key Stage 4 cohort changed substantially between target setting in January 2006 and the end of September 2007. This final cohort included 43% with Statements of SEN. Three year Fischer Family Trust trends indicate that value added progress for LAC children at Key Stage 2 was in line with similar children nationally but below at 16.

In relation to children with statements of SEN, Key Stage 2 attainment has improved over a 3-year period in English and Mathematics. Good progress was made in reducing the population of pupils that did not achieve Level 3 or above in English and Maths. Performance was better than average for England. Value added progress from 7 to 11 was better than for similar pupils nationally (Fischer Family Trust). Outcomes at both A\*-C and A\*-G improved on 2005 figures but value added 11-16 was lower than expected.

The TellUs 2 survey suggests that, like most young people Suffolk young people enjoy school and try their best. Behaviour and bullying appear to be areas of concerns for a significant group. They also indicated they would like more support from their teachers and that more fun and interesting lessons would help them. Schools returns to the Annual Survey on local authority support indicated that support as a training adviser, support for monitoring & self-evaluation advice and guidance; for management issues as well as advice and guidance for

behaviour and attendance issues were better than national averages. Our school partners also rated highly the sharing of good practice.

Looked after children, their carers and parents appreciate the support that is offered to them to sustain appropriate education provision and to provide extra help prior to national tests.

Feedback from schools indicate that the Traveller Education Support Services (TESSs) are valued. Parents are positive regarding the support and advice that TESS gives to the inclusion of their children.

An important target in relation to improving access to informal learning, leisure and recreation services for children and young people was for 50% of schools to be able to signpost young people and their families to a wide range of leisure and education activities both during and after school hours, by September 2008. As at April 2008, this stands at 54% (186) of Suffolk Schools providing the full range of Extended Services. Through the adoption of the county play strategy children and young people can expect an entitlement to good quality play facilities across the county. The deployment of a £1.1m capital grant to refit or build new play spaces across the county will provide for an increased number of children and young people to be able to access good quality play space in their locality. Children and young people are involved in developing play provision to meet their needs through seven play partnerships being set up in each of the boroughs and districts.

The Suffolk Children's University (SCU) continues to develop to extend the range of study support and extra-curricular activities available to children and young people. Over 50 Suffolk Schools and 20 external organisations are now accredited SCU providers. Holiday activities in Woodbridge lead to a dramatic reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour which the local Police Commander believed was related to the range of activities provided by extended schools, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Youth Work. Improving access to cultural activities through such activities as the Art Extend project in four areas in partnership with the Arts Council and local museums has proved successful. Suffolk's third Playing for Success centre opened at Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre providing a range of learning opportunities for young people in the north of the county.

The Youth Service now has more than 50 open access Youth Clubs with a record number of young people attending. The work is monitored through recorded learning outcomes. The service has had particular success with some of the most disadvantaged young people. The Youth Service has also increased its range of accredited learning, meaning young people are constructively engaged in meaningful activities which result in both recorded learning outcomes and nationally accredited certification. The impact on self-esteem and self-confidence is evidenced through recordings undertaken by both the youth work staff and young people. This year's Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund has enabled young people to take direct responsibilities for the allocation of money in order to develop services identified by themselves.

The SHARE (parental involvement) programme funded by Extended Schools is now running in over 50 schools and 3 Children's Centres. Suffolk was awarded the national local authority SHARE award in 2007.

Education visits, including adventure activities undertaken by schools, continues to rise providing valuable learning/cultural/sporting opportunities for an increasing number of young people.

Vulnerable groups are being targeted to be involved in planning new provision and play spaces in order that they are inclusive. Looked after children continue to be offered free places on all extended school and summer holiday activities.

Consultation with secondary-aged young people indicated that many would use a 'safe place to be – chill out area' provision at the end of the day. This is being implemented in 13 schools and will be expanded still further.

The county Youth Opportunity Fund panel continues to provide valuable information in relational to what young people want and supports development planning and service direction.

The Local Public Service Agreement permanent exclusion target of 1.27 per 1,000 was improved upon by achieving a result of 0.84 per 1,000. The number of schools identified as priorities for behaviour by Ofsted reports has reduced. This means children and young people's learning experience is enforced by more effectively managed behaviour. Targeted work to tackle BME exclusions has been further developed and a school network created to share effective practice and strategies. The virtual schools for Looked after Children provide targeted support for the children and young people. Permanent exclusions for Suffolk schools have remained low for LAC for the second year running (1 in each year).

An overall improvement in attendance in Suffolk Schools was recorded, which has a direct impact on progress and attainment. The reduction in the hard to shift persistently absent group of young people for Suffolk Secondary schools was particularly welcome. The introduction of a penalty notice scheme to tackle unauthorised absence has provided another strategy to advocate for individual young people by supporting parents to obtain regular attendance, which is in the best interest of children and young people. The development of incentive schemes for good attendance is making a motivation impact for groups of children and young people.

During the last academic year attendance in Suffolk schools was generally good. Suffolk's performance is at the upper end of the national tables. In addition persistent absence fell. Suffolk ranking compared to both regional and statistical neighbours continues to compare very favourably. Persistent absence is well below the national and statistical neighbours' average for primary schools and at secondary level the 2010 Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) target of 5% has already been achieved.

Real improvement has occurred since September in tackling parentally condoned absence with Penalty Notice Warning proving effective. Since September 2007 more than 1,200 warning letters have been issued as an early intervention to energising absence issues. The fast-track to attendance approach continues to secure improved attendance for targeted children and their families. Tackling fixed term exclusions remains a priority due to its impact on attendance figures.

In the early part of the year exclusions remained low, however the changes in the rules with regard to provision for fixed term exclusion has led to an increase in permanent exclusions rather than longer fixed-term exclusions.

Vulnerable groups and in particular children with SEN remain the group at greatest risk. Drilling deeper into the data reveals that the sub-group at greatest risk are pupils with moderate/general learning difficulties (not emotional behavioural, social difficulties). This suggests a clear link between curriculum, learning and teaching as the critical factors in ensuring this group are not excluded. The development of the Suffolk Vision for Learning, supported by schools, stakeholders conference and young people's conference steers a clear direction for personalisation and inclusive learning processes. The task is to increase the variation in individual schools inclusive capacity and commitment.

Children and young people have given us clear messages of what is important including they are much more respectful of school staff who demonstrably show them respect, they are happier in schools when expectations are clear and the work is explained.

## **Priorities for 2008-09**

The Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership Board has confirmed that the four priorities for 'Enjoy and Achieve' will remain the same for 2008-09:

- EA1 Children and young people improve their standards of attainment, especially those who may be at risk of underachievement**
- EA2 Learning opportunities for young children are extended and are of high quality**
- EA3 Access to informal learning, leisure and cultural activities for children and young people are improved**
- EA4 The numbers of children and young people who do not attend, or are excluded from, school are reduced**

## **Areas of focus for 2008-09**

### **EA1**

- ❖ Improve attainment of all children and young people of statutory school age (raising the bar).
- ❖ Reduce gaps in performance for groups vulnerable to under achievement (narrowing the gap).
- ❖ Encourage schools to develop the curriculum so that it is broad, balanced and appropriate for all learners (personalisation).

### **EA2**

- ❖ Improve outcomes for children in the foundation stage in particular in Communication, Language and Literacy and Personal, Social and Emotional development.
- ❖ Increase the levels of qualifications of the early years workforce.
- ❖ Seek the views of the youngest children about the services they receive.

### **EA3**

- ❖ Extend the range of services in schools.
- ❖ Improve access to opportunities for learning outside the classroom.
- ❖ Improve Youth Service reach and accreditation.

- ❖ In partnership with young people develop a minimum of core youth hub in south, north and west Suffolk to provide signposting, information and support along with targeted positive activities.
- ❖ In partnership with the voluntary sector co-ordinate positive activities for young people, ensuring equal access for young people across the county, and extended provision over weekends and holidays.
- ❖ Develop targeted provision for vulnerable young people as part of the Integrated Youth Support Service.

#### **EA4**

- ❖ Reduce the level of fixed term exclusions.
- ❖ Reduce the number of SEN, LAC & BME pupils excluded from school.
- ❖ Reduce the number of Persistently Absent categorised Schools as well as the number of persistently absent pupils.



## Make a positive **CONTRIBUTION**

### **What is it like for children and young people in Suffolk? Progress in 2007-08**

It is clear from the reports on all Priority Action Plans for 'Make a Positive Contribution' that children and young people are being asked to share their views on an increasing number of issues and being actively involved in strategy development, service development, service review, the appointment of staff, volunteering opportunities, decisions about the use of resources and decisions about their community and about their school. Opportunities for involvement in local decision-making have been extended to an increased number of children and young people. Fora have been maintained and established in three district and borough councils and have been initiated in a further two.

Although the TellUs2 Survey indicates that two-thirds of Suffolk young people still identified that their views about decisions in their local area were not listened to, young people were involved in the development of local play opportunities and the development of a 'Safe Place To Be' in their High schools. Young people's views have been sought to inform major change programmes including the School Organisation Review and 'The Vision for Learning'. Most individual services have developed an involvement programme and the development of good practice is evident across the breadth of the Children's Trust Partnership. We are beginning to see the outcomes of involvement demonstrated in the appointment of not only County Council staff but also in the recruitment of staff in other organisations, including playworkers in district and borough council posts.

The outcomes of wide-scale involvement are now shared on 'the source' website so that young people can see the results of consultation. TellUs2 and the local participation day outcomes are posted, as is a summary of the Joint Area Review inspection report, and the outcomes of the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) bids.

Many consultations and involvement opportunities have been extended to include smaller numbers of targeted young people. Examples include: the 'Speaking Up' group which gives a voice to young people with additional needs; Looked After Children who contributed to the response to the national 'Care Matters' consultation and were also

supported to make successful YOF bids; and young people with additional needs who informed the planning and delivery of summer adventurous activities in Thetford Forest. Vulnerable young people have also been encouraged to participate in universal service development and delivery, on YOF/YCF panels, in the Thorpe Woodlands user group, in the Positive Changes group, as participants in the Transforming Learning Conference and the 14-19 Learning workshop.

However the results of TellUs2 clearly indicate that young people in Suffolk are not all participating to the same extent and that although we know their views we are not seen in all cases to respond to their views effectively. Young offenders have views, captured in the 'What Do You Think?' questionnaires, which differ significantly from those indicated in the TellUs2 survey. They have significantly more negative perceptions of the places where they live and the opportunities open to them.

Schools in Suffolk are clearly involving an increasing number of young people in decision-making as 43% of our Suffolk young people had voted in a school, class or year group election, the same as national average. 14% of Suffolk young people had been on a school council or parliament, the same as the national average, though fewer young people felt their views on the running of their school were listened to (49% against a national average of 52%). The involvement of children and young people has been invaluable in the development of extended services in schools and childcare provision.

Both the Joint Area Review (JAR) and the Enhanced Youth Inspection identified areas where more effective participation needs to be developed. In particular these were being consulted about the delivery of Health services and the active involvement in deciding what is offered to them in youth service provision. These areas are being addressed through other Priority Action Plans for 'Be Healthy' and 'Enjoy and Achieve'.

A partnership between the Police and the Inclusive School Improvement Service (ISIS) has delivered new lesson plans to support children and young people in schools to understand the implications of anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. Police Education Officers visited a high proportion of schools across the county. This has resulted in more young people building positive relationships with police officers.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) has further reduced the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system in Suffolk through its extended preventative programme. Preventative activities include access to mentoring which supported young people to access community and leisure based activities, martial arts, scouting, cycling and swimming. Most children and young people who meet the relevant criteria have access to the prevention service and there is improved co-ordination with partner agencies to prevent duplication of work and greater support offered to parents and carers. However the target for the numbers of children and young people the service works with has not been met.

A pilot project to support Looked After Children involving the YOS and police officers has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of children going missing from care and incidents of recorded crime by children in care. An innovative interactive drama-based group programme has been run in conjunction with the Red Rose Chain Theatre Company to provide an opportunity for young people to look at the consequences of offending behaviour in an interactive and participatory way.

Early indications suggest that more young carers are accessing support to have breaks from caring and that not only are schools recognising their caring roles but are signposting them to access further support. Young carers' profiles have been raised by

the appointment of an interim 'carers' champion' and more are using the 'carers grant' to access short breaks. Schools have been enthusiastic in supporting young carers but do not all have policies to sustain this work. Social networks for young carers are harder to sustain in less populated areas but nevertheless peer support is appreciated and on offer through 'Boost Groups'. Young carers are often vulnerable and value the extra support on offer to them.

Suffolk Leaving and Aftercare services have been subject to a comprehensive review. The proposed improvements to the service will be included in the process for tendering for new providers. The need to incentivise care leavers' participation in education and training has been recognised and addressed. More choices of accommodation will ensure young people are better matched to provision and minimise the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Young people tell us that they welcome the opportunity to remain in care as long as they can to maximise education opportunities and benefit from stability in their accommodation.

All children and young people with additional needs have completed transition plans. Effective liaison with adult services now can support smooth transition to adulthood. We have achieved pathfinder status for the 'Aiming High' Programme, which will provide additional funds to increase short break provision and ensure the engagement of children and young people with additional needs in service design and delivery.

The social and emotional development of children and young people has been enhanced by the extension of the number of schools using the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) materials. The materials are in use in the majority of primary schools and have been introduced to a smaller group of secondary pupils. Schools have been meeting in local groups to share good practice in working with SEAL resources and they have had an opportunity to explore other resources that have had a positive impact on the social, emotional aspects of children's learning. Focused mentoring is now available for young offenders to address their E2E (Entry to Employment) needs.

More schools are using materials developed to support work in promoting community cohesion including, including 'Travellers Homes', the Slavery Abolition Project and Holocaust Memorial Day. The benefits are identified for individual pupils and their families as well as schools.

Positive outcomes of the research that the Youth Offending Service has undertaken show that offenders from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups are no longer more likely to have a secure remand or custodial sentences than white offenders, although they are still marginally over-represented in the Youth Justice System in Suffolk and analysis of young offenders in unsatisfactory accommodation showed that they are disproportionately represented.

Community cohesion is a significant responsibility for all schools and a working group has been established to support governors in their duty to promote community cohesion.

Many young people are being encouraged to participate and make a positive contribution. They outlined some of the ways they have positively contributed in their responses to TellUs2 and in their volunteering.

## Priorities for 2008-09

The Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership Board has confirmed that the four priorities for 'Make a Positive Contribution' will remain the same for 2008-09:

- MPC1** Children and young people are actively engaged with their communities and with the services provided for them, and are involved in decision-making in matters that affect them
- MPC2** Children and young people are recognised for their responsible behaviour, and supported and appropriately challenged to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour
- MPC3** Children and young people are enabled to deal positively with significant changes and challenges in their lives
- MPC4** Strong and positive relationships are developed between children and young people from different backgrounds and within their communities

## Areas of focus for 2008-09

### MPC1

- ❖ Develop and sustain a consultation and involvement database and ensure outcomes from these activities inform service planning.
- ❖ Implement the 'Hear By Rights' standards across the Children's Trust Partnership.
- ❖ Continue with the development of young people's decision-making fora.
- ❖ Review the implementation of Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Fund to ensure involvement of vulnerable young people in decision-making.

### MPC2

- ❖ Deliver the Police Education Programme (PEP) Development Plan for 2008-09.
- ❖ Further develop Safer School Partnerships (also links to CYPP Priority SS3).
- ❖ Ensure the development of Targeted Youth Support (Integrated) Services capitalises on the success of the Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) model and approach, particularly increasing the level of support provided once the YISP work is completed.
- ❖ YISPs: Secure long term funding for the prevention programme.
- ❖ YISP: Expand group work programme to target key areas in the county associated with anti-social behaviour.
- ❖ YISP: Increase capacity required in western area of the county through partnership funding bids.

- ❖ Roll out risk-based pilot county-wide ready for national implementation.
- ❖ Plan for the introduction of the new legislative framework, i.e. youth rehabilitation order.
- ❖ Embed intervention methods (Victims/Restorative Justice work, Mentoring and AELP (Advice & Education Learning Practitioner) support, Parenting Support) in most young offenders' action plans.

### **MPC3**

- ❖ Extend the capacity of Young Carers service to provide an equitable county-wide service.
- ❖ Work with partners to support young carers supporting familiar substance misuse
- ❖ Support friendship groups where social clubs are not viable.
- ❖ Support more schools to produce policies to support young carers.
- ❖ Improve the choice and availability of accommodation for care leavers.
- ❖ Implement Person-Centred Approaches to Transition Planning.
- ❖ Roll-out the 'team around the child' model of service delivery.
- ❖ Extend advocacy to further develop opportunities for children and young people to contribute to service design and delivery.
- ❖ Increase the numbers of care leavers in employment, education and training.
- ❖ Increase the numbers of care leavers at age 19 who are living in suitable accommodation.
- ❖ Ensure all care leavers to have a suitable pathway plan

### **MPC4**

- ❖ Continue the volunteer mentoring scheme for a further 12 months.
- ❖ Ensure the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) approach is in place in all primary and an increased number of secondary schools.
- ❖ Promote an understanding of history, culture and achievement of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities through GRT History month, Travellers Homes and trail of Gypsy/Roma Holocaust materials.
- ❖ Develop support and advice to schools with regard to the duty to promote community cohesion including the additional unit for the citizenship curriculum.



# Achieve economic well-being

## What is it like for children and young people in Suffolk? Progress in 2007-08

The work of local services across the Children's Trust Partnership in helping children and young people achieve economic well-being continues to be good. This very broad outcome encompasses priorities relating to successful participation in education or work-based training at age sixteen and beyond, ensuring children and young people live in decent homes, as well as improving access to childcare. All three priority areas demand strong partnership approaches to secure success and this continues to be one of the strengths of Suffolk.

The learning outcomes for 14-19 year olds in Suffolk show improvement in some areas, including young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), post-16 participation in structured learning, Apprenticeship success rates (the highest in the Eastern Region) and continuing success rates in the Further Education sector. However, at Key Stage 4 our performance is no longer above the national average but in line with it. Achievement at Advanced Level is below the national average both in terms of attainment and progress made by students. Performance at points per candidate does show steady improvement over the last 3 years but remains below national levels.

We will only make the Step Change needed to improve performance at 16 and 19 as envisaged in the 14-19 Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy if we make fundamental changes in delivery structures and content. The Suffolk 14-19 Strategy Phase 2 is now being consulted on and will provide the vision and drive to deliver the full 14-19 curriculum. The principle of Area Planning will support planning and delivery for the specialist diplomas, joint and common timetables as well as joint delivery. So far we have met the milestones to deliver this step change and all partners are committed to making the proposed arrangements work. The more rigorous Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) Progress Check on 14-19 Partnerships rates Suffolk as 'Amber/Green' and our own Progress Check for our 12 Locality Partnerships supports this.

Young people aged 11-19 are helped to prepare for working life through sound careers, education and independent advice and guidance. Most schools have now achieved the

Suffolk CEIGS (Careers, Education, Information and Guidance Standards) on Information, Advice and Guidance. The '17 Safety Net' project developed with Further Education Colleges and Youth and Connexions with Learning & Skills Council match funding will develop more coherent and timely guidance and learning programmes for 16 and 17 year olds dropping out of courses (an area to target in Suffolk). A local review of the NEET group in 2007 evidenced the commitment of many Personal Advisers to securing good outcomes for individual students and many students appreciated this. The continuing reduction in NEET by about 1% puts the target at 6.65% in 2008 and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) target of less than 5.9% in 2010 more within reach. Suffolk was one of the 10 top national performers in relation to the September Guarantee.

The School Survey and the TellUs2 Survey indicate that schools and young people feel we can do even better by way of Information Advice and Guidance. The Young People's Conference in October 2008 will launch the Voice of Young People as a key driver to shaping 14-19 developments. We also anticipate seeing the full impact of the Participation Champion appointed this year.

Considerable curriculum development is underway across Suffolk to increase breadth and choice for young people, particularly at Key Stage 4, e.g. through the Greater Opportunities for All Learners (GOALS) project, but also through the Stage 2 Gateway Diploma process. The Apprenticeship programme is also being extended. Apprenticeship success rates for 16-18 year olds in Suffolk are the highest in the Eastern Region at just over 62% and increased last year. However participation in Apprenticeships remains very low. The newly opened North Suffolk Skills Centre has expanded the quality and range of vocational offer at Level 1 & Level 2 to young people in North Suffolk. Planned provision in Ipswich (SWISS Centre) and Lowestoft will dramatically increase the range of post-16 provision and enhance participation and retention.

Planning for vulnerable groups now sits squarely within the overall 14-19 planning framework. The Participation Champion (now established) and the SEN Champion (just appointed) have specified responsibility for improving provision and support for vulnerable young people with strategies and support teams in place. Curriculum developments, e.g. Foundation Learning Tier and Round 2 GOALS, have improved participation.

The proportion of young people with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (LDD) in education or training at 16 has increased by 5.8%, despite a large cohort. Baseline databases have been developed through the Transition Teams and regional level needs analysis research on LDD, has been completed by the Learning & Skills Council with more in-depth Suffolk specific research to follow.

Transition planning is managed through the well-developed 'No Limits' Multi-Agency Transition Service, with enhanced links to Adult & Community Services. Person-centred approaches underpin work across agencies. Completion of Transition Plans remains high. There are specialist Connexions Advisers who support young people with the most complex needs. Financial support and signposting is good with direct payments promoted for 16/17 year olds. Carers' Grants are targeted to increase the range and choice of family support services. These will be further extended through the Aiming Higher Project. Welfare Rights is available to support benefit take-up.

Progress on promoting the links with employers to secure work-based opportunities for young people with LDD is limited as yet, but the Learning for Work Forum and the

Suffolk Employer Engagement Conference and the SEN/WRL event planned for late spring 2008, will raise the profile.

Young people who are looked after are helped to achieve economic well-being. In 2006-07 the Key Stage 4 cohort changed significantly in year and the percentage with SEN Statements increased from 31.3% to 42.9%. There was a drop in the level of 5 or more GCSE 5 and the 2007 target of 21% was not met. However, a very high percentage of young people had pathway plans (significantly higher than nationally and compared with our statistical neighbours). All young people had a personal adviser – again we outperform statistical neighbours and the national average. These areas show improvement from last year.

The most challenging aspect of work for the Achieve Economic Well-being Outcome is to ensure children and young people live in decent homes free from poverty. The re-formed Young Persons Housing Task Group, under new leadership, has established a regular pattern of meetings and a practical focus. An awareness-raising workshop was held for lead councillors across the District and Borough Councils, which attendees found helpful. A county-wide system for collecting data has now been agreed for implementation. Funding of £150,000 has been secured to expand 'Nightstop' Schemes in St Edmundsbury and Waveney and to pilot supported lodging schemes. Mid Suffolk District Council are in active discussion with the YMCA to introduce a similar scheme. This should prevent more young people from becoming homeless. A county-wide floating support scheme has been implemented to support the most vulnerable young people. There is a reduction in the numbers of families in Bed and Breakfast and temporary accommodation and all Social Housing providers are on track to deliver the decent homes standard by 2010.

There is a wide range of childcare provision across the county and plans for further development. The number of settings in Suffolk continues to rise (0.4% in 2007), bucking the national trend. The number of settings with places to support the take up/return to work rose by 2.3% to 20,119 (a little below our target) helping lift families and children out of poverty. The number of school-aged places increased significantly over the national figure (21.7% compared to 8.4%), addressing a major parent-reported barrier to returning to work. The Sufficiency Survey completed by the Day Care Trust using focus groups, has canvassed the views of under-represented groups to ensure development work targets key areas of need and provision wanted. Transport remains the major barrier to accessing childcare for rural families.

The quality of childcare provision overall continues to be good with over 21% more settings being rated good or outstanding than the national average. All 35 Children's Centres were designated by 31 March 2008 and the quality of services provided by Children's Centres has been highly commended.

The Childcare Information Service continues to offer an effective service and has improved the information for parents with children with additional needs. More registered settings can now support children with special needs through work with 'Out and About'. The service also now offers an over the phone Working Tax Credit (WTC) calculator to support WTC take-up amongst low paid families (take-up of WTC in Suffolk at 11% is below the national average of 16%).

Children and young people continue to be consulted through enhanced use of the 'Pod' and influence provision developed – e.g. more craft activities and less computer games.

## Priorities for 2008-09

The Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership Board has confirmed that the three priorities for 'Achieve Economic Well-being' will remain the same for 2008-09:

- AEW1** Participation in post-16 learning is increased and attainment improved
- AEW2** Children and young people live in decent homes, free from the effects of poverty
- AEW3** Provision of high quality childcare to meet the needs of parents in work Or seeking work is increased

## Areas of focus for 2008-09

### AEW1

- ❖ Continue to develop the Planning Framework for 14-19, building on the strength of local partnerships across the sectors to develop area consortia for the delivery of the new diplomas and extend the breadth and choice of accredited subjects for all young people, and thus further reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training.
- ❖ Target those at risk of dropping out of education either at 16 or 17 through the September Guarantee work (targeting those at risk pre Year 10) and through establishing the 17 Safety Net project.
- ❖ Specific work to improve the outcomes for those Leaving Care will include the refocusing of the Moving On project towards younger people and further strengthening the work between the Leaving Care Teams and Connexions. This will involve closer monitoring and early identification of Care Leavers at Risk.
- ❖ Improve Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) and develop links with employers for all young people but particularly those with LDD.
- ❖ Look to accelerate the rate of improvement in attainment at Advanced level and GCSE.
- ❖ Continue to explore ways of breaking down the access barriers in rural areas.

### AEW2

- ❖ Focus on preventing young people becoming homeless through establishing a schools programme for Year 9 and 10 pupils on housing issues, implementing a county-wide mediation scheme and through seeking to roll-out further delivery of NightStop projects.

### AEW3

- ❖ Increase the quantity and quality of our childcare provision, giving particular attention to the needs of childminders and ensuring that our primary schools continue to make progress in delivering the Extended Schools' Core Offer.



# Making it Happen: Suffolk's Change for Children Programme

## Overview

Suffolk starts from a strong base in outcomes for children and young people, as confirmed by the Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection in June 2007, and has made further improvements over the last year across all five Every Child Matters Outcomes. We have maintained our high ambitions, with a transformational programme for learning and children's services based on strong political and partnership commitment to taking bold steps and ensuring the capacity and investment is provided to support this radical agenda.

Outcomes for children and young people in the county remain good and improving across all areas. We have addressed issues raised in the JAR and the Annual Performance Assessment (APA), and our outcomes compare well against national indicators, our statistical neighbours and within the region. The maintenance of standards at this level at a time of major challenge and change, and the unwavering commitment to delivering our ambition for school organisation review and preventative services, demonstrates both the strength of political commitment, management and partnership arrangements and a solid capacity to improve.

Suffolk Strategic Partnership conducted an extensive consultation and needs assessment to develop the recently launched Sustainable Community Strategy, which fully supports the work of the Children's Trust partnership with a major focus on learning and skills, safety, health and inclusion. The Children's Trust played an active role in the development of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA2), has reviewed the Children and Young People's Plan and has clear priorities for improved outcomes over the coming year.

There is an agreed commissioning framework with a developing approach to service review, performance monitoring and management and pooled or aligned funding. This will be applied equitably to all internal and externally provided services to maximise the efficient and effective use of resources, and ensure fair and equitable activity within the marketplace. It also means we can be responsive with investment to support demographic changes and new challenges such as the high levels of inward migration and new arrivals. For example, a major review of the Local Management of Schools (LMS) funding formula has resulted in an additional focus on deprivation, special needs

and English as an additional language. There has also been additional investment in youth services.

The relationship with, and commitment from, all partners involved in the Children's Trust and Safeguarding Board has been unwavering. The 18 Community Clusters, based on school catchment areas and used as the building block for multi-agency service delivery, have been strengthened through investment, coordination and the roll out of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). The Children's Trust Partnership Board has commissioned a major review of the Children and Young People's Plan for 2009-11.

The County Council's 'Securing the Future' programme, running throughout 2007/08, has been an organisational response to increasing financial pressures, demand and demography. This will ensure children's services are sustainable and continue to deliver high quality and excellent value for money. The Council's central strategic functions will add capacity to performance, planning and procurement. The focus on commissioning and delivery complements the direction of travel for the Children's Trust, and the World Class Commissioning programme of the Primary Care Trusts.

The Children's Trust is increasingly focused on narrowing the gap in outcomes for the most vulnerable children, and this will guide our preventive strategy. There is a strong and effective participation from children, young people, parents and carers in decision-making which informs service design and delivery, along with the review of our future plans.

## **Service Management**

Ambitions for children and young people in Suffolk remain high ["excellent" – JAR report December 2007] and have been strengthened further in the new Suffolk Community Strategy, with the Children's Trust's priorities clearly recognised in the long term objectives agreed by all partners. There is a particular focus on improving learning and skills for the whole population, as well as ensuring Suffolk is safe, healthy and inclusive. The Children's Trust took a leading role in the development of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA2), which is aligned closely to the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan. There is strong political leadership and corporate support, including ambitious programmes of investment to deliver the transformational agenda for learning and children's well-being.

This Annual Review of the CYPP details the progress made over the last year, and the steps required in the current year to continue our explicit focus on improving outcomes in the Children's Trust's key priority areas which include child obesity, improving mental health provision, preventive measures to stop children and young people coming into care, greater post-16 attainment and progression.

The Children's Trust Partnership is very committed to the 'Narrowing the Gap' agenda, and is developing an intelligence-based focus on inequalities, and a community based approach to needs assessment, to drive the development of its second Children and Young People's Plan for 2009-11. The locality structure for the integrated children's service, based around community clusters, the neighbourhood empowerment agenda and the local focus of the Comprehensive Area Assessment will all assist with this.

Taken overall, performance improvement has been sustained across all service areas and where there has been decline, such as an increase in the number of Looked After Children, this has predominantly been an anticipated short-term consequence of planned work, in this case to improve the response to domestic violence incidents where children are present. Measures taken have improved outcomes for children in these situations.

Key successes over the last year have been the opening of 35 Children's Centres with 13 more planned over the next two years, the primary mental health service delivered through schools and community clusters, the county-wide roll out and increased use of the Common Assessment Framework panels to identify and respond to needs earlier through effective multi-agency action, increased school attainment alongside a long-term strategy for transformation of the whole learning system across Suffolk.

A 'Vision for Learning' has been developed in consultation with schools, children and parents to guide the ambitious 'Transforming Learning with Communities' agenda, which includes the School Organisation Review, a review of special schools, primary capital programme and Building Schools for the Future (BSF). The strategy for change for our entry into BSF is currently being developed. The School Organisation Review is being managed well, with decisions now confirmed for schools in Haverhill, a competition for a new secondary school and new post-16 provision in Lowestoft, and options for phase 2 schools is being developed for consultation during the autumn. Planning is well underway for the new sixth form centre for South West Ipswich and South Suffolk, and the North Suffolk Skills Centre, in Halesworth, is leading the way in improving 14-19 and post-19 skills opportunities.

The strategy for commissioning all children's services, including education, is well developed, with a clear focus on ensuring equity, access, diversity and high quality. The Children's Trust has a commissioning board, which is looking to develop further pooling, joint funding and flexible use of the Area based grant, using agreed commissioning intentions. Voluntary sector, social enterprise and independent providers are consulted on commissioning intentions and involved in performance review. However, there is a growing clarity of focus between commissioning and delivery assisted through the PCT's 'World Class Commissioning' programme and the County Council's 'Securing the Future' programme. The County Council's approach to combining central strategic functions is bringing additional capacity to performance and planning, research and intelligence, commissioning and procurement.

There is a Children's Trust framework for service review and redesign which includes input from children, young people and families. Examples include the review of Children's Fund projects and Leaving Care service.

All direct services provided by the County Council are now managed through the three Area Directors and a service director lead. Delivery is strongly linked to the community health services, maternity, borough and districts, police and the voluntary sector. In-house delivery will increasingly bid for work alongside other providers, with an open view on which is best placed to provide. There has been significant investment in capacity building and quality development for the voluntary sector in Suffolk. Community Clusters and schools are being supported to develop local commissioning arrangements, an example being the deployment of the new Parent Support Advisers, and the development of Children's Centres.

We have a fundamental review of access and referral systems to ensure we have joined up processes, building on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), e-CAF, Integrated Care System and ContactPoint.

Collaboration between partners remains very effective. A whole children's workforce strategy is being developed and consultation events with key partners and stakeholders took place throughout May and June 2008. A common induction programme, based on the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) standards was introduced in January for staff from across the children's workforce, including schools and the third sector. Following a procurement process a contract has been awarded to the Hay Group to help design, develop and deliver an integrated leadership development programme.

Children's Centres are a focus for integrated service delivery and are already showing positive impact for children and families. These are complemented by our extended schools developments which have won national acclaim. This includes, for example, the SHARE award for 2007 for our promoting family learning programme, which provides a unified approach to delivering services, with a focus on narrowing the gap.

The Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) is bringing together all adolescent services, including the youth service, Connexions, Adolescent Outreach and Leaving Care services. This has promoted a fresh approach to the commissioning of IYSS services and the County Council has made additional investment of £350k into the service. Examples of good practice include the Family Assessment and Support Team (FAST), which works intensively with young adolescents on the edge of care and an integrated youth support service targeted at prevention, being piloted in Felixstowe. This was developed with active involvement from the district council and housing associations, and has secured Youth Offending Service funds to pilot best practice models for targeted support.

The Annual Performance Assessment (APA) 2007 recognised the contribution that children and young people make in policy development, service design and evaluation, and the impact is evidenced and reflected in service level agreements and recruitment practices. Examples of participation by young people are provided throughout this Annual Review document.

A new Suffolk Strategy for Parenting Support has been approved by the Children's Trust and will be formally launched on 1 July 2008. Consultation with parents is seen as an essential part of delivering the extended school core offer. For example, extensive consultation with parents and pupils was used by Holywells High School to establish a Safe Place To Be, offering after school facilities for secondary aged pupils at the end of the school day and during holiday periods.

Parents are also increasingly becoming involved in the planning, development and running of the Children's Centres through the advisory boards. Young Parents at the Wellington Family Centre in Ipswich have now taken on responsibility for managing their own baby and toddlers group 'Sunflowers'.

## **Use of resources**

The County Council's Children's and Young People's Services (CYP) continues to offer high value for money with quality service provision and low unit costs. The use of resources for CYP reflects the context of the overall County Council's position, which was rated 4\* in the 2007 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), an improvement on the 3\* rating the previous year. Over 300 members of CYP staff will have been trained by July 2008 in the use of new state of the art financial and procurement systems. This programme has been part of the development of a 'budget management culture' across the county council. The Service's value for money strategy has three key components:

- ❖ Achieving year-on-year cashable efficiency savings to fund the pressures associated with inflation, demand and demography, and new legislative requirements. In 2007-08 almost £4 million of cashable savings were delivered for reinvestment in the CYP service, and similar sums are targeted for 2008/09.
- ❖ Seeking to deliver better outcomes from existing or new resources, for example through the School Organisation Review which once completed will see £4.4million annual funding re-invested into schools across the county. Under the guidance of the Schools Forum, the Local Management of Schools (LMS) funding formula has been substantially reviewed to target significant resources towards

deprivation and special educational needs and 2008-09 is the first year of school budgets based on the revised funding formula.

- ❖ Working to improve joint working and sharing of resource across the Children's Trust. This work has started through the Children's Trust Finance Group and it is likely to have developed robust proposals for pooling and sharing of resources under the flexibilities allowed by the Local Area Agreement (LAA) in time for the 2009/10 budget round.

## **Performance Management**

The JAR Report noted that performance management is well embedded and supported by an excellent performance handbook produced by the County Council, which also includes performance information from a wide variety of partner organisations.

We have continued to strengthen our performance management systems through the formal creation of a Performance Network in August 2007. This has brought data and information officers together on a monthly basis from across Children & Young People's Services and its workplan has been informed by emerging needs. Examples include the development of a unified performance calendar, a single source for performance reports, and the development of sub-county analysis, including community cluster profiling.

This has significantly improved the quality and range of data and information provided for managers, which in turn informs service improvement activity. It is supplemented by a number of supporting arrangements, for example the CYP Performance and Quality Assurance Group which focuses specifically on social care performance/ data quality issues, and the County School Effectiveness Group. Together, these groups ensure that performance and management reports are accurate and robust enough to support the proactive management of performance in key service areas.

The Children & Young People's Plan is also subjected to regular scrutiny by the Children's Trust, through monitoring reports on the delivery of the associated 19 Priority Action Plans, and performance reports on the key success criteria. The newly formed Performance Improvement Sub Group will focus Board support on areas of slower progress or underachievement. The County Council's Scrutiny committee is very active in reviewing performance in children's services, and performance in school attainment and children's social care is reported annually to cabinet. The Safeguarding Board also receives regular overview reports on performance.

## **Areas for Development 2008-9**

- ❖ Embedding the joint commissioning framework for the Children's Trust Partnership with a funding and performance focus to inform decision-making and resource allocation.
- ❖ Continued commitment to cross-agency working at local level through the Community Clusters and Local Strategic Partnerships e.g. Children's Centres, out of school activities, integrated youth support.
- ❖ Maintain a focus on the involvement of, and improvements for, children and young people.
- ❖ Value of prevention strategy, narrowing the gap in outcomes, Transformation of Learning with Communities programmes.

- ❖ Improve support for, and involvement of, parents and carers through the implementation of the Parenting Strategy.
- ❖ Development and implementation of the joint Workforce Development Strategy and action planning across the whole Children's Trust Partnership.
- ❖ Managing transition and change, e.g. the integration of post-16 education responsibilities from the Learning & Skills Council, local government review for Suffolk, and world class commissioning within the health service.



## Our priorities for 2008-09

### **Be Healthy**

BH1: Children and young people and their families and carers are supported and encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyles

BH2: Young people are well-informed about sexual health and supported in making informed choices

BH3: The emotional well-being of all children and young people is developed, and their mental health needs appropriately addressed

BH4: Children and young people can access information, advice and support for issues concerning substance misuse

### **Stay Safe**

SS1: Safe environments are provided for children, young people and their families

SS2: Children and young people in care are safe, have stability and achieve their full potential

SS3: Children and young people are protected from crime, anti-social behaviour or bullying

SS4: Children and young people are safeguarded from neglect and harm

### **Enjoy & Achieve**

EA1: Children and young people improve their standards of attainment, especially those who may be at risk of underachievement

EA2: Learning opportunities for young children are extended and are of high quality

EA3: Access to informal learning, leisure and cultural activities for children and young people are improved

EA4: The numbers of children and young people who do not attend, or are excluded from, school are reduced

### **Make a Positive Contribution**

MPC1: Children and young people are actively engaged with their communities and with the services provided for them, and are involved in decision-making in matters that affect them

MPC2: Children and young people are recognised for their responsible behaviour, and supported and appropriately challenged to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour

MPC3: Children and young people are enabled to deal positively with significant changes and challenges in their lives

MPC4: Strong and positive relationships are developed between children and young people from different backgrounds and within their communities

### **Achieve Economic Well-being**

AEW1: Participation in post-16 learning is increased and attainment improved

AEW2: Children and young people live in decent homes, free from the effects of poverty

AEW3: Provision of high quality childcare to meet the needs of parents in work or seeking work is increased.



# Risk register

## Owned at Outcome Level

1.	Failure by contributing organisations to provide sufficient leadership and management capacity leads to lack of focus, ineffective use of resources and poorer outcomes	Risk
2.	Failure to secure sustainable resources necessary to implement the action plans leads to weakened service delivery and reduced outcomes	Risk
3.	Failure to maintain and further develop effective systems for data collection and monitoring result in non-achievement of outcomes	Risk
4.	Failure to review external conditions (including demographic, policy and cultural changes) prevents appropriate and timely remedial action, leading to poorer outcomes	Risk
5.	Concerted and coordinated action across the partnership leads to more effective targeting of actions, higher quality services for children and families and improved outcomes	Opportunity

## Owned at Partnership Board Level

1.	Failure to maintain a good match between the community's needs and the priorities set by the Children's Trust leads to unmet needs, wasted resources and poorer outcomes	Risk
2.	Failure to maintain focus on service delivery, standards and impact on partner activity during major organisational change leads to reduced performance and outcomes	Risk
3.	Capacity across the partnership is insufficient to manage the major organisational change, leading to systemic failure, poor performance and reputational loss	Risk
4.	Failure to deliver Suffolk's children's services integration programme leads to duplication of effort, uncoordinated services and poorer outcomes	Risk
5.	Strengthened inter-agency planning, commissioning and delivery of services leads to improved outcomes for children and families	Opportunity



# Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership

## Children's Trust Partnership Board

Name	Representing
Allison Coleman SGA Board Chair	Suffolk Governors Forum
Amanda Cousins Director of Provider Services	Great Yarmouth & Waveney PCT
Caroline Tuohy Director for Commissioning and Development	Suffolk PCT
Bernadine King Consultant	Suffolk Probation Service
Dawn Henry Chair	Young Suffolk (Voluntary Sector)
Doreen Savage Borough Councillor	Suffolk Local Government Association (Suffolk Coastal District Council)
Judy Terry District Councillor	Suffolk Local Government Association (Ipswich Borough Council)
Rebecca Hopfensberger County Councillor	Suffolk County Council
Lorraine Cartwright Development Manager	Ormiston Children & Families Trust (Voluntary Sector)
Patricia O'Brien County Councillor	Suffolk County Council (Chair of Trust Board)
Peter Worobec Independent Chair	Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board
Sue Thomas Board Member	Suffolk Police Authority
Johanna Finn Board Member	Learning and Skills Council

## Children's Trust Executive Group

Name	Representing
Amanda Cousins Director of Provider Services	Great Yarmouth & Waveney PCT
Bud Simpkin Chief Executive Officer	Young Suffolk (Voluntary sector)
Carole Herries Head of Environmental Health and Housing	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Chris Fry Portfolio Director	Mid Suffolk District Council
Debbie Maynard Head of Children and Young People's Development	Suffolk PCT/Suffolk County Council
Glen Garrod Chief Executive	Waveney District Council
Hilary Collyer Head of Service	Youth Offending Service
Jacqueline Cheer Deputy Chief Constable	Suffolk Constabulary
John Budd Chief Probation Officer	Suffolk Probation Service
Judith Mobbs Area Director	Learning & Skills Council
Odran Doran Headteacher Heathside School	Headteacher Representative
Peter Bradley Director of Public Health & Health Improvement	East of England Strategic Health Authority
Rosalind Turner Director for Children & Young People	Suffolk County Council
Simon Phelan Head of Community Development	Forest Heath District Council
Tim Mutum Head of Leisure & Community Services	Babergh District Council
Tony Osmanski Strategic Director	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Tracey Lee Corporate Director	Ipswich Borough Council

## Structure of the Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership

