

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2010



June 2010

Kingston
Children & Young People's Trust
Making a Difference Together

Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-10

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REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2009-10

Introduction

Following the 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment and Ofsted Children's Services Rating of 'performs excellently' the council and its partners in the Children and Young People's Trust have continued to improve outcomes and service provision for children, young people and their families.

The priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan are key priorities in the Council's policy programme to enhance the life of the community and promote community cohesion. They are central to our efforts to improve outcomes for all children and young people, to tackle inequalities and achievement gaps and to support vulnerable young people, children and their families.

The 2009 Children's Services judgement reflects high performance, with outstanding corporate, social care and educational provision, good health provision and strong partnership with the Police to improve community cohesion and reduce youth offending. Outcomes for children and young people overall are mostly outstanding and there is no complacency about improving the life chances of all children and young people especially those that are vulnerable and who under-achieve. Kingston is a place of contrasting advantage and disadvantage, and some groups are more vulnerable and marginalised as a result. The Children's Trust actively works towards ensuring all services are delivered in a fair and equitable way to the whole community.

Corporate strategic direction and partnerships are strengths, and there is very good engagement by all agencies including the voluntary sector. The Children and Young People's Trust Board provides strong governance and very good strategic direction and, increasingly, effective commissioning of integrated services. There continues to be much goodwill and commitment among all the partners, including from schools. We continue to make good progress towards more targeted effort, more effective early intervention and prevention and closer integration of services. The Prevention Strategy – Closing the Gap, provides a clear focus on tackling attainment gaps. There is good progress in achieving the goals and targets in the Children and Young People's Plan. There have been improvements in 80% of the performance indicators and 68% of the National Indicator challenging targets we set have been met or exceeded. There are very few areas of unsatisfactory performance. The Action Plan for 2009-2010 has been reviewed with full engagement of partners and stakeholders.

The Children's Trust has many excellent services and is highly ambitious for the local community. It is responsive and listens well to the views and needs of parents, carers, children and young people. In the past year there has been good progress in improving children and young people's ability to make a positive contribution, including a strong input to the review of the children's and young people's participation strategy.

Our own self assessment highlights the following progress and achievements:

Outcomes for 'Being Healthy' are good and healthy lifestyles are promoted well. There has been excellent progress made in engagement in the National Healthy Schools Programme with 96% schools achieving the initial healthy school programme which exceeds our target by 2% points. Progress overall is good in implementing the strategy to reverse the rising levels in obesity. Kingston has a lower prevalence of obesity in Reception Year children at 7.6% in comparison to the SHA (11.2%) and England (9.6%) which is significant in that for the past year the rise in obesity for this group has been halted. The prevalence of obesity in Kingston's Year 6 pupils is the same as last year at 16.4% compared to the SHA (21.3%) and England (18.3%). The annual survey from the School Food Trust gives estimates of take up of school lunches in primary schools at 26%

and for secondary schools 32.9% which represents a significant improvement on last year's figures. We are actively working with our contractors to improve uptake further.

We have made good progress in increasing the percentage of children and young people participating in 2 hours of high quality PE and sport in school it is anticipated our target of 94%, a 2% point improvement on last year, will be met when results are released in September 2010. Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas in Kingston is the highest in the country with the Tellus4 survey results showed the most positive responses in England. There has been a reduction in the percentage of pupils being driven to school from 21% last year to 19% this year which exceeds our target. This is despite a significant increase in the school population, particularly at Key Stage 1.

Children and young people's emotional health is well supported. Results from the Tellus4 survey show positive results compared with the rest of the country in terms of 19.3% reporting they had experienced bullying against a national average of 28.8%. 57% of children and young people in Kingston reported that they enjoyed good relationships with their family and friends which is in line with the national results. Our self assessment on the effectiveness of meeting the mental health needs for children and young people is fully compliant.

Performance in improving the health of children in care continues to be good. Our current performance for children and young people receiving an annual health check is 81.8% which is in line with the national average although performance has dipped slightly. New referrals to the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children's (UASC) service have increased this year but we have ensured that 100% receive a health assessment within 28 days. 100% of looked after children, who meet the criteria, are subject to SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) and the outcomes are evaluated by the CAMHS Therapist located within the Looked After Children/Leaving Care Service. The average SDQ score for children looked after in Kingston is 14.7. The service uses the SDQ score information to prioritise need with the high need group scoring 20 or above.

Good progress is being made overall in reducing the waiting time between referral and treatment for therapies towards the national targets of 18 weeks during 2009/10. This has been a key priority. In particular significant improvements have been noted within the occupational therapy service where the waiting list has decreased from 18 months to 6 months at March 2010. As at 15 March 2010, 83% of children received occupational therapy within 18 weeks of referral, 89% received physiotherapy and 80% received speech and language therapy.

Outcomes for 'Staying Safe' continue to be outstanding overall and performance in relation to most indicators show improvement and continue to be above the national average. We continue to provide high quality safeguarding services and achieve excellent outcomes for children and young people and sustain high-level performance against the majority of national indicators, which is better than, or consistent with, the national average and our statistical neighbours. The unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services was conducted on 19 and 20 January 2010 and the inspection identified no areas for priority action.

Despite the significant increase in number, children and young people in Kingston continue to have their needs identified and responded to effectively and in a timely manner. Excellent performance has been maintained ensuring child protection plans are clear and detailed and reviewed in a timely manner. We continue to ensure that 100% of all CP Review conferences are held within the statutory timeframe. 100% of all CP cases are allocated to a qualified social worker, and all assessments progressing to Initial CP Conference are risk assessed under S47. Excellent progress has been made in further reducing the number of children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a subsequent time from 9% in 2008/9 to 4% 2009/10.

The increase of children subject to CP Plans for 2 years + is low and in line with previous performance, however the increasing numbers of highly complex CP concerns faced by many

children and young people, and the necessary co-ordination of specialist multi-agency interventions required to effect and embed positive change in families means that we can predict there will be a further increase over the coming year.

Performance in the timeliness of initial and core assessments is mixed. In line with the national trend there has been an increase of 55% in overall referral activity, with a similar increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection plan and requiring accommodation. Our outturn of re-referrals is 14%, which is an improvement on our performance last year of 17% and well above the national average of 24% for 2008/09. This represents a gradually falling figure suggesting that first interventions are increasingly effective.

Good progress overall has been made in improving the care and stability of all children and young people in care. There is a strong emphasis on performance and quality management in the service which is evidenced by several key PI's; including 98% compliance rate for reviews held on time. The percentage of children in care remaining in the same placement for more than 2.5 years improved from 76% last year to 79.3% and although there was an increase in children who have had more than 3 placements in the last 12 months from 8.3% to 12.5% this compares well to the national figure and the figures for our Statistical Neighbours. A Deep Dive Visit was undertaken by The DCSF in December 2009 and the team commented on the clear strengths within the service area including the robust and flexible approach to supporting Placement Stability, and a clear trend for improvement. Children are placed for adoption in a timely manner and we have a well developed permanency action planning process which monitors and tracks cases on a monthly basis.

Outcomes for 'Enjoy and Achieve' continue to be outstanding with good improvement rates overall for 2009. Closing the gap remains a focus of the work of the Local Authority and a variety of strategies are being employed to address this challenge.

Children in the Early Years make good progress and attain well and there has been good progress against many challenging performance indicators. In 2009 57% of children achieved 78+ points across all areas of learning including 6+ points in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) and Communication, Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) which maintains 2008 performance and is an improvement of 7% points over 3 years. Over the last 3 years the gap between the lowest achieving 20% of children in the Early Years and the median of all children has closed significantly, by 4% points, however in 2009 the gap widened slightly, by 0.3% points.

Pupil performance is outstanding at the end of Key Stage 2 and there has been good progress in improving outcomes and closing attainment gaps. High standards of attainment at L4+ in both English and mathematics have been maintained at 79%; following a 2% points increase in 2008 and Kingston is ranked joint 7th nationally. Children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) attain better than their peers nationally and in 2009 attainment rose by 2% points from 2008 to reach 55%. The gap at this level narrowed by 3% points which is better than the national rate of improvement, nevertheless the attainment gap of 26% points is too wide.

In 2009, performance in examinations at the end of Key Stage 4 is outstanding and one of the highest nationally. 68% of pupils attained 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and mathematics which represents a 5% point increase on the previous year. Kingston's 2009 average is 18% points above the national average. Six schools improved performance in this aspect. At KS4 pupils eligible for FSM reach much higher standards than their peers nationally and attainment has risen significantly over the past 4 years. In 2009 the achievement gap at 5+A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers narrowed by 4% points but the size of the gap at 35% points remains significantly above the target of 15% points. Positively, the FSM group's rate of progress improved significantly, by 10% points, in mathematics and the attainment gap narrowed by 7% points.

Overall, at both Key Stage 2 and 4 pupils with SEN perform better than their peers nationally and progress towards targets and improved provision is good. However, attainment gaps between those with and without SEN are larger than the national gaps and widened in 2009.

Analysis of the attainment of nationally recognised underperforming Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups is made cautiously as many cohort sizes are small. In 2009 only Asian Pakistani and Black African groups at KS2 and KS4 have more than 25 pupils. At Key Stage 2 and at Key Stage 4 Asian Pakistani pupils in Kingston consistently attain above the national average for their peers. At KS2 Black African and Mixed Black White African pupils have fluctuating attainment over time and in 2009 they performed above the national average for their peers. Black African pupils' attainment is 2.2% points higher than the national average. At KS4 Black African/ Mixed Black White African pupils' attainment is low and in 2009 it was nearly 4% points lower than the national average for their peers at both 5 GCSE A*-C and at 5 GCSE A*-C including English and mathematics. Positively, both groups' rates of progress are much better than the national rates, in both English and mathematics.

Pupil attendance continues to be very good and the persistent absence rate in 2009 is the lowest in the country. Pupil exclusion rates are very low at 0.6% and in line with targets. Good progress continues to be made across the Local Authority in terms of reducing the number of exclusions from school. 1153 school days were lost to fixed term exclusions during 2008/09 representing a 24% points decrease compared to the previous year.

Our targets to improve the achievement, progress and attendance of Looked After Children remain challenging. Looked After Children in Kingston make good progress in their education and despite the small cohort those who take examinations do well. The inclusion of disabled children in the outturn means we see wide variances in our figures. We have good attendance rates and low exclusion rates and we use Personal Education Plans (PEP) proactively to identify targets and additional need. 94.4 % of our care leavers are in EET.

Outcomes for 'Making a Positive Contribution' continue to be outstanding and there is very good participation by children and young people in decision making and in supporting the community. An effective and revised participation strategy ensures children and young people play an active part in changes and service developments that affect their lives.

Our performance in reducing first time entrants to the Youth Justice system has been very good reducing from 132 in 2008/09 to 92 in 2009/10 and we remain the second lowest borough in London. Reducing re-offending by young offenders is a top priority for Kingston and we are participating in the Youth Justice Board Re-offending project which aims to support Youth Offending Services where the rate of re-offending is higher than average. Early evidence in the 2009 cohort is demonstrating a significant improvement in the performance reducing from 1.77 new offences last year to 1.00 in 2009/10, although this is still below our comparator family members.

Progress to reduce the proportion of sentenced young people receiving a custodial youth court sentence has been disappointing. The 2009/10 out-turn was 4.3%, a 25% increase over the 2008/09 out-turn; however these percentages mask very small numbers with young people from only three families accounting for this figure. Progress in reducing the rate of disproportional BME representation in the local youth justice system has also been disappointing with 25% of the Kingston First Time Youth Justice system entrant population in 2008/9 from the BME community although this is below the current proportion of school age children and young people from BME communities (34%). During 2008/09, 245 young people were supervised by the YOS and 28% of those in the youth justice system locally come from BME groups, a 2.8% point increase over the previous year outturn.

Performance overall is very good against the National Teenage Pregnancy Target. However the 2008/09 target has not been met with small numbers impacting adversely on the percentage target

(in total 9 extra conceptions than the previous year). This remains a high priority which will ensure that the downward trend continues in order to meet the target of the 40% reduction in March 2011 from the baseline 10 years earlier. Progress in increasing the percentage of the resident population accepting a test/screen for Chlamydia has been good at 24.4% against the target of 25% target for 2009/10 and improved from 20% last year.

Progress to reduce smoking, drug and alcohol abuse among young people has been good overall and key improvements to service delivery to match national performance standards has been a key priority. In the Tellus survey, 6.9% of young people reported frequent misuse of drugs or volatile substance or alcohol or both. This is a more positive response than seen nationally and is a decrease from last year reflecting the progress that has been achieved locally through universal awareness raising and targeted interventions.

The percentage of young people supervised by the YOS in EET has improved by 10% but the rate of improvement is not satisfactory. Whilst the performance in respect of those of school age is excellent at 100%, the overall performance is offset by poorer results for the 16-18 age range; a group of young people who have proved historically intransigent. We continue to perform well in providing 100% of young offenders access to suitable accommodation.

Outcomes for 'Achieving Economic Well-Being' continue to be outstanding and performance against the national averages post 16 continues to be well above national averages at 83.7% for Level 2 attainment at age 19 and 63.9% for Level 3 attainment. Level 2 & Level 3 attainment gaps at 19 are wider than national averages and strategies are in place to reduce these, however the borough is at or above the national 2011 targets in both these areas for the whole of the free school meal cohort.

Diploma delivery in the borough began in 2009/10 with the introduction of two lines (Creative and Media and Hair and Beauty) across KS4 & 5, involving partnership between schools and the college. A recent Ofsted 14-19 survey visit described the provision positively and noted, among other strengths, 'good participation by students from potentially vulnerable groups, a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and a broad range of abilities' and 'increased motivation of students resulting from their experience of Diplomas'. Furthermore, the written feedback noted that there is 'good development and planning for the introduction of future Diploma lines'. There are further plans to deliver two more Diploma lines in Sport and Active Leisure and Business Administration and Finance in 2010/11.

The performance of the borough's universal Information Advice and Guidance service is outstanding as seen by the Kingston's NEET figure of 3.4% for 2009/10, one of the lowest in London and across the country. Excellent arrangements are in place for the delivery of Connexions advisory services at both the targeted and universal levels to benefit care leavers. There are a good range of supported accommodation options available to care leavers with clear pathways to fully independent living. 77.8% (7/9) of young people leaving care are in suitable accommodation.

The overall progress for increasing the amount of affordable childcare has been good, although performance in increasing the uptake of childcare tax credit has only been satisfactory increasing from 17.4% to 17.9%. Work with childcare settings and parents to promote and raise the awareness of tax credits has been good and targeted work to promote the uptake of childcare tax credit has continued with childcare providers and parents. Kingston specific materials have recently been produced. Whilst the level of uptake for eligible families still remains relatively low, we are still projecting a 5% points increase by 2011.

Improvements in the Management of Services for Children and Young People

The Local Authority and its partners in the Children and Young People's Trust continue to be highly ambitious for continuous improvement and to transform local services to deliver better outcomes. The Trust Board and the Children and Young People's Partnership have improved their joint working and there is more effective monitoring of improvement and shared decision making. During the past year there has been further progress in the alignment of resources and the development of a joint asset strategy leading to the proposal to co-locate a community health provision and a new primary school creating a community hub of services for children and families.

There continues to be very strong corporate and community leadership and we maintain our track record in consulting well, responding to needs and using resources effectively to provide high quality services and sustain improvements. In spite of a time of financial restraint across the Council and its partners, we have sustained high levels of performance and achieved improvements through maintaining focus on key priorities and efficient integration and re-design of services.

There are good procedures in place to monitor and evaluate the targets and actions in the Children and Young People's Plan, supported by robust systems of performance management and regular analysis of key indicators. These arrangements have been further consolidated during the past year. The Council has very robust performance monitoring of all top level indicators and sets out clear actions for improvement in its Performance Plan. The rate of annual performance improvement continues to be strong.

We continue to consult well and have improved the participation of children, young people, parents and carers in the development of our services. A significant amount of effort has been devoted to developing our early intervention and preventative services, in order to narrow achievement gaps and tackle inequalities. Good progress has been made in re-organising services for delivery at the front line through school clusters, children's centres and extended services to safeguard and support vulnerable children and families more effectively; and to improve health outcomes for disabled children and other vulnerable groups. Priority is being given to prevention and early intervention, and to strengthening universal services so that risk is minimised and more can be achieved for children and young people in their own homes, local schools and other community settings. Our plans to devolve more resources, decision making and service delivery to clusters of schools providing extended services are highly ambitious. Early signs are that these developments are becoming highly effective with clusters recognised and involved as key commissioners of preventative services.

Strategies to reduce the numbers of children with special educational needs, looked after children, young offenders, teenage parents, and young people not in education, employment or training are well embedded as a result of effective partnerships, multi-agency working and robust performance management.

During the past year there has been good development and innovation in new services with good progress in school cluster services, children's centres, the Integrated Youth Support Service and Integrated Services for Disabled Children. There has been a particular focus on re-commissioning health services for children and young people with reviews of CAMHS and health services that support schools and children's centres and young people's substance misuse services. The LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children's Board) is very well established and supported by all partners. In line with the Laming report recommendation, an independent chair has been appointed and the LSCB has re-aligned its sub group structure to provide more direct and influential input from partner agencies in key work areas, including policies and procedures, communications and awareness. New working and governance arrangements for the Trust Board and LSCB strengthen the links between the two bodies. Reports from GOL, the National Strategies and other national field forces report very good progress in taking forward service changes and developments, and in achieving improved outcomes and provision. The Local Authority has good experience of multi-

agency working and evidence of its effectiveness. Overall management of the change process is going well and there is excellent capacity to sustain high performance and continuous improvement.

Kingston continues to take the leading role in the South West London Healthy Schools programme and the South West London School Effectiveness Partnership. Kingston has been recognised as a trusted partner by the DCSF to deliver well on new initiatives and to support work in other LAs. New opportunities to maximise the potential from initiatives are regularly identified and Kingston has successfully delivered the first One School Pathfinder project with the official opening of the new Chessington Community College building in Autumn 2009. In November 2009 Kingston and Croydon's joint bid for inclusion in the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme was approved based on a successful outline of its Education vision and ability to deliver. This also includes an emphasis on developing community hubs on school sites for early intervention and preventative services.

All the services that support children and young people are good and many are outstanding. There is a highly effective workforce and expert staff who contribute significantly to the quality of our services and the improvements we achieve. There are improved strategies in place to recruit and train "hard to recruit staff", for example, social workers, family support workers, headteachers and teachers. These include the involvement of young people (known as the 'Recruits Crew') in the selection of staff and training of foster carers. The 2009 RBK staff survey identifies high levels of morale and job satisfaction with the area of highest satisfaction highlighted as relationships and quality of service. There is good professional development and investment in improving skills and training. Improved qualification and skill levels have been achieved through increased access to NVQ's, for example, for residential care staff, family support workers, youth workers and foster carers and by offering a number of NVQ assessments in Caring for Children, Young People and their Families to private and voluntary child care providers. Teaching Assistants are offered opportunities to gain both Basic Skills and Higher Level Teaching Assistant, and other school specific, qualifications. A learning and development programme for support staff in Secondary schools has been introduced to support their current roles and identify future career pathways. All social care staff working with children in need are suitably qualified, and all social care managers have management qualifications. There is a successful enhanced training and post qualification programme for social workers to address projected recruitment issues for the future.

The past year has again seen a continued focus on ensuring more effective multi-agency working to support Early Intervention and the Prevention Strategy - Closing the Gap - by developing an increasingly integrated workforce. An extensive training programme delivered across all statutory and voluntary agencies has been further developed to support Common Assessment, Lead Professional and Contact Point. Relevant specialist training is offered to volunteers and staff supporting targeted services and a well supported, multi agency, specialist Child Protection Training is offered to staff, and partner agencies, according to their specific roles and responsibilities.

There has been a successful partnership with local schools in enabling school support staff to access qualifications to support improved teaching, learning and extended services, including specialist services for children with complex needs. Projects have also proven effective in addressing senior management succession planning in schools. The secondment of a Headteacher to the Safeguarding team provided valuable insight to different workforce issues and this project will now be progressed with the secondment of a worker from the Integrated Youth Support Service to work within a school. Particular progress has been made in undertaking a skills and training audit of the voluntary and community sector to inform future training and development needs and the development of a comprehensive training programme to support the further development of the IYSS. Significant progress has been made in ensuring that there is appropriate support for, and development of, the social work profession and Kingston were involved in three CWDC pilot projects covering social workers at different stages of their careers (newly qualified, early professional development and advanced professional social workers). Implementing a

focused programme of permanent recruitment and reducing the reliance of locum staff this has been a priority which has reduced vacancy rates from 40% to 15%, and is a 62% reduction over the year. This is a significant achievement given the national shortage of suitably skilled and qualified social workers. We have also engaged in the national (CWDC) Return to Practice programme and 10 returners have participated in the refresher training and shadowing activities, which we anticipate will lead to permanent employment further reducing our overall vacancy rate. 5 of these returnees have been interviewed and 1.5 have been offered an appointment. This is a significant endorsement of this initiative. The multi-agency workforce development group has facilitated much of the above progress – and has ambitious targets to continue this work over the coming years, along with the implementation of the Integrated Workforce Strategy. This work will remain a priority to ensure that there is increasing equality of access to training and development across the children's workforce.

We have made good progress in the use of ICT to support service delivery and ensure that there are well-defined performance management, information sharing and reporting systems in place. The ICT Strategy Board ensures and advises on appropriate co-ordination of future systems developments and to maximise the potential to share data linked with the work of the Information Governance Board. This board has developed a framework for inter agency information sharing which supports staff across the Trust in the recording, processing and sharing of information. Specific activity includes the implementation of local (server based) Secure e-Mail enabling Children's Trust staff improved secure communication across partner agencies with minimal risk of information being inappropriately shared or lost.

A number of new systems that contribute to the Information Sharing Agenda have recently been implemented. These are being well used to further improve practice and performance management and there is a continued focus on quality assurance and data quality across the Trust. In addition there has been increased sharing of data across the Trust eg improved use of School Census Data by a wider range of professionals, as well as the sharing of data such as Pupil Attitude to Self and School (PASS) to inform commissioning of new services. All key service developments are also being supported by the introduction of appropriate integrated ICT systems eg the Integrated Service for Disabled Children, children's centres, the Integrated Youth Support Services, and ASKK (Advancing Services for Kingston Kids). The Authority has implemented a Managed Learning Environment on behalf of all schools which is now being accessed by well over 15,000 pupils and all schools' staff to contribute towards greater flexibility of working arrangements and personalisation of learning opportunities.

In the context of a relatively low spending Council, priority is given to revenue and capital funding for education and children's social care. In the past year we have managed resources effectively to support service developments, continued to invest in early intervention and have 'invested to save' to reduce future growth requirements in external placements. Inspection judgements regularly describe Kingston as providing good value for money. The LA has continued to deliver service developments by continually identifying efficient and innovative ways of working, often in partnership arrangements. We have a mixed economy of service delivery based on achieving value for money; many services are commissioned from the very active local community and voluntary sector.

The Children's Trust has made good progress on its joint commissioning arrangements in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families locally. The Joint Planning & Commissioning Framework for Kingston is nationally recognised as good practice. It is a key document which sets out how Commissioning works in Kingston, who commissions and where commissioners can go for guidance. It is designed to ensure that resources are invested effectively in improving outcomes for children and young people through effective partnership working. A governance structure has been set up including a Joint Commissioning Unit, which provides support and monitoring and develops the commissioning framework, and the Executive Commissioning Group, which oversees progress made against commissioning priorities in the Children and Young people's Plan.

The Children's Trust's agreed commissioning strategy for Children and Young People's Services has resulted in particularly good progress on re-commissioning services for young people's substance misuse services, an integrated youth support service, health visiting, school nursing and children's speech & language therapy services and commissioning new services for alternative provision for secondary age pupils, school places and four additional Children's Centres. Work is well advanced to create a fully Integrated Disabled Children's Service using a Section 75 Agreement with most NHS staff transferring to the Local Authority from 1 Oct 2010 with appropriate financial arrangements. The staff from both agencies are led by an integrated strategic manager and have been co-located since September 2009 providing a much more effective and integrated service to disabled children and their families.

Review of Key Priority Outcomes and Objectives in the CYPP

Overall the progress in achieving targets and objectives in the Plan during 2009 – 10 has been very good. There have been improvements in 80% of the performance indicators and 68% of the National Indicator challenging targets we set have been met or exceeded. There are very few areas of unsatisfactory performance. In very few areas is there unsatisfactory progress or performance. The priority outcomes in the 2009 – 2013 Children and Young People's Plan are as follows:

- All children and young people will have the benefit of living in a supportive home
- All children and young people will go to a good school and benefit from community support to enable them to enjoy learning and make good progress
- All children and young people will be able to achieve and maintain emotional and physical well-being
- All children by age 5 will be well developed and ready to make a successful start at school
- All young people will be able to make a successful transition to adult life, continuing education and employment
- All children and young people will be well protected from being physically, sexually or emotionally abused or neglected
- No families in Kingston will be living in poverty and no children will be affected by impacts of poverty
- All children and young people who are disadvantaged will achieve outcomes as good as other children in the local area, and those who need it will benefit from a multi-agency integrated package of support
- All disadvantaged young people at age 14+ will benefit from education, employment or training (to age 19) and participate positively in the local community
- All children and young people who leave care will be well educated, healthy and able to lead a fulfilling and independent life
- All children and young people at risk of offending or re-offending will achieve outcomes as good as their peers
- All children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities will have the same equality of opportunity as other children and make good progress educationally, emotionally, physically and socially

And we aim to ensure that

- Our children and young people's workforce will be world class and will work together to achieve outstanding outcomes for children and young people
- Planning and provision of services for children and young people will be supported by integrated data systems and easy access to information.

Outcome 1: All children and young people will have the benefit of living in a supportive home

1.1 Ensuring that we know which children are vulnerable and being able to intervene early is a key component of our overall preventative strategy. Consequently, **identifying the needs of vulnerable children and families** co-ordinated through the ASKK system continues to improve with increased awareness of children with additional needs, enabling more effective and timely early intervention. We continue to deliver multi-agency training around Integrated Working and Information Sharing and 209 professionals are now trained Lead Professionals in the borough across a range of agencies. The training programme for staff on Integrated Working and Information Sharing has continued to develop and during 2009/10 a total of 1628 completed at least the basic training programme. 119 professionals completed all levels. This has contributed to increased numbers of CAF completion, and the broader understanding of the importance of prompt early assessment expressed by all professional groups in multi-disciplinary forums. More detail about this aspect of Kingston's approach to prevention and early intervention is set out at 8.1.

In 2009-10, 243 Common Assessments were received by ASKK. 79 initial Family and Multi-Agency support meetings have been coordinated and chaired by ASKK for children flagged at level 3, with Lead Professionals taking on the responsibility for coordinating and chairing 236 level 3 review meetings. 79% of Family and Multi Agency support meetings are co-ordinated within 6 weeks and 83% of review meetings are delivered within 3 months; both exceeding targets. This reflects the support professionals are given through the training delivered and by ASKK coordinators and is evidence of the positive engagement of multi-agency partners in the Integrated Working and Information Sharing Agenda.

The number of flagged children and young people and risk indicators identified are reported monthly for monitoring and tracking purposes and inform areas for service development. Termly Prevention and Safeguarding reports are also sent to schools which show the number of CAFs completed in their school, the various assessed levels of their children and the key concerns in each cluster area. This information is proving valuable for planning purposes, especially in the extended services area of activity.

Clear quality assurance systems for the CAF have been introduced and are fully in place including a Quality Assurance Framework and a Level 3 case monitoring panel. Prevention and Safeguarding Services Case Management meetings and weekly CAF analysis meetings scrutinise activity data, track cases and also moderate cases where there are sufficient concerns to warrant possible referral to a statutory service. A Family and Multi-Agency Support Meeting (FMASM) evaluation tool is currently being piloted to ensure appropriate consultation with service users and to assist with measuring outcomes.

1.2 Good progress has been made in **developing extended services and providing participation opportunities for vulnerable children**. 100% of schools are providing access to extended services and core offer documents and action plans indicate a wide range of activities. We have developed and piloted Self Evaluation Forms known as the Cluster Development Tool which has been piloted with 4 schools (one in each cluster). This assesses schools against Conditions for Success for Extended Services and working collaboratively with other schools and partner agencies. From this self assessment all schools that took part in the pilot were found overall to be "good".

Each cluster continues to support children with additional needs to access Extended Services provision and commissions activities and targeted projects in order to address the needs of children and young people who are more likely to achieve poor outcomes and who are registered with ASKK. This has included football coaching for young people aged 13 plus and out of school activities for primary pupils.

The South of the Borough cluster has developed an online consultation questionnaire for children and young people which has been successfully piloted and showed that 75% of those taking part in the consultation currently accessed extended services. The consultation also covered reasons for not attending clubs, links with local police officers, voluntary work and the reach and appropriateness of publicity. This information will inform future planning of extended services across the cluster.

The offer and range of extended services ensures children with additional needs have had swift and easy access to supportive provision in order to meet their needs and improve outcomes. This includes; increased attainment levels, improved attendance, improved parental engagement with schools, increased self esteem and social well being. The Disadvantaged Subsidy was piloted in Surbiton Cluster this year, offering support to children and young people who are economically disadvantaged, to access positive activities. There was a 61% take up from children who were eligible to apply, and the Project is being rolled out across all the Clusters this year.

1.3 Kingston Children's Trust and its partners remains strongly committed to ensuring that **vulnerable children and their families have good and equal access to a wide range of leisure and cultural opportunities**, especially those that promote good health and informal learning opportunities that in some case support school curriculum activity. In 2009/10 good progress has been maintained in terms of widening opportunities, but there is scope for improvement in how take up, ongoing participation and outcomes are measured which will therefore feature as an improvement target in 2010/11.

In 2009/10 Active Kingston organised a number of sports taster sessions for targeted groups of young people identified at additional need levels 3 and 4, and recorded a 95% participation rate amongst those invited. A specific project for looked after young people attracted a similar level of participation. The Extended Services Disadvantage subsidy was piloted in 2009/10 in Surbiton cluster, as a means of widening participation by vulnerable children and young people in positive activities. This is described in more detail at Outcome 7.6. This is being rolled out across all clusters in 2010/11.

1.4 We continue to improve **access to parenting information** for parents, parents to be and carers and in the past year the Family Information Service had an average of 50 parents contacting them daily which meets the targets. Following promotion through the outreach programme and promotion at specific events there has been an increase in daily enquires to the Family information Service. All except one advice and information requests for services and information have been supported including signposting to other services. Key to improving access to parenting information was the implementation of the Family Information Directory (FIDy) national initiative. This required the FIS to transfer information to an enhanced childcare and family information database and enabled a local Families Service Directory (FSD) to "go live" on the RBK website in February 2010 and for the information to be available on Directgov and other third party websites.

Outreach activity was increased with a concentration on Children's Centres and parent and toddler groups and promotion of Tax Credits and Early Education Entitlement. Networking with other professionals was productive in publicising the local and national parenting support available – eg the FIS worked with the Parenting Coordinator to promote and book places on parenting courses and with the Youth Service to include Positive Activities on the FSD. Parent feedback has been positive with comments made in particular about the added value received by parents who had rung for a specific reason and had been given other valuable information and advice that they had not known before.

1.5 To inform the **development of a more co-ordinated and integrated approach to providing for the needs of the most vulnerable** a research project was undertaken to understand more fully the effectiveness of the multi disciplinary agency support provided across Kingston to children and young people, locally this was known as the '400 project'. It comprised an on line attitudinal and level of understanding survey completed by 197 professionals from partner agencies, focus

group discussions with 53 children and young people (ranging from youth service attendees to looked after children) and a detailed casework analysis of 372 children receiving services at the Trust-wide recognised levels 2,3 and 4.

The report concluded, following local analysis and a literature review, that Kingston was at the level of 'co-ordination' on a scale ranging from co-operation to integration. The principle findings supported the view that there was a good level of local commitment to multi-disciplinary working well supported by the ASKK service described at 1.1. The research also suggested good planning arrangements were in place for children at level 3 with strong evidence of personalised planning around the child. Co-ordinated multi-disciplinary practice was also reducing duplication of effort.

The project highlighted the need for a better locally understood definition of multi-disciplinary work, a better approach to assessment and planning at level 2, the need to recognise that families' needs will vary over time and that definition of issues by levels should be complemented by more flexible care planning. Since publication of the report in February 2010 there have been two workshops to review the findings and it is now planned to use the data to inform a major review of the Council's Closing the Gap Preventative Strategy first published in 2007. This will also be linked to a Trust wide plan to define good quality early intervention in the wider context of local and national financial stringency.

1.6 Access to health provision linked to Children's Centres has improved. There are now 11 children's centres in Kingston and in 2009-10 a key strategic objective was to ensure that all settings provided a good range of health services easily accessible to parents and parents to be who use the facilities of each centre. By the end of March 2010 all centres either had on site midwifery and health visitor sessions or arrangements were in hand to deliver them, or parents were effectively signposted. Initial feedback from the annual conversation process, both from school leaders and parents, suggest that the services are popular, increasingly used and a convenient means of delivering health checks, accessing information and advice. There is however more scope to integrate more fully the health dimension of children centre work with other aspects, and it is recognised that not all parents will want to access health services for their children through this means. This will require careful joint planning with NHS Kingston and GPs to ensure the adequate availability of health provision for all under 5's, whilst ensuring that the most vulnerable access services swiftly and easily.

1.7 The multi-agency and targeted support provided to children to help them succeed on transition to secondary school has continued to develop. Performance in supporting vulnerable young people to make a successful transition has been good. The service continues to provide targeted intervention for pupils identified by primary schools to ensure a successful transition into secondary education and provides enhanced support, above and beyond what each school provides to all Year 6 pupils around the time of transition. 92% of the young people supported through stream 2 of the programme were flagged at level 2-4. 87 children were referred to the scheme in 2009/10, with a greater emphasis on targeted provision and some of the practice pioneered by the project now becoming mainstream practice for most schools.

96.5% of the cohort supported achieved a successful transition with no fixed term exclusions during year 7 which is an increase from 94% the previous year. Evaluations of the programme completed by schools this year provided very positive feedback, noting the strengths and benefits including increased confidence, reduced anxiety and better understanding of expectations in secondary school. Pupils' feedback included increased confidence, more understanding of what is expected of them and that it helped to settle in more quickly.

This work continues to be a priority and lessons learned are being implemented to improve multi-agency support to these pupils and their families. Mapping of transitions support within the borough and referral pathways, including provision offered within primary and secondary schools is being taken forward, working towards a notion of 'minimum entitlement' at Transition (Kingston Entitlement), further details in 2.7.

1.8 Good progress has been sustained in the **engagement of parents and carers in their children's learning and development**. This has been achieved through the delivery of 25 Family Learning sessions across children's centres in 2009/10 involving 180 adults and 174 children in the academic year 2009/10 to date. Feedback from parents as part of the Annual Conversation process confirms the value placed on Family Learning by many parents who were able to describe the courses they had attended and the positive impact on their children's lives. Further evaluation is planned at the end of this academic year in order to target sessions more effectively in 2010/11.

Outcome 2: All children and young people will go to a good school and benefit from community support to enable them to enjoy learning and make good progress

2.1a Children in the **Early Years** make good progress and attain well and there has been good progress against many challenging performance indicators. In 2009 57% of children achieved 78+ points across all areas of learning including 6+ points in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) and Communication, Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) which maintains 2008 performance and is an improvement of 7% points over 3 years. The 2009 target of 55% was exceeded. 10 schools are involved in the CLLD programme and 11 in the 'Every Child a Talker' programme with proper links between the programmes to ensure consistency of support and involvement. Summer 2010 outcomes are expected to improve in targeted schools as indicated in end of autumn and spring data. Improved practitioner confidence, enhanced learning environments and literacy workshops for parents have all enhanced the quality of CLLD provision across all targeted schools and 2010 outcomes are expected to rise.

Over the last 3 years the gap between the lowest achieving 20% of children in the Early Years and the median of all children has closed significantly, by 4% points. However in 2009 the gap widened slightly, by 0.3% points and the target of 29.2% was missed. Detailed analysis of the characteristics of pupils in the bottom 20%, shows an increase of 2% points for children with Special Educational Needs which has impacted on this indicator. All schools with children's centres have set targets for their pupils at the end of the EYFS in 2010, which reflect challenge for key groups of children, including those with SEN, and use of extended services, children's centre activities and multi agency involvement to enhance outcomes and close the gap further. Initiatives to engage parents in supporting their children's learning have been positively received. For example, the use of video at home and in settings is improving parent child interaction and relationships as well as accelerating learning.

2.1b Pupil performance is outstanding at the end of **Key Stage 2** and there has been good progress in improving outcomes and closing attainment gaps. High standards of attainment at L4+ in both English and mathematics have been maintained at 79%; following a 2% points increase in 2008 and Kingston is ranked joint 7th nationally. However, the challenging target of 85% was not met.

Children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) attain better than their peers nationally and in 2009 attainment rose by 2% points from 2008 to reach 55%. The gap at this level narrowed by 3% points which is better than the national rate of improvement, nevertheless the target has not been met and the attainment gap of 26% points is too wide.

The proportion of pupils making two levels of progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 has been maintained in English and improved by 4% points in mathematics. Progress rates in both these subjects are 5% points above national rates; however, targets have not been met. Positively, at 81% for English and mathematics, progress rates for the FSM group are good. They are just 5% points lower than Kingston's non FSM group and just 1% point lower than the national average for all children.

Boys' attainment in English has been maintained at 82% at L4+ and improved by 3% points at L5+. Boys are now ranked 4th nationally for L4+ English compared to 30th three years ago, and 3rd for L5+, compared to 8th three years ago.

Targets are ambitious; however the combined schools' targets, which are based on individual pupil targets, indicate that the LA targets are realistic and achievable. The focus for Local Authority work with schools is on ensuring strong outcomes at the end of Key Stage 1, further improving pupil progress across Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 and narrowing gaps in performance for groups of pupils by raising the attainment of all through improved provision and targeted intervention. During the past year Expert Teacher Groups and Leading Teacher initiatives have built capacity across specific year groups where progress was not as strong, for instance, in Years 1 and 4 and helped

spread good practice in Year 6. Similarly, focus on assessment for learning saw the establishment of leading schools and a range of targeted visits across and within schools. Additionally, Dylan Wiliam ran a very successful conference in Kingston for school leaders, including heads, literacy and numeracy coordinators. One to one tuition targeted at children eligible for FSM is well managed, monitored and evaluated and the impact of tuition is already showing through accelerated in year progress and should start to impact on end of KS2 progress rates and attainment.

2.1c In 2009 performance in examination at the end of **Key Stage 4** is outstanding. 68% of pupils attained 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and mathematics which represents a 5% point increase on the previous year. Kingston's 2009 average is 18% points above the national average. Kingston's target, of 67%, was exceeded. Six schools improved performance in this aspect.

67% of pupils attained 2 good science GCSEs. This is a 2% improvement on 2008 and 12% points above the national average. A science 'upgrade' project to raise pupil achievement has engaged all secondary schools and 2010 outcomes are expected to improve further to reflect curriculum development.

At KS4 pupils eligible for FSM reach much higher standards than their peers nationally and attainment has risen significantly over the past 4 years; from 45% to 58% in English and 40% to 52% in mathematics. In 2009 the achievement gap at 5+A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers narrowed by 4% points. The reduction is welcome but the size of the gap at 35% points remains significantly above the target of 15% points. Positively, the FSM group's rate of progress improved significantly, by 10%, in mathematics and the attainment gap narrowed by 7% points. However in English the rate of progress did not improve and the gap widened by 6% points.

Closing the gap remains a focus of the work of the Local Authority and a variety of strategies are being employed to address this challenge. For example, as at KS2, the national One to One tuition programme is rigorously overseen by the school improvement service with a target group of pupils eligible for FSM.

The gender gap for 5+A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics was 8% points (71% v 63%), the same as in 2008 and 1% point above target. This is the same gap as exists nationally (54% v 46%) but at a significantly higher base level. For example, Kingston boys' attainment is ranked 4th nationally and girls' attainment is ranked 3rd nationally. Boys' rate of progress in English improved by almost 6% points on 2008 which is greater than the girls', albeit good improvement of 4% points. In mathematics boys' progress improved by 7% points compared to girls who maintained their high rate of progress. These outcomes bode well for achieving equality of outcomes and reflect the impact of 'boy friendly' teaching strategies.

Local Authority interventions have supported schools with low pupil attainment to improve teaching, curriculum and monitoring and evaluation to good effect. In 2009 attainment improved in all schools, including the 3 low performing secondary schools where it is set to improve further in 2010.

Children and young people evaluate their schools annually through internal and external questionnaires and whenever the school improvement service carries out its regular reviews. Evaluations are overwhelmingly positive as evidenced by Ofsted, the PASS survey of pupils' attitudes to self and school, face to face meetings, (for example in all sixth forms) and school questionnaires. In 2009 children and young people and parents' participation in BSF consultations have been used to inform developments, for example, the importance they place on healthy eating and physical fitness are reflected in the selection of development projects.

2.1d Overall, at both **Key Stage 2 and 4 pupils with SEN** perform better than their peers nationally and progress towards targets and improved provision is good. At KS2, over the past

three years attainment gaps between those with and without SEN narrowed in English, mathematics and Science and are now in line with the gap nationally, despite the gap widened by 3.8% points in 2009. The smallest gap is in Science and the largest in English and mathematics mirroring the national trend. At KS4, the attainment of pupils with SEN is 4% points above their peers nationally at 5A*-C including English and mathematics and since 2006 the gap between the SEN/non SEN has narrowed by 6% points at 5A*-C and by 1% point at 5A*-C including English and mathematics. Additionally, since 2006, the attainment of pupils with SEN has increased by 16% points in 5A*-C and 10% points in 5A*-C including English and mathematics. However, attainment gaps between those with and without SEN are larger than the national gaps and widened in 2009. In English, between KS2 and KS4 the progress of pupils with SEN increased by 6.6% points, which is 5.7% points above the national and 1.6% points above target. Although progress in mathematics progress remains 1.8% points above the national figure it fell by 2.5% points in 2009 and will be carefully reviewed.

The Inclusion Development Programme has been rolled out to all schools, the most recent being Behaviour, Emotional and Social Needs. This e learning programme is designed to support staff expertise and improve confidence and expertise in working with pupils with SEN. The LA has provided access to a benchmarking tool called CASPA (Comparison and Analysis of Special Pupil Attainment) to improve challenge in schools related to the progress pupils make with SEN in the Special Schools and mainstream schools with SEN Resource bases from Summer 2010.

All three Special schools were inspected during the Summer and Spring terms. Dysart and Bedelsford were judged Outstanding for the first time and St Philips was judged as good. Tolworth Infant School SEN provision was also judged as outstanding in 2009 and described as exemplary in the published report.

The LA SEN Strategy was refreshed in 2009 and confirms our goals in relation to personalisation, inclusion and partnership and is embedded throughout the Children and Young People's Plan. We continue to be committed to increasing the range of specialist resource bases in both Primary and Secondary Schools.

Analysis of the **attainment of nationally recognised underperforming Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups** is made cautiously as many cohort sizes are small. For instance, in 2009 only Asian Pakistani and Black African groups at KS2 and KS4 have more than 25 pupils. At KS2 Asian Pakistani pupils in Kingston consistently attain above the national average for their peers and in 2009 they attained above the Kingston average in English and mathematics. There is no gap in attainment, indeed Asian Pakistani pupils' attainment is 15.1% points better than the national average. At KS2 Black African and Mixed Black White African pupils have fluctuating attainment over time and in 2009 they performed above the national average for their peers in English, mathematics and science and above the Kingston average in English and Science. There is no gap in attainment. Black African pupils' attainment is 2.2% points higher than the national average. At KS2 the rate of pupil progress for both groups is faster than the borough improvement rate overall, for example, in 2009, Asian Pakistani's make 11% points better progress than the Kingston average in English and 7% points more in mathematics.

At KS4, Asian Pakistani and Black African/ Mixed Black White African pupils' attainment fluctuates over time and results need to be interpreted cautiously due to the small cohort size. In 2009 Asian Pakistani pupils in Kingston performed very well. Results are well above the national average for their peers; 3% points above at 5 GCSE A*-C and 11% points above at 5 GCSE A*-C including English and mathematics. Black African/ Mixed Black White African pupils' attainment is low and in 2009 it was nearly 4% points lower than the national average for their peers at both 5 GCSE A*-C and at 5 GCSE A*-C including English and mathematics. Positively, both groups' rates of progress are much better than the national rates, in both English and mathematics.

In 2009, at the end of Key Stage 4, with the exception of White European pupils, all of Kingston's significantly sized BME groups attained on average 23% points above the borough average. Asian

Indian, Asian Other, Mixed Other, Mixed White and Asian and White Other pupils in Kingston consistently perform above the national average for their peers. White European attainment is set to improve; pupils' rates of progress are very high at 84% in English and mathematics. These standards are well above the Kingston and national average and have improved in recent years.

At the end of KS2 attainment is more mixed and Korean pupils' performance is lower than the Kingston and national average at L4+ in English and Science despite being better at other measures. Asian Indian pupils and White Other pupils' attainment is lower in mathematics and better in other measures and White Europeans attainment is lower in both English and mathematics. Positively, the progress rates for all these groups are in line with or above the national average. This indicates pupils' needs are being met and these groups of pupils should continue to do well by the end of their education.

The **attainment of pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL)** attainment is high at both Key Stages. Kingston EAL pupils consistently perform above their national peers in KS2 and in KS4 attainment is well above that of those pupils who speak English as a first language in Kingston. EAL speakers are also improving at a greater rate than non EAL pupils in Kingston. At KS2 attainment gaps exist in English but are small and much smaller than the national gap. In order to further develop skills and expertise in working with this group of pupils we have begun this year an Expert EAL teacher programme.

Children's self regard as learners, together with their confidence in learning and attitudes toward school are accepted as key determinants of performance in school and Kingston schools are paying increasing attention to pupil attitude and the role it plays in raising attainment, increasing attendance and improving behaviour. Kingston is in the second year of using PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School Rating Scale) to help us understand the needs of groups and individuals and intervene more effectively. Ongoing research suggests further highly predictive links between PASS factors and mental health, behavioural difficulties and risk of exclusion. In 2009 Kingston's overall PASS rating was very positive for all 9 factors measured in the survey in all Key Stages. 98% of schools used the PASS to collect information related to pupils' well being, confidence, behaviour and attitudes to learning. Overall the responses for Kingston were the most positive nationally, compared to all 100 local authorities who use the survey. This is significant and reflects a very positive situation for the large majority of children and young people in RBK schools.

2.2 Good progress has been made towards ensuring the **quality of school leadership and management** is good and improving in all schools and settings, at all levels of leadership. School governance has also improved and exceeds the targets for 2010 and this is against a much tighter national set of national criteria. School governing bodies will require ongoing support to meet challenging new expectations.

In schools with Foundation Stage provision, School Improvement Partners undertook a joint annual review of leadership and management in the Early Years and concluded that 40% of leadership and management is outstanding, 50% is good and 10% satisfactory. This exceeds the LA target for outstanding leadership but misses the target for removing satisfactory leadership. Schools with satisfactory judgements at Foundation Stage largely have new leaders in place. They are in receipt of support to develop their confidence and expertise in the key stage. The LA has explicit expectations that all provision and leadership at Foundation Stage will be of high quality and has raised the profile of Early Years so that it is a regular item at head's partnership meetings and school improvement forums. Significantly, of the five schools inspected since September 2009, no schools have received a satisfactory judgement for Foundation Stage leadership and management with 1 receiving outstanding, and 4 good judgements. The target of 50% of Early Years leaders using the Kingston framework for evaluation and improvement has been exceeded and this work has been supported by good attendance at well evaluated Foundation Stage Leader meetings.

The percentage of primary schools judged by Ofsted or SIPs to have good or outstanding leadership and management by school staff and governors is very high at 89%. This meets the target of 31 out of 35 schools and demonstrates rapid improvement in a small number of schools.

In 2009 secondary school leadership and governance is considered good and better in 80% of schools which meets the target. Although there is a slight lag in pupil outcomes to support the judgement in one school, the quality of teaching and learning has improved sufficiently in both schools to warrant positive judgements.

A large number of initiatives have been implemented to support leadership and management at a time of fairly rapid changes in school leadership in Kingston. The LA Succession plan is updated annually and reviewed with governors and headteachers. The LA has worked with the South West London School Effectiveness Partnership of six local boroughs to develop a number of innovative programmes such as Aspiring to Headship and Aspiring to Deputy Headship/Senior Leadership. These have supported and encouraged staff to consider moving forward in their careers. Other courses and programmes such as the Early Headship Group, Early Leadership Programme, Moving to Management seminars, Secondary Leadership Forum, Good to Great and Coaching have all supported staff in understanding and developing leadership and management roles. There has also been support and networking for TAs and HLTAs.

Governors have been supported through termly Partnership meetings with a focus on school improvement, and conferences such as 'leading in Partnership' and training in evaluating performance. Work has also been undertaken with SWLSEP to develop and publish a new self evaluation document for governors, which is well regarded as very useful. Key topics are discussed at the governors/clerks training events. Over 80% of schools have been represented at 2 or more training events in the past year.

86% of primary schools, 70% of secondary schools and 100% of special schools are judged by Ofsted and SIPs to provide good or better quality of learning for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities. Ofsted inspected 15 schools during 2008-09 and judgements supported the LA self evaluation as accurate. School's own self review is exacting. For example, 22 primary schools judged progress for pupils with SEN as outstanding and 17 as good. Progress is satisfactory in a small number of schools and this is a priority area for improvement. The Local Authority is on track to meet its ambitious targets.

2.3 The Local Authority provides very good **support and challenge to schools** to accelerate pupil progress and close attainment gaps. This work is successful and highly regarded by the National Strategies and DCSF who use Kingston's practice to support other LAs. However to date there has been no change in the number of schools considered to have satisfactory overall effectiveness. There continues to be no schools in an Ofsted category or subject to National Challenge intervention.

Although five primary schools are still judged by the LA, and the schools themselves, to be satisfactory, there have been strong improvements in two of these schools and many elements are now good. A new headteacher has been appointed to a third school and is already making an impact. There are five schools where attainment is currently below the floor target of 55% which is the same number as last year. While performance improved considerably in three schools which were below the floor target last year, a further three dropped below the floor target in one subject. Two of these schools are single form entry, where one child is equivalent to about 4% of the cohort.

None of our three satisfactory secondary schools have been the subject of Ofsted inspections this year. Self-evaluations by the schools, confirmed by School Improvement Partners, show that the three schools are making progress towards 'good' overall effectiveness, although at differing rates. For example, one secondary school is making good progress under new leadership now that its extensive building programme is completed. Review meetings have confirmed that this school is

on a secure improvement path, reflected in pupil progress. In 2009 attainment improved in all three satisfactory schools. There are no schools below the national floor target of 30% for 5+A*-C including English and mathematics and the two schools currently below the 40% threshold both improved in 2009 and are expected to reach this target in summer 2010 and go well beyond it the year after.

Slow improvement is not tolerated and challenge to school leaders and governors is systematic and rigorous. Schools which cause concern are categorised as High Priority for intervention and have additional support from the SIP to develop and implement Rapid Improvement Plans. These schools are subject to termly Director's Review Meetings where progress is reviewed. 4 primary schools and 1 secondary school have been subject to director's review meetings in the past year. Partnerships across primary schools, through the Improving Schools Programme, have been successful in supporting developments and are appreciated by headteachers. Inconsistent progress across year groups is the biggest challenge to improvement and recent work through the maximising progress Priority Learning Local Authority project is expected to help these and other schools within the LA and beyond it.

2.4 There has been good progress in increasing understanding and **focus on helping children and young people learn how to learn** and training sessions on 'learning to learn' have been well attended. Evaluations of all training events are very positive with 100% participants indicating that the training objectives were met at each event. A transforming Learning Group focusing on learning to learn with all schools involved sharing good practice in their implementation of the Learning to Learn approach and 5 schools delivered presentations at a conference held in the 2010 Spring term.

Behaviour is good or outstanding in all secondary schools and this represents an improvement in one school where behaviour that was previously satisfactory has become good. The improvement followed support to improve the pastoral and referral systems and improved accountability and quality assurance by senior staff.

Pupil attendance continues to be very good despite a slight increase of 0.1% points in the persistent absence rate in 2009 to 2.7% which considerably exceeded the target of 3.5% and is the lowest in the country. There are several successful initiatives that help achieve this excellent outcome. The Mayor's Award for attendance is an attractive incentive for children to attend school every day. The continued use of an evidence based approach to identify the causes of pupils' absences and tackle them with the right measures has a positive impact for example, work with local health services to issue a guidance leaflet for parents and schools on childhood illness and school absences continues to contribute to reducing many unnecessary illness absences. Effective multi-agency work is another key factor behind our success and a school attendance panel which is attended by key managers including those from social care and health addresses the most persistent cases of school absence. The panel enables relevant managers to consider these most difficult cases face to face with parents and provide appropriate support. The Panel is chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services who is perceived as high status but non judgemental which is appreciated by parents.

Pupil exclusion rates are very low at 0.6% and in line with targets. Good progress continues to be made across the Local Authority in terms of reducing the number of exclusions from school. 1153 school days were lost to fixed term exclusions during 2008/09 representing a 24% points decrease compared to the previous year. In 2008/09 there were 73 fixed period exclusions from the primary sector and 460 from the secondary sector. This compares to 87 and 574 respectively in the previous academic year. 88% of primary exclusions were for between 1 and 3 days whilst that figure was 82% in the secondary sector. No pupils were permanently excluded from primary school in 2008/9 and 8 were excluded from the secondary sector compared to 10 the previous year.

The number of individual primary pupils excluded rose from 25 to 28 but there was a substantial reduction during this period in the number of days lost to exclusion (126 from 217). Overall the total number of pupils excluded from secondary schools in Kingston fell by 20% points. This is the 2nd successive year to see a reduction in the number of exclusions in Year 7 which reflects the increased focus and good support for pupils during the transition period. 299 individual pupils were excluded from secondary school accounting for 1153 lost school days (as opposed to 367 pupils accounting for 1507 in 2007/8). 65% of those excluded were male and 54% were pupils with Special educational Needs, which is too high but is much better than the national picture.

There is good collaboration across schools and services to support those most at risk of exclusion. Pupils who are a cause for concern, are discussed at the three weekly Planning & Placement Panel which is a multi-agency forum for identifying where additional support is needed. This is often achieved through completion of a Common Assessment Form (CAF) which schools are now using on a regular basis. Kingston's revised Fair Access Protocol has been in place since April 2009, with the aim of ensuring access to education is secured quickly for those pupils who are 'hard to place'. Since April 2009, 7 pupils have been considered by the Fair Access Panel and a suitable educational placement agreed for each of them.

The behaviour consultant and the educational psychology service continue to run an annual training session for schools to update them on **anti-bullying** guidance & share good practice. The session is highly evaluated and there has been a very positive reduction in the number of children reporting concerns about bullying. The 2009 Tellus Survey found a 30% point fall in the number of children experiencing bullying and Kingston's performance is more positive than national and exceeds the LA target. The LA is currently convening a group to promote consistency of policy and practice across the borough. A new intranet site for schools to provide guidance on anti-bullying has been available from Autumn 2009.

2.5 There has been good progress towards ensuring all children, schools and families benefit from **access to 24 hour learning**, and easily available information about children's learning. Targets have been met. The roll out of the KingsNet Learning Platform has been largely successful, providing 75% of Kingston schools with a means for ensuring pupils can engage with learning materials when not at school. Sophisticated use of this platform is still developing though there are already some good examples of practice to be found in both primary and secondary schools. There is more to do to meet the target of parents accessing real time information on student performance and attendance. Providing real-time access for parents to performance information has proven more difficult with the lack of a clearly functioning national strategy and cost being the two main barriers. We are looking to develop the learning platform provision to resolve this. The next breakthrough point will come with the establishment of a longer term contract for the supply of the learning platform, which will provide teachers and learners with the security and continuity they need to enable them to invest more heavily in its use.

2.6 Good progress has been made to ensure **schools and individuals routinely benefit from partnerships, community and extended services** and in evaluating the quality of extended provision. 100% of schools provide Extended Services and are working collaboratively with other schools and partner agencies. 100% of schools provide or signpost the full range of services for children and young people to meet their needs and enable them to access education. This has enabled schools to provide a range of services to meet the needs of pupils across the ECM outcomes.

100% of schools are engaged in the clusters and all secondary schools are members of the secondary collaborative. The Cluster Co-ordinators group meets regularly to agree criteria for various aspects of Extended Services in order to improve the ECM outcomes for pupils. A Cluster Development tool has been developed which assesses schools against Conditions for Success for Extended Services. This has been piloted with four schools, one in each Cluster, and each of the schools participating were found overall to be good. There is more to do to evidence how schools have benefited from cluster and collaborative work.

100% of schools are engaged in the Kingston Schools Sports Partnership, ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to take part in a broad range of sports activities both during and outside school time. All secondary schools have subject specialisms and 100% share their expertise outside the school, however evaluation of the impact of specialisms needs to be strengthened and this is a focus for the coming year.

Selected staff in all schools have undertaken CAF training which has resulted in improved access to multi-agency support for pupils. In addition each cluster holds a multi agency meeting to facilitate and develop partnership and multi agency working. Very good progress has been achieved in relation to partnership working with the Library and Heritage Service. The number of Reception classes visiting the local library or receiving a visit from the children's librarian has risen to 65% from 41% in the past year and six of the seven libraries had an increase in children finishing the Summer Reading Challenge (SRC). National research has shown that the impact of the SRC prevents the 'summer holiday dip' in reading, motivation and attainment and encourages more children to read at home. The number of children participating in the challenge is expected to rise in line with the increased engagement of Reception Classes.

2.7 Good progress has been made to secure best practice at **transition between schools** to ensure children thrive and make good progress at the next key stage. For the 2nd successive year there was a reduction in the number of exclusions in Year 7 which reflects the increased focus and positive impact of support for pupils during the primary secondary transition period. The number of days lost to exclusion fell although the target of 25 pupils was missed by 3 pupils.

50% of secondary schools are involved in the 'Entitlement' project which aims to build up the notion of a Kingston Entitlement at transition. An audit of practice at transition has identified a good number of strengths which have been published. Additionally a number of potential strengths are ripe for further development. For instance, there is a common secondary transition day but induction procedures vary and recommendations for good practice are currently being developed. These include using SEAL materials across years 6&7 to provide a sense of continuity and improving dialogue with feeder schools. Information will be circulated throughout the year to improve consistency. This work is coordinated through a Transition Steering Group with representation from clusters of schools.

2.8 In its role as the **commissioner of school places**, the LA has performed well and ensured that every child had a place in a local primary or secondary school before the start of term. The LA has responded proactively and effectively to accommodate the large increase in the birth rate and subsequent increased demand for places in Reception Class. This has been achieved by working collaboratively with schools. 300 additional places have been added for September 2009 and 2010 Reception years and estimates based on robust data are proving largely accurate.

For 2009 admissions to primary schools, 95% of applicants received a preferred school offer at the initial allocation. This was just short of the target of 96% and 9% points more than 2008. 84% of families were offered their first choice of school which was a significant improvement of 8% points on 2008 partly because places were added in relation to parental preferences.

On National Offer Day, 95% of residents received their preferred offer for admission to secondary schools in 2009 which compares favourably to London average of 94%. This is a significant achievement given the proximity of schools and good public transport links which means there is always more movement across London local authority boundaries than elsewhere in the country. The effect of this is that some boroughs might not offer as many first preferences to their residents as other authorities but they may well be meeting a high proportion of first preferences for pupils from neighbouring boroughs. The percentage of on line applications increased by over 13% points from the previous year and exceeded the target of 25% by 8% points.

Outcome 3: All children and young people will be able to achieve and maintain emotional and physical well-being

3.1 Progress in increasing **immunisation coverage** has been variable. At 91.5% the uptake of three primary doses of diphtheria, tetanus, polio and pertussis in the 1st year of life exceeded the target of 90%. However the 90% target for human papilloma virus immunisation for girls aged 12-13 years has not been achieved with a take up of 74.5%. 84.6% children aged 2 years were immunised for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) which is lower than the 89% immunised last year. An immunisation marketing campaign promoting public awareness of the benefits of immunisation programmes ran throughout September and October 2009 using bus and bus shelter advertising, radio messages, leafleting and pharmacy bags.

An Immunisation Strategy including recommendations for more targeted work was completed in April 2010 and implementation is expected to result in increased coverage. Staffing support to implement the Strategy was strengthened through provision of additional allocated Immunisation Co-ordinator hours to the immunisation programme. Work is about to commence to increase delivery of services by integrated multi disciplinary based teams as an integral component of delivery at all children's centres. The newly appointed public health Nurse for Immunisation will ensure that all immunisers are suitably qualified / trained to immunise through foundation and update courses.

3.2 Good progress overall has been made in increasing the **availability of therapy services and reducing waiting times. See objective 12.6.**

3.3 Performance in improving **access to and coverage of ante-natal and newborn screening programmes and Child Health Promotion Programmes** has been good overall. 87.8% of women accessed full health and social care assessment of need by 12 completed weeks of pregnancy which exceeded the target set. There has been a focus on encouraging women to take up a scan at 11-13 weeks after gestation: 82% of women booked for antenatal care took up this offer and 92% took up a foetal anomaly scan at 20-22 weeks gestation. It is anticipated that the increase in women booking early will increase uptake of the earlier scan.

All women booked for ante-natal care accepted ante-natal screening for sickle cell disease and thalassaemia although with the national target of women booking by the 12th week of pregnancy few were screened by 10 weeks as recommended in the National Screening Group standards. Again it is anticipated that the increase in women booking early will improve the uptake of earlier screening.

96% of babies had their hearing screened by 4 weeks which is an improvement of 4.8% points on last year and exceeded the target set.

3.4 Progress overall is good in implementing the **strategy to reverse the rising levels in obesity**. Kingston has a lower prevalence of obesity in Reception Year children at 7.6% in comparison to the SHA (11.2%) and England (9.6%). This is an improvement against our target of 8.2% and significant in that for the past year the rise in obesity for this group has been halted. The prevalence of obesity in Kingston's Year 6 pupils is the same as last year at 16.4% compared to the SHA (21.3%) and England (18.3%). The prevalence of overweight children in Reception Year at 10.2% is lower than comparisons with SHA (12.4%) and England (13.2%). In Year 6, the overweight prevalence is 13.3% compared to SHA (14.7%) and England (14.3%). Nationally, PCTs were set a participation rate goal, for each age group, of 85%. In Kingston, the Reception and Year 6 combined participation rate of 91% demonstrates good uptake and is slightly higher than the national participation rate of 90%.

The annual survey from the School Food Trust gives estimates of take up of school lunches in primary schools at 26% and for secondary schools 32.9%. Both these figures represent a

significant improvement on last year's figures. We are actively working with our contractors to improve uptake. The data also includes 4 schools where we provide only packed lunches for children on Free School Meals. Last year we had 8 schools where we provided only packed lunches but have now introduced hot meal provision in 4 of these schools to improve uptake. In the next year we plan to do further work to improve uptake and to introduce hot meals for all schools in the central contract.

All secondary schools manage their own school meal provision, however they may be able to improve uptake using funding through the Targeted Kitchen /Dining Room Grant for which RBK has been awarded funding.

There has been a reduction in the percentage of pupils being driven to school from 21% last year to 19% this year which exceeds our target. This is despite a significant increase in the school population, particularly at Key Stage 1. Over the next few years Kingston is embarking on a significant permanent expansion programme of primary schools to accommodate the rising school age population and school travel plans will be a key feature of this programme in ensuring there is not an increase in the numbers being driven to school.

3.5 Performance against targets to increase participation of children and young people in high quality positive activities is very good and in some cases outstanding. Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas in Kingston is the highest in the country and the Tellus4 survey results showed the most positive responses in England. Contributing to this is the completion of the Big Lottery adventure play schemes in 2008 which has increased play opportunities for 8-13 year olds. A programme of enhanced, refurbished and new play areas is in progress through playbuilder funding.

We have made good progress in increasing the percentage of children and young people participating in 2 hours of high quality PE and sport in school it is anticipated our target of 94%, a 2% point improvement on last year, will be met when results are released in September 2010.

Excellent progress and performance continues to be maintained with the Bookstart project achieving 100% take up for bookstart packs and children aged 0-7 months and bookstart plus packs for those aged 18 – 36 months. This reflects Kingston's commitment to instil a love of reading and champion the academic benefits among families with young children. In 2008/09 the average national percentage reach figures were 94% and 92% respectively. Kingston has been a Beacon Bookstart council for the past 3 years, an outcome attributable to dedicated staff time and good working partnerships with health and early year's settings and the new Bookstart Steering Group will increase in contact with SureStart Children's Centres.

Library membership of those under 17 years of age has been increased by 15% points (17,376 in 2008/09 to 19,968 in 2009/10) following increased class visits, greater take up of the Summer Reading Challenge and increased Rhyme Time sessions. In light of temporary closures in last year at two libraries and a limited service at the main library during refurbishment of the Children's Library, this is highly creditable performance on top of a large increase in issues in 2008-09. Sustaining this increase has been a real achievement.

Good progress is being made in children and young people participating in curriculum linked workshops and exhibitions with Kingston museum with an increase in the number of bookings for curriculum-linked workshops from schools inside and outside the Borough. With the introduction of a new schools offer linked to the Muybridge exhibition in September, we expect to see this number rise again for academic year 2010/11. Progress in encouraging school age children and young people to attend the Rose Theatre as part of the New Deal programme has been satisfactory and is expected to improve significantly as the programme becomes embedded. 23% of the school cohort attended representing 4,810 attendances. Feedback from those attending is very encouraging and showed that for some children and families on low incomes this was the first time

that they had had the chance to experience high quality performance art and that they had found the experience inspiring.

Kingston is committed to the free swimming programme and the project is a partnership between PCT, DC Leisure and the Local Authority. In the past year the number of swims by children and young people 0-16 years has increased from 53,000 to 59,150. Good progress is being made for take up of 14-25 year olds in the CSPAN programme targeted at young people and young women with anticipation that targets will be met by September 2010.

3.6 Progress to reduce smoking, drug and alcohol abuse among young people has been good overall and key improvements to service delivery to match national performance standards has been a key priority. In the Tellus survey 6.9% of young people reported frequent misuse of drugs or volatile substance or alcohol or both which better than the England average of 9.8% and reflects the progress that has been achieved locally through universal awareness raising and targeted interventions. There has been a recent dip in terms of young people having been assessed as requiring treatment for substance misuse accessing this within 15 days of referral. This is partly explained by 2 young people with very complex needs who did not engage easily with the process.

The numbers of young people in treatment continues to be lower than anticipated. This remains a matter for close scrutiny as it either represents the impact of successful preventative activity or young people not being identified for treatment. The annual treatment plan notes that this has been a feature for the last two years and the 2010-11 plan incorporates measures to test out the possible extent of unmet need. However overall, the National Treatment Agency has indicated in their 2009/10 3rd quarter report that "it is really pleasing to see such good progress against the treatment plan". They further describe specific initiatives related to screening, prescribing and the "Hidden Harm" agenda as "Excellent progress".

The number of referrals to the targeted Youth Support Service from Kingston Hospital and surrounding A and E departments has dropped significantly from 90 to 50, which is an excellent result. It is planned to review current protocols to ensure young people are not falling through the referral net.

The percentage of those also quit smoking are in line with targets and the numbers are significantly lower to date than in previous years.

3.7 Support for children and young people with emotional difficulties has been good, with continued consultations, training and direct work provided by the Family Advice and Support Service (FASS) and CAMHS tier 2 and more specialist, intensive support offered from the Family, Adolescent and Child Team (FACT) at Tolworth Hospital.

Mental health awareness training has been provided for new RBK employees on 3 occasions, including teachers, family support workers and colleagues from a range of disciplines. Training has also been delivered in 2 GP practices on mental health issues in the past year. The training programme for 2010-11 is being considered by the CAMHS commissioning group and will include 2 sessions of specialist training (CAMHS tier 3) by Tolworth Hospital and the new Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) project will train staff from 4 Primary schools and 3 Secondary schools in mental health issues and improve the development of the understanding of schools' roles in promoting emotional well-being.

FASS has provided over 200 consultations to RBK professionals and has supported over 100 families, children and young people in a wider range of settings within the local community, including children's centres and GP surgeries.

3.8 Emotional resilience of children and young people in Kingston appears strong. Results from the Tellus 4 survey show positive results compared with the rest of the country in terms of 19.3% reporting they had experienced bullying against a national average of 28.8%. From the

same survey, 57% children and young people in Kingston reported that they enjoyed good relationships with their family and friends which is in line with the national results.

There continues to be 100% use of SEAL across primary schools and there has been a focus to extend into all secondary schools. The SEAL resources are being used extensively by schools with the expectation that there is an increase in preventative activities in schools to help students understand about managing their emotions and relating to others. A conference for school staff was held which focussed on using SEAL to support transition and the ways in which the SEAL materials can be delivered in all school settings.

The Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS) survey has just been completed for a second year by Kingston schools. The data will be analysed and reports given to the inspector for SEN later in the 2010 Summer term. There is an overall improvement in the factors in PASS data in 2010 compared to the previous, initial year (2009) in which it was completed and the data is more robust now that even more schools are completing a PASS survey. Individual schools analyse the pupil responses to PASS factors and this has led to some schools devising targeted initiatives with specific year groups.

A pilot project is being undertaken in one primary school in which there is a 3-stage approach to building resilience in pupils; this starts with staff training, moving on to group work on strategies to promote resilience in pupils and finally sessions with parents to help them reflect on their role in promoting resilience. An evaluation of this pilot project will be produced by September 2010 with a view to rolling out across wider range of schools.

3.9 Progress on ensuring all children and families engage with health services and their health outcomes improve through health promotional activity, especially those who access Children's Centres has been good. A menu of services has been developed as a promotional tool to promote a range of integrated services to vulnerable families. Baselines have been established and these will be used to measure progress in future years. Access to health services is increasing with the re-location of health services from existing health sites such as Hawks Road into children's centres across all clusters. The total number of health activities provided by centres is 387 excluding midwives/health visitor services and the number of service users seen in centres accessing health services, support, activities is 911. The total number of service users seen in Health Visitor Clinics is 234.

Midwifery teams are currently co-located in 3 children's centres and run ante-natal and post natal support groups within the centres as part of the programme of activity. Appointments to meet midwives are scheduled in centres to engage with parents as early as possible. Between April 2009 and March 2010, 218 service users met with midwives in children centres and this is expected to increase as more teams co-locate. Three breastfeeding clinics per week run in three centres with another due to start at Norbiton in July 2010.

Building on this success a further 3 teams of midwives will co-locate in children's centres shortly, subject to midwifery recruitment and capacity, and Health Visitor Clinics are being re-located from health centres within specific children's centres to deliver sleep & weaning clinics. Family Support Workers are piloting the continuation of the Positive Start Project methodology working alongside the community midwives to continue to offer support to 22 families affected by the premature ending of the project.

3.10 Progress in meeting our challenging targets in reducing prevalence of STIs and unwanted pregnancies has been satisfactory this year although performance overall is good and progress against the National Teenage Pregnancy Target is very good. The 2008/09 target has not been met due to the small numbers impacting adversely on the percentage target (in total 9 extra conceptions than the previous year). The strategy is strengthening and becoming more embedded within service development. It remains a high priority which will ensure that the downward trend

continues in order to meet the target of the 40% reduction in March 2011 from the baseline 10 years earlier.

There is good engagement of all key mainstream delivery partners who have a role in reducing unwanted teenage pregnancies, and strong co-ordination of the strategy by Teenage Partnership Co-ordinator and Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board. A Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) training clinic has been running at Kingston Hospital sexual health clinic since September 2008 training GP staff to provide a full range of LARCs. GPs are now incentivised as part of a Locally Enhanced Service to provide LARCs. As part of the new Kingston Sexual Health Managed Clinical Network, a new Reproductive Health Consultant Post has been funded to start 2010/11. There is excellent availability of well-publicised contraceptive and sexual health services such as KU19 and the Point clinic which are young people focussed. In 2009 we expanded our community pharmacy EHC scheme so that six more Pharmacies are now providing Emergency Contraception. We also launched our new C-Card scheme across young peoples community based services.

High priority is given to PSHE in schools, and support was offered to all schools to develop comprehensive programmes of sex and relationships education (SRE) during 2009. 100% of primary and secondary schools now have an SRE policy in place. Enhanced school based health drop-in sessions were launched in two secondary schools in February 2010 and plans are underway to expand this to all Secondary schools in 2011/2012.

A comprehensive, widely publicised SRE workforce development programme was delivered for professionals who work with the most vulnerable young people, such as Connexions personal advisers, youth workers and social workers and some training elements were made mandatory for frontline IYSS professionals.

Progress in increasing the percentage of the resident population accepting a test/screen for Chlamydia has been good at 24.4% against the target of 25% target for 2009/10 and improved from 20% last year.

Our strategy for increasing Chlamydia screening for under 25s has included a number of initiatives. There has been further engagement of GPs and all young women accessing Emergency Contraception from pharmacies are offered a Chlamydia screen. In addition 2 community pharmacies are now providing partner notification and treatment as part of the screening programme. Metro (Chlamydia screening outreach organisation) showcased effectively with Hawks Community Contraception Clinic and community pharmacy settings supporting them to increase their screening rates. The C-Card scheme (condom distribution scheme) ensures that a screen is offered to each young person who accesses the scheme. Between November 2009 and April 2010, the total number of young people who registered for a c-card was 255. The total number of visits to c-card outlets during this same period was 332 meaning there were 77 repeat visits. The average uptake of Chlamydia screens across the 6 months of the c-card scheme was 26%, which is significantly lower than the 50% target. However, when asked why they did not want a screen, the majority of young people said that they had already had one.

A multi-agency workshop was held to share best practice in optimising all avenues of testing the target population, and ensuring the full multidisciplinary team is capable of offering a screen (eg reception staff), and utilising Department of Health (from December 2009) and locally developed publicity (from May, 2009) to facilitate access at sites where it is more problematic to initiate the topic of screening. Following this workshop one GP practice that used the best practice from a workshop tripled it's screening rates within a month. Supporting information from the workshop has been distributed to all screening providers with particular information for GPs due to low take up in this area. In addition, mail out of kits to all 18 year olds were undertaken and flyers promoting the checkurself website were mailed out to all 16 and 17 year olds. Bus advertising of London www.checkurself.org.uk (internet access to the CSP) website has also been prominent on the inside of buses in Kingston.

3.11 Progress in improving **access to dental care for children** has been excellent, with all universal targets being exceeded and one of the highest performances nationally. The improvement in take up has been contributed to by schemes which promote dental access to children and families. It is difficult with present data collection to assess the impact on specific vulnerable families and this needs to be addressed in future plans. The PCT will work with the NHS Business Services Authority to see if specific information regarding increase of access to areas of deprivation can be mapped.

Latest results for the total units of dental activity (UDAs) completed to date (15 April 2010) show that 237,071 UDAs had been completed which is 90% of those commissioned. Practices have 62 days from 31 March 2010 to submit all final claim forms and the final out-turn is expected to be in the region of 92-93% completion of all commissioned UDAs.

The number of children accessing dentistry within a 24 month period has increased from 21,859 in March 2009 to 27,346 in March 2010 and is good performance in the context of a rising population. Kingston's Birthday card scheme for 3 and 4 years olds commenced in March 2010 and is expected to have a noticeable effect in increasing access to dental care. The scheme sends a birthday card to all 3 and 4 year old children in the first year providing them with a specially designed and recorded dvd oral health promotion message and inviting them to attend the dentist with their gift voucher which they will swap for a gift pack including a toothbrush, toothpaste, brushing chart and information.

3.12 There has been excellent progress made in engagement in the **National Healthy Schools Programme** with 96% of schools achieving the initial healthy school programme which exceeds our target by 2% points. This is significantly above the national figure of 85%. 100% of primary and special schools have achieved initial healthy school accreditation and 80% of secondary schools.

There is very good progress towards the new enhancement programme with 78% of Kingston schools taking part in initial training. 17 schools are in cohort one and will need to complete the enhancement programme by December 2011. Of these schools, 95% have begun their training and identified key objectives for the programme.

Outcome 4: All children by age 5 will be well developed and ready to make a successful start at school

4.1 Focussing intervention with schools and settings to **close the attainment gap at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** has resulted in improved performance overall. 60% of children achieved 6+ in Communication, Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) which is an improvement on last year and represents an improvement of 7% points over 3 years.

Currently, 10 schools are involved in the CLLD programme and 11 in the ECAT programme with clear links being made to ensure consistency of support and involvement. Improved practitioner confidence, enhanced learning environment and literacy workshops for parents have all enhanced the quality of CLLD provision across all targeted schools. Based on monitoring of autumn and spring data, summer 2010 achievement is expected to improve in targeted schools.

Over the past 4 years the gap between the lowest achieving 20% and their peers has closed significantly by 6% points. This year the gap widened slightly from 31% in 2008 to 31.3% in 2009, however detailed analysis of the characteristics of pupils in the bottom 20%, shows an increase of 2% in children with SEN which has impacted on this indicator.

All schools with children's centres have set targets for their pupils at the end of the EYFS in 2010, which reflect challenge for key groups of children, and use of extended services and children's centre activities and multi agency involvement to enhance outcomes and close the gap further.

4.2 Good progress has been made in Improving **practitioner confidence and quality of provision in PSED and CLLD**. Significant support is in place for both these key areas of learning through targeted consultant time in key schools where provision and improvement is less good. The CLLD programme is focused in ten schools, with teacher confidence and competence improving as a result.

59.8% of children scored 6+ in communication, language and literacy which is an improvement on 2008 and over the last 4 years shows a good increase of 14% points. The percentage of children scoring 6+ in PSED also increased from 81.3% in 2008 to 82.4% and there has been an improvement of 5.9% points over 5 years. Pupils who score 6+ points in both of these areas of learning are nationally recognised as having a 'good level of attainment' and although this figure declined very slightly in 2009, it has improved by 12.5% points over 4 years. A PSED programme in seven maintained schools has focused on key skills and tracking progress effectively and its impact is clear in improved PSED scores in all reception classes for summer 2010.

4.3 A significant majority of **Early Years Foundation Stage provision and leadership across the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors** is good or outstanding. Currently, Kingston does not have any settings graded 'Inadequate' by Ofsted. High priority support is targeted as appropriate and two settings have moved to good and one to satisfactory from an inadequate judgement. The number of "intensive support settings" receiving a high degree of support has reduced from 8 to 3 which is a significant improvement.

The introduction of the Ofsted and welfare requirements 'compliance' list has ensured that settings are confident and effectively prepared for inspections. The focus on improving leadership in all early years settings has been good and will remain a focus in 2010/11. Leadership and management development sessions have been well attended with 86% of managers attending termly meetings (91% of funded settings) with content including preparation for Ofsted, compliance with statutory requirements and tracking progress of all learners.

Currently the percentage of settings engaged in QuILT as an improvement tool has reduced from 45% last year to 41% in 2009/10 largely due to closures or chains of early years providers choosing not to take part.

4.4 Access to high quality Early years provision by disadvantaged children has improved as a result of careful targeting of intervention programmes. 106 children under three years old are currently known to ASKK which is an increase from 2009/10. All of these children are accessing early years provision in early years settings, which is impacting on their progress towards age related expectations across areas of learning. 92 children are flagged at level 1 and 69 of these are accessing provision. Work with providers to encourage early identification will continue.

The new assessment document 'Moving On' has been very well received across all sectors, with the target being exceeded by both schools and other settings. This document enables practitioners to track pupil progress across all areas of learning, and for all groups of children. It enables provision and support for children to be matched appropriately to their current stage of development.

4.5 Involvement in the Positive Start Programme in Children's Centres has exceeded targets with 44 families being engaged during the first year. The current retention rate of families who have consented to the programme is 96% and has exceeded the target set.

Input from the speech and language service has been very effective. All staff have received training from the Speech and Language Therapist on how to identify early signs of additional need for speech and communication, and delivering support to help parents support their children's early language development. Parents report increased awareness and confidence in their role and how to develop their child's speech and communication skills. Family Support Workers are much more able to ensure continuous support and offer practical tools to parents to ensure continuous stimulation.

Families are well supported to engage with the preschools attended by their children, and 100% of parents have attended events at their child's setting. The early years advisory teacher has worked with families to involve them fully in their child's schooling and activities. All siblings' progress against related milestones is tracked systematically and individual progress discussed with schools. 90% of families have attended at least 2 community based activities and 75% of families are now attending on a regular basis.

Diaries for babies are updated with families monthly, looking at significant achievements of the child and the family from the previous month and focusing on particular developmental milestones. Considering how their child's next stages of development and introducing parents to appropriate toys, books and resources to support this, has skilled parents very effectively, promoting engagement in their child's development and confidence to practise age and stage appropriate play.

4.6 Parents' engagement in family learning has been good and contributed to the 2008/09 Self Assessment Report (SAR) within the overall performance in Wider Family Learning and Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy which was judged good(Grade 2). During 2009/10 there has been a 40% increase in the number of courses delivered in children's centres and nursery classes for parents/carers and children under 5. Within the whole Family Learning programme, 832 adult and child learners engaged in Family Learning activities by July 2009 representing a 19% increase in learner participation. This exceeds the targets set by 282 learners.

A wide range of family learning activities have been established including 3 courses set up in 3 new children's centres and a successful pilot for 'Step into Learning' training to key workers signposting parents into learning in was held in Surbiton Children's Centre in Nov 2009 and another in Old Malden Children's Centre is planned for July 2010. Progression sessions are offered on all Family Learning courses and parents/carers are signposted onto other sessions eg parenting, Cook and Eat and Family Finance courses.

82% of feedback from schools involved in Family Learning activities report increased parental engagement with schools and their children's learning which is 8% points below the target set.

73% learners have indicated an interest and possible progression into further learning. Overall progression rates based on available information are showing very positive indications of continuing education and training for Family Learning participants.

Outcome 5: All young people will be able to make a successful transition to adult life, continuing education and employment

5.1 The performance of the borough's **universal Information Advice and Guidance** service is outstanding as seen by the Kingston's NEET figure of 3.4 % for 2009/10, reducing from 3.5% the previous year and one of the lowest in London, also one of the lowest in England. The correct Information Advice and Guidance is vital to enable young people and their parents and guardians to be sure they are making the correct choices at 16. We believe this should be viewed as a considerable achievement due to the economic downturn and youth unemployment which has been particularly hard hit during this period. In order to ensure the continued high performance of our Universal IAG offer, a number of activities have been put in place by the IAG sub group as part of the 14-19 Strategic partnership.

Of the 12 IAG Standards identified by DCSF, Kingston's continuing priorities for the IAG Action Plan, are on target with 6 of the standards to date. The IAG sub group evaluates IAG services for young people by commissioning and managing this through quarterly meetings and the IAG Action Plan. This ensures the provision of impartial IAG for Years 9-13, is appropriate to support young people in choosing their learning providers by 2011. In addition following an external review of the service in August 2009 the service will be reconfigured to better meet the needs of the borough's young people and the secondary schools, whilst ensuring the effective implementation of the national IAG strategy 'Quality, Choice and Aspiration (2009)'. High quality IAG activities are vital in ensuring that all young people in Years 10 and 11 know they are entitled to an offer of a place of learning under the September and January Guarantee. Whatever their attainment at school, by March 2011 it will ensure impartial IAG is given to young people to enable them to make the right choices and will see that they not only participate in learning education or training beyond 16 but succeed.

5.2 Ensure all learners have access to the full range of progression pathways through well targeted commissioning of 14-19 provision, including LLDD to age 25 so that outcomes and staying on rates improve. Of the four current progression pathways, General Qualifications, Apprenticeships, Applied Provision, (Diplomas) and Foundation Learning, the two commissioned by the local authority with the lowest delivery profile are Diplomas and Foundation Learning. Diploma delivery in the borough began in 2009/10 with the introduction of two lines (Creative and Media and Hair and Beauty) across KS4 & 5, involving partnership between schools and the college. As this is the first year of the programme there are no results to draw upon, however, a recent Ofsted 14-19 survey visit in its written feedback described the provision positively and noted, among other strengths, 'good participation by students from potentially vulnerable groups, a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and a broad range of abilities' and 'increased motivation of students resulting from their experience of Diplomas'. Furthermore, the Ofsted feedback noted that there is 'good development and planning for the introduction of future Diploma lines'.

There are further plans to deliver two more Diploma lines in Sport and Active Leisure and Business Administration and Finance in 2010/11 and early feedback from the DCSF sponsored Gateway 4 round indicates that Kingston will commence with another seven lines from 2011/12, eleven in total by that date. Sub-regional collaboration with other boroughs on Diploma delivery from 2011 will see RBK on course to meet its 14-19 Diploma entitlement by 2013. Development of Foundation Learning at KS4 and Post 16 including the borough's SEN provision is in development, and will be fully implemented in line with the borough's 2011 target.

5.3 Performance in improving **curriculum planning and delivery of applied learning by developing employer engagement** has been good. We have achieved above the target for Diploma delivery and the very difficult task of engaging sector skills-related employers with Diplomas. The diverse representation on the 14-19 Partnership group has demonstrated good collaborative working in Diploma planning and delivery. The Schools Vocational Development Service, My Voice London and Diploma 'line leads' have secured our target for recruiting new employers as indicated in our Gateway submission. Employers have contributed to planning and

delivery of diploma assessments, presentations and work experience. St Philips' MLD students participated in work experience and an 'Insight into Work' week. This provided an opportunity to visit a range of employer premises and on occasions to participate in practical activities with the excellent outcome that some of the students were offered part-time employment as a result of this work. Evidence of the success of their work experience was demonstrated in their presentations to their peer group and staff.

5.4 Secure measurable improvements in accredited outcomes through new models of regional and sub-regional partnerships, including high quality learner-led, provider neutral, and cost effective post 16 commissioning. Based on data supplied in the Local Authorities Data Dashboard for the local authorities school sixth forms in 2009, Kingston outperformed the national AS average of 87.1% by 4.4% points and the A2 (A Level) national average of 97.2%, by 1.1% points, although the AS figure was 1.5% points below the local authority target. This represents an improvement in our A2 completions of 1.3% points on the previous year and our current year target. Drop-out at 17 is a concern for the LA. The AS figures indicate that this may be an issue in our year 12 level 3 provision, as the AS figure of 8.5% fails represents approximately 486 learning aims. It is, though, difficult to establish exact learner number equivalence in this data. The PASS (pupil attitudes to self and school) survey of KS4 pupils indicates a high level of satisfaction well above national averages and one of the best in the country for response to the curriculum.

The move toward local high quality learner-led, provider neutral and cost effective post 16 commissioning was laid out in the Machinery of Government changes. This devolved post 16 commissioning and funding to the Local Authority from 1 April 2010. For the previous commissioning cycle (2009/10) the Learning & Skills Council retained a significant role. In co-ordination with the newly formed London Regional Planning Group and Regional Allocations Group, the transition year (academic 2010/11) commissioning cycle was fully implemented in 2009/10 for the 2010/11 academic year. This involved the creation of a local authority post 16 Commissioning statement and subsequent Commissioning plan. These developments required negotiating with and agreeing the allocation for all of Kingston's post 16 providers, comprising 10 School Sixth Forms, 2 Further Education, 1 University and 2 Foundation Learning providers. It also involved the transfer of two LSC staff, creating a distinct borough 14-19 team. Work on the next commissioning round as set out in the NCF for 2011/12 is underway, the first since the dissolution of the LSC. Post 16 commissioning is now the sole responsibility of the Local Authority with support from the Young People's Learning Agency, Regional Planning Group and Regional Allocations Group.

5.5 Improving economic wellbeing outcomes for all groups through clear links between 14-19 provision and lifelong learning is progressing well. The borough's NEET figure at 3.4% is one of the lowest in the country. The aim is to ensure that all targeted learners access the September Guarantee and where appropriate, the January Guarantee. This is good performance, given the current economic climate which could have been expected to show a rise in the NEET figure, with fewer job vacancies and apprenticeships for young people as a result of the recession.

The Connexions service has played a key role in successfully coordinating the work of partners and in monitoring the progress and transition of disengaged young people and those at risk of becoming disengaged. The LSC have also played a significant role by funding numerous projects to work with our NEET group. There is a need to extend arrangements for pooling resources to fund the development of high-quality, long-term programmes that can be sustained beyond the period of initial funding. Commitment from the Integrated Youth Support Service and the voluntary Sector have ensured a collective and coherent approach for those young people who are NEET. Good strategic use of a wide range of data to support planning and monitoring at several levels has resulted in services coherently allocating resources and effort where they were most needed. The 14-19 Strategic Partnership continues to focus on the early identification of those most likely to fall into the NEET category by identifying the factors which lead to disengagement and by maintaining good links to the Behavioural and Attendance Partnership.

5.6 Performance in improving qualifications by age 19 and against the national averages continues to be well above national averages at 83.7% for Level 2 attainment at age 19 and 63.9% for Level 3 attainment. Level 2 & Level 3 attainment gaps at 19 are wider than national averages and strategies are in place to reduce these; however the borough is at, or above the national 2011 targets in both these areas for the whole of the free school meal cohort. Low income progression to higher education and the high proportion of 17 year olds in the borough's NEET group at 17 and potential drop out at 17 are key areas for the local authority. This will form a key part of the borough's planning and analysis as we move into the next post 16 commissioning cycle for academic year 2011/12 and prepare for the Rise in Participation Age from 2013.

The performance against the target for participation at 17 is good at 88.9% and above the national 2011 target of 86%. This data incorporates statistics from a number of sources. To date, we are feeding back on information gained from the Connexions database. Our performance in the September Guarantee meant that 97.9% year 11's and 97% year 12's had an offer of a place in EET in September 2009. This left a small number of young people who were the most difficult to engage or whose circumstances prevented them from applying for or taking up offers. We reduced this further with additional resources allocated through January Guarantee funding. However, the January Guarantee announcement and timescales were short which did not allow some young people to progress into EET, we have continued to work with and focus on this group to encourage them to take up the offers which are available to them.

The 14-19 Strategic Partnership is aware of the need to extend opportunities for vocational learning particularly in relation to apprenticeship opportunities beyond the local authority's own successful scheme. The Partnership recognises the importance of working with employers in order to develop a wider range of employment opportunities and in developing the new Job With Training progression route post 16 route, particularly for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities post-16 and at the age of 19 up to 25. These build, where appropriate, on the best practice of the borough's Workstep programmes. In addition, the LA recognises the need to establish even stronger links with Jobcentre Plus, to improve the continuity of monitoring and support for young people beyond the age of 18.

Participation performance is good at 85.8% and currently participation at 17 years is just 0.2% points below the 2011 national participation target and when the latest dataset is produced in June, we may well be above the 2011 target. However, we are mindful of the high proportion of 17 year olds in our NEET group, many if not all of whom will have passed through the September Guarantee. We recognise the relatively high proportion of Year 12 AS fails in a successful borough and the need to ensure that IAG is as supportive as possible in allowing young people to make the right decisions about their future, including which suite of learning to enter post 16. This will help to ensure that all young people in the borough regardless of the level of the abilities or prior qualifications are able to access the right provision and make a successful transition to adult life, continuing education or employment.

Outcome 6: All children and young people will be well protected from being physically, sexually or emotionally abused or neglected

6.1 Excellent progress has been maintained in ensuring the **early identification of children protection concerns and appropriate support for children with a child protection plan** despite a significant increase in the child protection cohort. We continue to provide high quality safeguarding services and achieve excellent outcomes for children and young people and sustain high-level performance against the majority of national indicators, which is better than, or consistent with, the national average and our statistical neighbours.

Contacts and referrals about the welfare of children, young people and their families made by professionals and the public are promptly actioned, and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is used with clear impact across the local area, ensuring that partner agencies work to shared thresholds for intervention. The Positive Start Programme is currently supporting 40 vulnerable young infant's pre and post birth. 8 of these cases are co-worked with the statutory Safeguarding Services to ensure that there are coherent Child Protection Plans in place. The evaluation of impact of this programme is ongoing.

The risk of harm to children and young people is reviewed systematically at the point of contact/referral with clear criteria for priority action agreed including the incidence of single, joint or co-morbidity of domestic abuse, mental health concerns, and of substance misuse. Over the last 4 years there has been a significant increase in the number and complexity of cases open to the department. There are approximately 105 children subject to CP Plans currently (compared to 37 in March 2005). This trend is in line with the national picture.

Despite the significant increase in number, children and young people in Kingston continue to have their needs identified and responded to effectively and in a timely manner. Excellent progress has been made in further reducing the number of children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a subsequent time from 9% in 2008/9 to 4% 2009/10. 100% of CP review conferences took place on time and 100% of all CP cases are allocated to a qualified social worker. A significant increase has been noted in the numbers of children subject to CP plans where parental alcohol and drug misuse is a factor. In the first quarter of this year this was present from 85% of families considered at initial CP conferences. This is a significant increase on the data for the previous two years which was reported at 50%. The hidden harm steering group has recommended co-location of a specialist adult drug and alcohol worker in the children's safeguarding service. This is being pursued by the health commissioners as a priority.

The increase of children subject to CP Plans for 2 years + is low and in line with previous performance, however the increasing numbers of highly complex CP concerns faced by many children and young people, and the necessary co-ordination of specialist multi-agency interventions required to effect and embed positive change in families means that we can predict there will be a significant increase over the coming year.

6.2 The **Local Safeguarding Children's Board is effective** and has made good progress, supported by the peer review process in January 2009. In line with the Laming report recommendation, an independent chair was appointed and the LSCB re-aligned its sub group structure to provide more direct and influential input from partner agencies in key work areas, including policies and procedures, communications and awareness. All sub-groups have developed clear terms of reference which have been approved by the Board and there are robust Governance arrangements setting out the "check and balance" arrangements with the Children's Trust Board.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-group has completed a programme of multi-agency Peer Audits on targeted cases that challenge and drive improvement in partnership working. This has enabled the LSCB to develop a widely owned and action based improvement plan, with monitorable outputs and a clear focus on improved outcomes. An independent LSCB Chair and

full time Business Manager post will be in post by July 2010, which will strengthen partnership working to further develop the excellent multi-agency arrangements in place in Kingston to ensure that children and young people are safe.

There is strong management of multi-agency child protection planning and this is reported on in quarterly operational management review meetings and by a report to the full LSCB Board with analysis and recommendations for action. There are quarterly meetings with the Child Abuse Investigation Team (Police) and this now includes the PPD arrangements. Safeguarding Services for children and young people are fully represented on the local multi-agency protection forums MAPPA and MARAC with Strategic Management representation.

A comprehensive multi-agency CP Training Programme has been delivered including the expanding areas of single agency awareness training for childminders and schools to ensure effective compliance with Ofsted safeguarding requirements. This has represented a significant increase in the overall number of participants in all levels of safeguarding training (numbers attending training in 2008/09 was 1728).

6.3 Good progress has been made in **minimising the impact of domestic violence**, with an increase in effective multi-agency engagement, and high levels of support to non-abusing parents leading to a significant reduction and repeat victimisation. The Domestic Abuse (DA) Sub-group, co-chaired by Safeguarding Services and the LA DA Co-ordinator, has continued to progress work across the Children's Trust to minimise the effects of domestic abuse on children and families. The DA Sub-group reports to the Trust Board through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Safer Kingston Partnership.

The Victim Support Service has led on the piloting of the DA Children's Worker Project (Safe Space) which has successfully exceeded the performance targets over its first year. A full evaluation of its first year's (April 2010) performance will be prepared by the City Bridge charity which is funding the 3 year project. The project has supported 198 children in 17 schools across all 4 clusters and 54 children on a 1 to 1 basis. There is qualitative data that shows a clear improvement in the children's behaviour, confidence and concentration, that have participated in this project. Feedback from the children and their families will be integrated into the annual evaluation and will inform the work and planning of the project steering group. The specialist Children's Worker has been accredited to deliver DA training.

The Caring Dads programme is now scheduled to be delivered from April 2010 onwards, in order to ensure that all partnership arrangements are in place. 5 specialist workers have been trained across the Children's Workforce to deliver this programme across the Children's Trust.

6.4 Performance in the **timeliness of initial and core assessments** is mixed. It has declined in some areas however good progress has been made against others eg re-referrals. The unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services identified the following as an area of strength "Senior management has addressed the doubling in the last two years of the number of initial assessments and the number of children subject to a protection plan, by providing direct and visible support, additional social work posts, and a good workforce development plan".

In line with the national trend there has been an increase of 55% in overall referral activity, with a similar increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan and requiring accommodation. The ongoing dependency on agency locum cover has contributed to increased caseload pressures on permanent staff. We have maintained standards of practice with 100% allocation of all CP cases which has resulted in a slight fall in the timeliness of assessment conclusion compared to last year. 75.5% of core assessments were carried out within 35 days of their commencement which is well above last year's national average (50%). However performance in relation to Initial Assessments carried out within 7 working days of referral at 63.2% has dropped below last year's national average of 71%.

Our outturn of re-referrals for 2009/10 is 14%, which is an improvement on our performance last year which was 17% and well above the national average of 24% for 2008/09. This represents a gradually falling figure suggesting that first interventions are increasingly effective. The unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services found partnership working to be an area of strength and in particular that "the common assessment framework (CAF) is used with clear impact across the council. The process of carrying out a CAF is supported well, with evidence that partner agencies work to shared thresholds for intervention. This helps to maintain a low rate of re-referral to statutory safeguarding services."

During the course of this year we have emphasised our focus on the quality of assessments by the introduction of our Quality Management Framework (June 2009). We have reviewed and strengthened our current guidance, learning from recent DCSF publications. There are high levels of regular senior management scrutiny of assessment activity and performance on a weekly basis, which ensures that prompt action is taken in any cases of delay or drift. A weekly report is presented to the Director of Children's Services by the Head of QA and Compliance and Strategic Manager Safeguarding Services that tracks and comments on week by week service activity, including key performance measures and quality audits.

Kingston has made significant progress this year in further developing the ICS system, following the relaxation of the DCSF requirements. This has ensured that social work time and resource is freed up from "administration" tasks wherever possible. There is good use of ICS which has been in place for over 3 years. Kingston deliberately adopted a high profile in terms of supporting the implementation of ICS at an early stage and leading and lobbying for areas for development and improvement. To this effect a senior manager within Kingston was successfully nominated to the membership of the national DCSF ICS Expert Panel.

6.5 Excellent performance has been maintained ensuring **child protection plans are clear and detailed and reviewed in a timely manner**. We continue to ensure that 100% of all CP Review conferences are held within the statutory timeframe, and all assessments progressing to Initial CP Conference are risk assessed under S47. Good quality independent chairing and review arrangements are in place. These have been commissioned competitively through robust quality assurance methods. An LSCB sub group scrutinises Child Protection plans with the aim of driving up quality and leading to improved outcomes. A further function of the sub group is to scrutinise the contribution of partner agencies to promote rigorous joined up approaches and standardise reporting formats.

The Quality Management (QM) Framework ensures that there is a focus on effective decision making and the management of risk and protective factors. Practice Supervisors complete a sample of detailed audits on a weekly basis. The audits also examine the contribution of the child themselves and the input of other relevant professionals. Core Groups for children subject to CP Plans agree quorate criteria for attendance to ensure multi-agency participation in the implementation and review of the CP Plan.

Whilst we have improved our performance on last year of S47 investigations leading to CP Conference that were held within 15 working days from 40% to 43%, we have not been able to meet this year's target of 50%. This is due to the combined pressure of congestion within the conference calendar and the capacity of the Child Protection service to chair and administer the significant increase in numbers.

6.6 Excellent progress has been made in **recruitment and retention of a skilled safeguarding workforce**. Across the Safeguarding Teams there has been a targeted programme of permanent recruitment and reducing reliance on locum staff, which has reduced to 15%, which represents 3 posts. This is a significant achievement given the national shortage of suitably skilled and qualified social workers. We have also engaged in the national (CWDC) Return to Practice programme and

10 returners have participated in the refresher training and shadowing activities, which we anticipate will lead to permanent employment further reducing our overall vacancy rate. 5 of these returnees have been interviewed and 1.5 have been offered an appointment to date. This is a significant endorsement of this initiative.

The new social work recruitment and retention package for Safeguarding social workers was implemented in April 2009. Evaluation of this package had concluded that 100% of new recruits identified this as a trigger criterion for their application.

100% of workers are receiving regular supervision in line with the new policy implemented in June 2009 as part of our improved focus on Quality Management. The focus for 2010/11 is to establish a programme of routine audits to quality assure the analysis and evidence base of effective decision making.

6.7 Excellent progress has been made in **ensuring improvement in effective monitoring, supervision and practice standards** are in place. The Quality Management (QM) Framework was introduced in June 2009 and this ensures that there is a focus on effective decision making and the management of risk and protective factors throughout Safeguarding.

There is clear evidence through front line management supervision and oversight that record keeping is up to date and supports sound decision making. This is further confirmed through the ongoing senior management quality assurance oversight which routinely takes place through a structured programme of case file auditing and informal spot checks. Our Casework Audit Policy was reviewed in September 2009 to further strengthen the required practice standard and the evidence to support this on the child/YP file. A weekly report is prepared for the Director of Children's Services which includes a summary on the Risk Assessments Audits undertaken by Practice Supervisors. The audits also examine the contribution of the child themselves and the input of other relevant professionals. Supervision is routinely scheduled and prioritised and underpinned by our recently refreshed Supervision Policy and Recording toolkit.

The ongoing dependency on agency locum cover, has contributed to increased caseload pressures on permanent staff, in order to maintain standards of practice (ie 100% allocation of all CP cases).

6.8 Excellent progress has been made in ensuring **serious case reviews** (SCR) are conducted to a good standard, including the re-submission of the SCR into Baby A which was formally approved by Ofsted. Details of the SCR Review (2009/10) Executive Summary were published on the LSCB website in Summer 2009. The Action Plan and Recommendations have been implemented with training priorities integrated into the new LSCB Training Plan.

A series of 4 SCR training events were held with 95% attendance across a broad multi-agency group. There were 2 additional specialist 2 day training events on working with uncooperative families targeted for specialist workers in child protection and safeguarding.

The SCR Sub-group was established as part of the LSCB QA Sub-group, and meetings routinely took place to ensure this area of work was progressed. The QA Sub-group Terms of Reference were formally agreed and adopted by the full LSCB Board.

6.9 Very good progress has been made in implementing the **recommendations arising from the IDEA peer review of safeguarding**, most particularly including the adoption of clear governance arrangements between the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and the Children's Trust Board, and the establishment of the LSCB Quality Assurance Sub-group which meets quarterly. An Action Plan was developed following the IDEA Peer Review that was approved by the LSCB. Individual actions were incorporated into all of the LSCB Sub-groups for inclusion in their Annual Action Plan. Progress is reviewed routinely by the full LSCB Board, and is currently considered to be very good.

Outcome 7: No families in Kingston will be living in poverty and no children will be affected by impacts of poverty

7.1 The overall progress for increasing the amount of **affordable childcare** has been good, although performance in increasing the uptake of childcare tax credit has only been satisfactory. A snapshot at December 2009 showed, over a 6 month period, a modest increase of 0.5% points of families from low income families benefitting from childcare element of Working Tax Credit.

Work with childcare settings and parents to promote and raise the awareness of tax credits has been good and targeted work to promote the uptake of childcare tax credit has continued with childcare providers and parents. Kingston specific materials have recently been produced. Whilst the level of uptake for eligible families still remains relatively low, we are still projecting a 5% points increase. There is a similar picture in other local authorities, with fluctuations in snapshot data mirrored by many statistical neighbours and other LAs.

Childcare Vouchers and Salary Sacrifice are promoted by the RBK One Council One Reward scheme to RBK employees this has resulted in a 25 additional members to the scheme. Targeted support has been provided to settings in Norbiton and other disadvantaged areas and where there are known to be higher numbers of families on low incomes. This resulted in a successful outcome with one setting that had closed re-opening and agreeing to continue to offer childcare that has sensitive and supportive policies for low income families. Another setting is continuing the Childcare Affordability Programme model of subsidy to families in the higher element of the CCTC, after the discontinuation of the scheme.

The RBK Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) to monitor supply and demand is currently being reviewed, and planning for a full CSA for 2010 – 2013 has begun focussing on increasing uptake of affordable childcare and services for parents on low incomes. Tax Matters training is ongoing. All CDT Advisers have now accessed the training and are using and promoting WTC / CCTC in settings. Since 1 April 2009 175 families (200 children) have accessed a brokerage service through the Childcare Access Officer (CAP) and 61 families have been assisted into childcare through brokerage with a 99% success rate, of which 30 were, classed as emergency childcare requests with referrals coming directly from safeguarding or health.

7.2 Progress in **supporting lone parents and other parents out of work to find employment** has been good. The Families' Information Service has delivered a targeted programme to children's centres through outreach work and the Outreach Officer has given advice about tax credits and entitlements to 178 parents. As a result of this 88 parents have entered employment or training.

The outreach programme has been developed with increased sessions at a wider range of venues and through this programme 984 people have received support which has enabled them to access their child's free early education place and informed them about their entitlement to other services.

7.3 Progress in implementing strategies to increase the number of **young people from low income backgrounds who participate in post 16 education** has been good. In particular, in partnership with Kingston University a new strategy is being implemented to identify the Free School Meal cohort across all the borough's schools rather than working with individual schools with lower Key Stage 4 and 5 attainment. This will provide mentoring and support across the entire free school meal cohort with specific work for those identified in Years 9 and 10 as having the potential to progress into level 3 post 16 education or training. The most recent data available for those progressing from low income backgrounds to higher education is for the 2007/8 academic year which relates to the 2006/7 outturn. This shows a gap of 28% points for this cohort and an attainment level of 21.8% which represents a dip of 1.7% points on the previous year.

Performance against the national averages for inequality gaps in the achievement of a Level 3 or 2 qualification by the age of 19 continues to be outstanding in all areas. There are some areas of

concern related to Level 2 & Level 3 attainment gaps at 19, although the borough is at or above the national 2011 targets in both these areas for the whole cohort and the FSM cohort. Low income progression to higher education and the high proportion of 17 year olds in the borough's NEET group at 17 and potential drop out at 17 are key areas also.

7.4 Performance in increasing the **participation of poorer children and young people in positive activities** has been excellent. The target for the number of young people attending the Summer Uni programme was exceeded, and new facilities have been made available at Dickerage Adventure Playground to extend the range of positive activities available. Four new Junior Clubs (exceeding the target of two) have been established which provide a range of activities and workshops for children aged 8 – 11 years in specific areas. As well as providing generic provision, children are referred to these clubs by other agencies and teams as part of an integrated package of support.

The number of swims at Kingston Leisure Centres by children and young people increased from 53,000 to 59,159 reflecting Kingston's commitment to the free swimming programme, good marketing and administration. The project is a partnership between PCT, DC Leisure and RBK and is evidence of the success of integrated programmes.

7.5 There has been good progress in increasing **access to short breaks and appropriate childcare for parents of disabled children**. In particular there has been good progress on increasing the number of children accessing Saturday provision from 30 to 42.

Through the Aiming High Programme a pilot has been developed to make universal services more accessible for disabled children, such as holiday playschemes, afterschool clubs and positive activities for young people. Negotiations are currently underway to ensure that our children's centres provide universal access for this population of children and young people. A rolling training programme to enhance the skills of early years providers is currently being developed following the successful appointment of a full time Training Officer this year and this will further increase the capacity of providers to provide access to short breaks and childcare for parents of disabled children.

Currently access to placements continues to be limited however strategies to increase the number of places offered by voluntary organisations are being established to increase the number of specialist foster carers to support children with disabilities, developmental and complex needs. There has been significant progress in achieving the milestones identified for 2009/10 with an additional 6 children accessing holiday activities.

7.6 The take of **subsidised extended school activities** by children eligible for free school meals has been good overall. Take up was variable in the pilot programme in the Surbiton cluster, with over 70% take up in 3 schools but zero take up at 2 schools. In planning the future roll out of the disadvantage subsidy borough wide further research is being carried out to understand this significant variation in take up. The eligibility criteria have been reviewed and a quarterly programme will continue to allow in year adjustments to marketing and developing the scheme.

There has been modest progress in reducing the achievement gap for pupils on free school meals at both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. Progress has not been as rapid as hoped but there is good evidence to suggest that local initiatives developed through extended services provision and targeted intervention are beginning to take effect.

7.7 Progress in maximising the **take up of benefits for workless parents** has been very good. In supporting parents the FIS has exceeded its target for outreach this year and advised 984 families about tax credits and entitlements. The Jobcentre plus and the Childcare Access officer have worked together on two events resulting in 24 families being assisted financially with childcare to enable a return to work.

7.8 Good progress has been made in improving access to, and participation in, **adult skills training by workless parents**. The ESOL programme has maintained a strong work focus helping carers develop the language skills to access employment opportunities. There has been much work in developing higher level language skills and the work at the Open Learning Centre is very much focussed on women returners and the flexible mode of delivery that fits in with job search. At least 80% of Crèche users are from jobless families and this facility provides crucial support in enabling beneficiaries to update skills.

The employability programme has been mainstreaming into the FE programme and Kingston Adult Education has maintained its relationship with Job Centre plus and is applying for DWP funding.

65 workless families were supported through the Family Literacy and Numeracy programmes which is an increase of 8% points on the previous year. These programmes have been enhanced by the Family Learning Impact Fund which offers targeted courses in partnership with local primary schools and secondary schools to male parents / carers of families in need. Three such courses were offered in 2008-9 and the provision has expanded in 2009-10.

7.9 Progress in reducing the number of **vulnerable families in temporary accommodation** has been good although the challenging target, set by central government has not been met due partly to the small numbers of new affordable homes available to Kingston residents in temporary accommodation. There has been a steady decline month on month in the number of families in temporary accommodation due largely to the success of the Housing Options Visiting Team in preventing homelessness and offering settled homes in the private sector. Correspondingly our number of new accepted homeless households has fallen from 218 (2008/09) to 111 (end January 2010).

The establishment, in March 2010 of a new Kingston Strategic Housing Partnership is already providing focus on the pressing need for more affordable homes in the borough and brings together all of the enabling partners. We have reached the target set for overcrowded families to move to larger private sector accommodation as an interim measure until a larger social housing home becomes available. The "Breathing Space" scheme has been a very successful and nationally recognised scheme. Focus and good progress has also been made to ensure best use of accommodation by offering incentives for under-occupying households to free up the larger homes. We have achieved 31 (end of January 2010) such moves, an increase from 27 last year. The number of new affordable housing units has increased from 32 to 46 this year and many of these are larger units provided on a council owned estate in Kingston, as part of a regeneration scheme.

Outcome 8: All children and young people who are disadvantaged will achieve outcomes as good as other children in the local area, and those who need it will benefit from a multi-agency integrated package of support

8.1 Performance in ensuring **children and young people with level 3 additional needs** are identified, assessed using the CAF and provided with multi-agency support is outstanding and the quality of work was recognised in Ofsted's recent unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment processes. In a recent audit of London Authorities, Kingston had carried out the highest number of CAFs and from these had the highest percentage of Lead Professional and Family Support packages in place.

There has been ongoing good practice this year with regard to the Information Sharing and Integrated working training, with increased awareness of children with additional needs, enabling more effective early intervention. ISA has been updated, so we have an effective system in place for recording CAFs received. Quarter 3 figures showed 74% being returned on time and Quarter 4 data is 78.1%. There is a need for further multi agency discussion and engagement with regard to the current timelines around the completion of CAFs following identification of needs; due to a percentage being notified and then not taken forward.

Lead Professionals are increasingly taking on the responsibility for coordinating and chairing all review meetings. Data on review meetings has been collected since July 2009 and 236 level 3 review meetings have been coordinated and chaired by Lead Professionals. The coordination of Family and Multi-Agency Support Meetings (FMASM) in 6 weeks has improved in the last two quarters of the year as a result of reviewing the monitoring processes. The timelines for the % of FMASM coordinated within 6 weeks is also impacted on by the availability of professionals who are working with families, as well as school holidays. Performance against the target for the % of review meetings completed in 3 months has been very good and is testament to the support professionals are provided through the training delivered in the borough and by ASKK coordinators.

We continue to deliver multi agency training around Integrated Working and Information sharing and 221 professionals are now trained as Lead Professionals in the borough. The training programme for staff on integrated working and Information Sharing has progressed well and total attendance on all levels was 1628 during the year. 119 professionals have completed all three levels of the training.

Data is collated on a monthly and quarterly basis with regard to the number of flagged children and young people and risk indicators identified for monitoring and tracking purposes and to assist with identifying areas for service development. Termly Prevention and Safeguarding reports are also sent to schools.

Clear quality assurance systems are in place including: Quality Assurance Framework developed as part of the CAF evaluation; Level 3 case monitoring panel to ensure effective monitoring and tracking of outcomes for children and young people flagged at level 3 (16 months +) and receiving multi agency/Team around the child support; weekly CAF analysis meetings with the Prevention Practice Supervisor to support the analysis of identified needs and ensure seamless links with statutory teams.

8.2 There is very good progress in identifying and meeting the **needs of vulnerable children and young people across the age range 0-18** through children's centres, clusters and the secondary collaborative.

All children's centres have been designated as making the core offer available to the community within reach. The annual conversation process has identified a good range of service provision at most centres whilst newer centres are beginning to build up their programmes based on an assessment of need at cluster and ward level.

The secondary collaborative has sponsored the development of the Anstee Bridge Project - a Year 11 alternative education provision for more young people not attending school. In the first year of the project 100% of young people referred to the project achieved accredited outcomes to recognise their learning and achieved an appropriate destination on completion of their programme. Students not offered a place were offered alternative programmes of individual support, relevant to their needs.

8.3 There has been excellent progress in the **preparation and implementation of Contact Point** with effective engagement with strategic partners to support appropriate information sharing.

The ContactPoint Management Team is responsible for leading on implementation of the ContactPoint system within the Local Authority and external partner organisations. In Kingston this also requires us to ensure that the use of ContactPoint enhances the current ASKK information sharing and early intervention arrangements. The ContactPoint team has to submit monthly progress reports to the DCSF and all work streams are currently rated GREEN.

Good working relationships have been established across agencies working with children and to date five internal partners and the Kingston Hospital Trust have been Organisationally Accredited following a rigorous assessment process. 43 practitioners from frontline internal partners Kingston Hospital and have been trained and set up to use the live system.

8.4 The take up of **parenting support** including Family Support Workers working directly with families and their children has been very good and over the last year the Family Support workers have supported 321 families. Average monthly ASKK referrals for parenting support between April 2009 and March 2010, have been lower overall than the monthly average target of 20 but have ranged from 6 in April 2009 increasing to 28 in March 2010.

During the year the Children's Centre Family Support Workers were allocated 118 cases. Tailored packages of support have been implemented for all these families with regular reviews and monitoring tools in place and 353 children received one-to-one targeted support.

In the past year Children's Centres have seen 1,545 parents & carers accessing the range of services available and 1,467 children 0-5 years have attended Children's Centre provision. Targeted support to families in accessing universal provision available across all children's centres includes referrals to partner services, supporting the housing process, accessing training and adult learning, engaging with centre provision – support in attending/accessing, multiagency support for the whole families. 19 parents attended and completed the Incredible Years (IY) Parenting Programme and feedback has been very positive with demand for a continuation of this programme and a waiting list for the next course. Parents engaged in the IY programme have noted a change of attitude towards their children and their own parenting skills. Attendees include those families with children subject to a Child Protection Plan. The Family Support team also provide the Choice Advice service and have 45 parents who requested help in the application process for secondary school.

The majority of parents attending evidence based programmes have been referred by ASKK. Overall numbers of referrals reflect the availability of courses part way through the year. The target for parenting programme referral was dependent upon staff training to deliver Triple P courses and 4 courses were held across the clusters with 23 people attending. This was less than expected but reflects the delay in course availability. From January 2010, 2.5fte FIP workers have been employed supporting 8 families which exceeds our target.

8.5 The progress in reducing **gaps in outcomes for children in care and the disabled** is good with high levels of support across the age range for eligible young people.

The Transition team for disabled children actively works with the young people allocated to them from the age of 14yrs. This involves getting to know the young person and attending their reviews. Prior to July 2009 the Transition Team only finalised Person Centred transition plans by the end of the academic year in which the young person turned 19yrs. In Sept 2009 we introduced 14+ Person Centred Transition Plans, with the aim that a shorter 14+ Transition Person Centred Plan would be completed after the young person's Year 9 review. We have focused on ensuring that as new cases come through they receive a 14+ Transition Plan so that as the years progress eventually all young people in Transition will have a Person Centred Transition Plan. In addition we have been working to bring down the age when young people have a finalised comprehensive Person Centred Transition Plan that is ready to be shared with adult services in time for their 18th birthday. Progress to date on this shows that 77% of 14 year olds and 86% of 18 year olds currently have a Person Centred Transition Plan.

An increasing number of young people are allocated to the Disabled Children's Transition Team and attend short break groups and residential provision. The focus of our holiday activity groups are around life skills. All young people are invited and supported to attend these groups and therefore have the opportunity to benefit from them. Some young people are in residential provision out of borough. Those young people are supported by their residential units to develop their life skills. Only a few young people (5 young people out of 68) choose to not attend groups and are not in residential provision. All young people that are allocated to the Disabled Children and Young People's Team are supported in full time education/training/employment.

Outcome 9: All disadvantaged young people at age 14+ will benefit from education, employment or training (to age 19) and participate positively in the local community

9.1 Good progress has been made in ensuring **learners at risk of poor educational outcomes at Key Stage 3 and 4** are supported to succeed. Pupils who are a cause for concern, and may be at risk of exclusion from school, are discussed at the three weekly Planning & Placement Panel which is a multi-agency forum for identifying where necessary additional support for such individuals. This is often achieved via completion of a CAF, which schools are beginning to use more on a regular basis. Completion of a CAF signifies that an assessment of need has taken place at the outset of a planned intervention and provides a baseline from which to measure achievement. Closer attention is increasingly paid to meeting individual student need through an integrated programme of support. Of the 24 referrals to the PRUs made in 2008 to 2009, 17 either had a CAF or were at level 4. This represents an increase of 64% on the previous year when 2 (7%) out of 30 referrals had a CAF, 14 of the 30 were at level 4 and 1 pupil was undergoing statutory assessment. However there is scope to ensure that reviews of students who are considered for support by means of CAFs are carried out on a more inter-agency basis as part of the overall CAF process.

Kingston's revised Fair Access Protocol has been in place since April 2009 with the aim of ensuring access to education is secured quickly for those pupils deemed 'hard to place'. Over the year, 7 pupils have been considered by the Fair Access Panel and a suitable educational placement agreed for each of them. Schools have been actively supported by the local authority and its partners to develop a culture of more presumed inclusion.

Good progress continues to be made across the Local Authority in terms of reducing the number of exclusions from school. 1153 school days were lost to fixed term exclusions during 2008/2009 representing a 24% points decrease compared to the previous year. 65% of those excluded were male and 54% were pupils with Special Educational Needs which is below the national average. This is the 2nd successive year when we have had a reduction in the number of exclusions in Year 7. This reflects the increased focus and support for pupils during the Transition period. Overall the total number of pupils excluded from secondary schools in Kingston fell by 20%.

9.2 The range and availability of **multi-agency alternative education and in school support** for disadvantaged young people is proving effective. The Anstee Bridge project, now completing its second year of operation continues to provide an excellent range of targeted and tailored interventions to meet the needs of year 11 students who are not attending school on a full time basis. Pupil progress and performance is monitored by the Secondary Collaborative who commission the service on behalf of all the borough secondary schools. The curriculum on offer is varied, delivered by partner agencies including the Youth Service, and from the good attendance figures appears to capture the imagination of most students. Most young people then graduate with clear destinations. Consequently good progress has been sustained in terms of reducing further the % of the 16-18 year olds who are NEET from 3.5% to 3.4%. Kingston's figure is already low compared to both London-wide and national performance and so every percentage point reduction is a significant milestone.

The contract with CFBT to deliver the universal Connexions service is proving very effective. As the current contract comes up for renewal by March 2011 it will be important to ensure that there is sustained emphasis on quality assurance to guarantee a consistent response to young people. The local authority based Targeted Advisers continue to work within the TYS framework to deliver targeted interventions to priority groups such as teenage parents, young offenders and young people with LDD. There have been improvements in the second half of the year in respect of engaging teenage parents and LDD in EET activities whilst progress has been slower in respect of young offenders. The proportion of those from the BME community who are NEET has reduced slightly, but the rate of improvement is not satisfactory. In 2010/11 we plan to develop new targeted intervention programmes to address inequalities experienced by specific BME groups.

9.3 In 2009, the **performance of all Kingston's significantly sized BME groups** (except White European) was on average 23% points above the borough average. Asian Indian, Asian Other, Mixed Other, Mixed White and Asian and White Other pupils in Kingston consistently perform above their national peers at KS4. At KS4 Asian Pakistani and Black African pupils have fluctuating performance and their results need to be interpreted cautiously due to the small cohort size. Asian Pakistani pupils in Kingston performed above their national peers by 3% points in 5A*-C and by 11% points in 5A*-C including English and mathematics.

The number of Black African pupils overall in Kingston is very small (195 pupils), however there was a small increase in exclusions for this group of pupils in 2008/09. The number of Black Caribbean heritage pupils again is very small (53), however there was a 1% point decline in the number excluded. The average length of exclusion has reduced for both groups.

Overall it is difficult to make accurate statements on performance of nationally recognised BME groups as cohort sizes are small, and results need to be interpreted with caution. Only Asian Pakistani and Black African groups in Year 11 in 2009 had more than 25 pupils.

There is a need to ensure the ready availability of good quality INSET to support schools to make inroads into those aspects of differential performance that are proving more intransigent to change.

9.4 Progress in supporting **young offenders and young people in supported accommodation** to achieve accreditation for good levels of participation in positive activities has been very good. 90% of young people supervised by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) achieved an accredited outcome which significantly exceeded our target. For those in supported accommodation 78% (7 out of 9) young people who left during the year achieved an accredited outcome. This represents a good outcome for these young people, but our aim is to ensure 100% of young people leave in a planned way with a record of their achievement to date.

The progress made reflects the strong emphasis in the YOS on improving the range of opportunities for young people who are difficult to engage to participate in accredited programmes that are generally linked to personal development targets or specific skills. The primary impact of the initiative has been to enhance the quality of CV's and sustain independent living successfully which will enable in turn to access EET, as suggested by recent research evidence.

As indicated in the review of Outcome 11, progress in respect of increasing the proportion of young people supervised by the YOS who are in education, training and employment (EET) has been disappointing. Although an improvement on the 2008/09 outturn figure, in 2009/10, 78% of those young people completing an intervention were in EET. Further analysis of this figure is described at 11.5.

9.5 Ensuring that **young people from Kingston's diverse communities** participate fully in the wide range of positive activities on offer in Kingston is a key priority in promoting community cohesion. The proportion of young people from Kingston's diverse communities is growing: currently 34% of the school age population is from ethnic minority groups which is higher than in the resident population. Overall, the number of young people participating in positive activities has increased by 10% points on last year to 75% which exceeded our target. This includes an increase of 12% in the numbers of young people from ethnic minorities who have been attending youth service provision throughout the year. This has been achieved by developing new programmes, informed by consultation with young people and extending the range of activities on offer, particularly those from diverse communities. Very good progress has been made in number of young people taking part in PAYP projects with an increase in referrals from other agencies and organisations. The outcomes achieved through this work have been very good and resulted in an increase in provision.

Very good progress has also been made in the numbers of young people accredited outcome. At 42% this is an improvement on last year and exceeds the national benchmarks. This has been achieved by extending the range of accredited outcomes to ensure relevance to young people's needs and working across IYSS to deliver various aspects of the work.

9.6 Excellent progress has been achieved in **involving more young people in the decision making** process of the Trust. Through the Recruits Crew, young disabled people and looked after children in particular have taken part in the appointments of staff at all levels in Learning and Children Services. The Youth Opportunity Fund has been well subscribed to with successful projects designed by care leavers and those living in supported accommodation making good use of the support offered to ensure their delivery. Plans are well advanced to establish a Corporate Parenting Panel which will actively promote the wider inclusion of looked after young people in decision making about the services they receive. Young people working with the Youth Offending Service have also taken part in surveys to establish how best the service can respond to their needs and to better facilitate attendance and participation in sentencing programmes. More recently young people who access services provided by the Integrated Youth Support Service at Guildhall 1 have participated in consultations about decor, furniture and layout in the newly refurbished space.

These developments have been underpinned by the implementation of the Refreshed Participation Strategy, which has also resulted in the development of School Council Conferences as well as the publication of a Manifesto for Kingston Young Council. The impact of this has been young people inputting into a wide range of key issues, both locally and nationally, as well as the opportunity of engaging with prospective MPs and local councillors. Key issues raised by young people included the provision of safer transport and increased affordable leisure opportunities, which will be taken forward in 2010/11 within the relevant CYPP outcome groups. Council Members convened a working group in 2009/10 which was concerned with promoting greater levels of participation by young people in decision making.

9.7 The YOS has maximised the potential for improving the **level of family support offered** through take up of the Family Intervention Project grant. This project, based in the YOS, is concerned with delivering a programme of intensive family support to families where there is a strong likelihood of family breakdown, going into care or custodial sentencing which can result in damaging long term impacts for vulnerable young people. In 2009/10 satisfactory progress was made in implementing the scheme and by April 2010, 7 families were engaged in the programme which can last up to 1 year. In addition the expansion of the Family Support and Parenting programmes available in the borough have maximised accessibility. New service management arrangements have tied together services directly working with targeted young people and services offering family support and in so doing improved project co-ordination and widened knowledge and understanding of the offer amongst staff teams.

All young people and their families assessed as requiring access to a formal mediation service to resolve issues that threaten to undermine the stability of family life are provided with appropriate services. In 2009/10 this offer has been significantly enhanced through the new Family Intervention Project described above. The YOS continues to prioritise the accommodation needs of young offenders as research indicates a stable home base is critically important as a key factor in reducing the likelihood of re-offending. 100% of young people are consistently supported to access and then remain in suitable accommodation. This includes staying in parental home or living in a range of schemes managed locally under contract from the Supporting People Service.

Outcome 10: All children and young people who leave care will be well educated, healthy and able to lead a fulfilling and independent life

10.1 Performance in improving the **health of looked after children** continues to be good. Our current performance indicator PAF C19 for children and young people receiving an annual health check is 81.8% which is in line with the national average although performance has dipped slightly. In order to address this agreement was reached with Kingston PCT to increase the Looked After Children Nurse post to a full time post, with effect from January 2010. To further assist the monitoring and tracking of this target a joint agency monitoring system for health checks has been put in place and a strong relationship with the designated doctor at the local hospital already exists.

New referrals to the UASC service have increased this year but we have ensured that 100% receive a health assessment within 28 days. There is dedicated professional time to enhance emotional health built into the multi agency LALC Service to ensure a prompt response to identified need.

100% of looked after children, who meet the criteria, are subject to SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) and the outcomes are evaluated by the CAMHS Therapist located within the LAC/LC Service. Appropriate interventions are then identified and access to appropriate services is put in place. The average SDQ score for children looked after in Kingston is 14.7. The service uses the SDQ score information to prioritise need with the high need group scoring 20 or above.

All staff within the Looked After and Leaving Care Service undertook a training course in October 2009 in Basic Drug Use Awareness and the application of the Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST) which ensures all young people with a substance misuse problem are able to receive appropriate and timely advice from a trained professional.

100% of children looked after with a history of running away have a risk assessment. Placement information records and the placement planning meeting process now include a section to risk assess the likelihood of children absconding and/or going missing, to further strengthen our responses. The Local Authority has a well developed protocol with local police and is currently revising the data collection and analysis of the number of young people who go missing from care in order to ensure interventions are targeted and effective.

10.2 Our targets to improve the **achievement, progress and attendance of looked after children (LAC)** remain challenging. LAC in Kingston make good progress in their education and despite the small cohort those who take examinations do well. 67% of LAC (2 out of 3) reached level 4 in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2. 10% (1 out of 10) of LAC achieved 5 a*-C GCSEs at Key Stage 4. Our small cohort of children within the age ranges and the inclusion of disabled children in the outturn mean we see wide variances in our figures. We have good attendance rates and low exclusion rates and we use Personal Education Plans (PEP) proactively to identify targets and additional need. 94.4 % of our care leavers are in EET.

Narrowing the gap regarding educational outcomes for looked after children is prioritised through the PEP and allocation of Personal Education Assistants (PEA) if appropriate with a flexible use of funding to support special aptitudes and life chances. Foster Carer training targets educational attainment and carers are supported by the LAC Education Improvement Adviser to support looked after children.

There are a number of local authority partnership meetings and networks designed to ensure appropriate, personalised provision for children and young people with additional needs including those who are looked after. The number of exclusions of this group of pupils is very small indeed: 3 pupils in 2008-2009, and 3 pupils in 2009-2010 so far.

Kingston's strategy for allocation of 1 to 1 tuition targets pupils entitled to FSM as well as looked after pupils. This is monitored by SIPs and Primary and Secondary consultants. Looked after pupils

attending Kingston schools are closely monitored by SIPs and progress towards reaching their targets is monitored. The role of the Education Improvement Adviser in the LALC service has been revised and enhanced to reflect strongly the Virtual School Head (VSH) role and the new adviser took up post in the Looked After Team in April 2010. A priority will be to establish a network of designated teachers for Looked After Children with a view to further development of their new role in order to raise awareness and further improve the attainment of looked after children.

Good links with the local college and alternative provision in the voluntary sector have increased opportunities for UASC. Events organised by the UASC service have a high take up usually with 100% attendance. These include a Sports Taster Day and a Health Awareness Day.

10.3 Good progress overall has been made in improving the **care and stability of all children and young people looked after**. There is a strong emphasis on performance and quality management in the service which is evidenced by several key PI's; including 98% compliance rate for reviews held on time, a slight improvement on last year.

Placement stability is a LAA priority. The percentage of looked after children remaining in the same placement for more than 2.5 years improved from 76% last year to 79.3% and although there was an increase in children who have had more than 3 placements in the last 12 months from 8.3% to 12.5% this compares well to the national figure and the figures for our Statistical Neighbours. Placement stability is enhanced by the additional support to foster carers provided by FASS; CAMHS Therapist and the specialist EP. A Deep Dive Visit was undertaken by The DCSF in December 2009. The team commented on the clear strengths within the service area including the robust and flexible approach to supporting Placement Stability, and a clear trend for improvement.

It has been challenging to ensure that all young people who are newly looked after are placed within 20 miles of their home address but this has reduced from 25% last year to 8.6% for 2009/10. Reflecting the national picture the LA has experienced significant additional demands on children's placements and has therefore had to look to the independent sector outside of the borough boundary in order to ensure sufficient and appropriate placements are available. In order to address this we are undertaking a targeted foster care recruitment campaign, and with neighbouring authorities are member of the SW London Regional Commissioning Group.

Young people are well engaged and feel listened to. Attendance at our Drop In facility is growing with attendance rising 20% points over the past 6 months. Participation at reviews continues to be high at 91.1%. There is a low level of complaints from LAC and we have developed a text in service as part of a specific complaints process. We also have a well developed dispute resolution protocol with the IRO organisation. All of our consultation material for LAC and information about services they may receive is currently under review and full revisions are expected by June 2010. Young people have contributed to and approved the design of the material.

Children are placed for adoption in a timely manner (NI 61 is at 100%) and we have a well developed permanency action planning process which monitors and tracks cases on a monthly basis. A Training Programme open to all staff involved in permanency planning and family finding has been completed. Routine case file audits ensure that Care Plans and Placement Information Records are up to date and a new Placement Planning Meeting template is being piloted.

10.4 Excellent progress has been made in improving the **choice of cultural and leisure opportunities for children and young people looked after** with an increased number of partners involved in delivering this. Access to leisure and extended activities is promoted through partnership working with Active Kingston and the Arts Services and includes sports taster sessions, the development of a discount leisure card for LAC and a targeted activity and advice programme for UASC. Attendance is maximised at these events with 100% of places being taken

up. All children and young people in Kingston have access to free swimming and foster carers and care providers encourage swimming and other physical leisure opportunities.

Under the New Deal arrangement with the Rose Theatre, free tickets have been offered to Fostering Families and Looked After Children to see appropriate productions at the theatre. There has been a good take up for the first offer with the facility for all household members to access local performances. A 'Positive Reading and Reading Matters' initiative has been developed with the library service in partnership with a local bookshop, and through this initiative all LAC received a free book of their choice.

We have a positive relationship with local Foster Carer Association who organise a range of activities which are match funded by Kingston to increase attendance and availability. Good links with the local college and alternative provision in the voluntary sector have increased opportunities for UASC. Events organised by the UASC service have a high take up usually with 100% attendance. These include cultural awareness outings and sports events.

10.5 Good progress continues to be made in **supporting care leavers to move into adulthood**. Looked After Children and care leavers are afforded high priority in 14-19 strategy planning and their interests have been promoted in the re-shaping of new 16 plus post LSC learning and training arrangements. The cohort of 9 is small which can give a wide variance of out-turn data and in particular the significant reluctance of 2 young people to engage with services and support has led to reduction in some performance information.

There are a good range of supported accommodation options available to care leavers with clear pathways to fully independent living. 77.8% (7/9) of young people leaving care are in suitable accommodation. However young people have told us we need to have wider range of accommodation available and we are responding to this by undertaking a full review of accommodation provision for all young people aged 16+ including our care leavers. This should result in a more integrated approach to identifying and responding to need.

Excellent arrangements are in place for the delivery of Connexions advisory services at both the targeted and universal levels to benefit care leavers. As per the accommodation indicator the dip in performance to 77.8% relates to the same 2 young people. All care leavers have a comprehensive pathway plan which is regularly reviewed and staff are proactive in meeting with young people to review and monitor these. All care leavers including UASC have PA and Key Worker support and strong links to advice and guidance services exist. Creative use of housing support organisations has led to improved outcomes for our UAS young people and there has been a reduction in complaints about accommodation as a result. An employability initiative is being launched and initial impact has been the short listing of three care leavers for apprenticeship opportunities within the council. We aim to ensure our care leavers are financially secure and able to move into adulthood with confidence and independence.

The Drop in facility focuses on life skills and life chances and working with more vulnerable young people. This service is developing with increasing attendance; 80% in the last year and expected to rise further, and will be reviewed annually. The facility provides for a close interaction between young people and staff and opportunities to cook together and learn life skills. Offering young people this opportunity to learn practical skills and a degree of self sufficiency helps them avoid a sustained dependence on others and falling into poverty.

10.6 Excellent progress has been made in ensuring **looked after children receive information appropriate to meet their needs** and 80% of LAC express satisfaction with the information they receive. Further progress is expected through our new corporate parenting arrangements which will enhance the understanding and responsibilities across the council. Our Corporate Parenting Panel is in place and elected members are invited to attend to address issues raised by young people.

Feedback from young people is routinely sought and recorded on case records. User satisfaction regarding planning and information services is a feature of service development strategies. There has been progress towards the development of a base line of information received in a timely and satisfactory manner and this will be further refined with a refreshed target for next year.

The target for hits on the Looked After children/care leaver domain of the Young Livin' website has been significantly exceeded and are expected to improve further with planned developments to the web site. Young people are helping us with the web site design.

All looked after children and young people are aware of how to make a complaint and who to contact to do so. In 2009/10 there were 6 complaints relating to Looked After Children of which 1 was from a young person and the remaining 5 from parents/carers on behalf of a LAC. This represents 4% of the looked after children population which is within the target set and we will aim to reduce this. All complaints received were resolved to the complainant's satisfaction and within timescale. There is strong engagement with young people through our drop in service and this is being used as a reference point for a full review of our consultation and information sources. Where appropriate, and where identified in the pathway plan young people have access to an identified Connexions PA.

10.7 Improving support for **families of children at risk because of their behaviour through the delivery of the multi-systemic therapy project** has made very good progress. This incorporates the partnership cross borough initiative.

The authority has a well embedded partnership with Merton Local Authority, the local PCTs and SW London and St Georges Mental Health Trust to deliver services as a pilot site for the multi-systemic therapy project. The service is well developed with an engagement level of 85% which exceeded our target by 5% points. We have undertaken the annual stock take and review report is available.

All referrals to MST are scrutinised by the lead manager within RBK and approved through the well defined referral process via our Prevention and Resources Panel. The overall partnership Project Board is Chaired by a Senior Manager from RBK and there are strong links to other prevention services and interventions eg Family Intervention Project. An analysis of the early indicator outcomes for young people going through the MST programme is currently being undertaken and the outcomes will be used to inform future commissioning arrangements regarding interventions for children on the edge of care. It is expected that the Project Board will use this information along with the DoH sponsored national research to pilot local service developments.

10.8 Good progress has been made in providing **in-house placements for children and young people who need to come into care**. There has been no net loss of in house foster placements over the past year. This is better than the national pattern which shows a shortage in recruiting new foster carers.

Key in maintaining these placements is the robust support services available to carers. We successfully launched the CWDC Induction Standards for Foster Carers and provide support and supervision to meet these and complete the portfolios. Attendance by foster carers at our standards launch was 95% and we are on target to meet 100% of new carers completing the standards within time scale. Take off training is good and improving with 100% of newly approved carers undertaking training last year.

We have developed performance management data for our fostering and adoption service which is evaluated quarterly. Our data monitoring includes a full breakdown of fostering households eg composition, approval status and BME background. This will help improve placement matching and choice and assist in identifying areas where additional support may be needed. At 60%, we did not meet our challenging target of 90% cultural placement matches and recruitment of carers is being targeted to address this.

Outcome 11: All children and young people at risk of offending or re-offending will achieve outcomes as good as their peers

11.1 Excellent progress has been maintained in 2009/10 in terms of **identifying young people at risk of offending and sustaining good quality services that are on offer to support prevention**. Our performance in reducing first time entrants to the Youth Justice system has been very good reducing from 132 in 2008/9 to 92 in 2009/10. Driving down this figure further remains a key priority for Kingston but we remain the second lowest borough in London. In particular the YISP's role has been increasingly profiled amongst schools and in clusters as an effective service that has led to significant numbers of young people being diverted from the youth justice system. In addition the joint weekly Youth Offending Service (YOS)/Police Youth Clinic has continued to prove an effective means of engaging parents and young people in diversionary activity.

11.2 Very good progress has been achieved in terms of **achieving better outcomes for the top 20 identified high priority young people** although principally this has been witnessed in the area of re-offending and the provision of suitable accommodation. Progress has not been as good in terms of securing EET outcomes (see 11.5). The 'deter' cohort represents those young people agreed by a multi-agency panel to be the most challenging in terms of behaviour and achievement. Within the 2009-10 cohort which comprised 15 young people, 9 have re-offended committing 19 offences (a ratio of 1.27) compared to 32 offences from the 2008/09 cohort of 12 (2.67) representing a 52% reduction which significantly exceeds out target.

11.3 Progress to reduce the **proportion of sentenced young people receiving a custodial youth court sentence** has been disappointing. The 2009/10 out-turn was 4.3% which is a 25% increase over the 2008/9 out-turn. However these percentages mask very small numbers with young people from only three families accounting for this figure. The YOS will always offer a community based punishment as a sentencing alternative to the court, but the nature and rate of offences committed by this group has often left the Youth Court with little choice.

The Family Intervention Project described in more detail in Outcome 9, and fully established by December 2009 has developed programmes of intervention in line with nationally researched models. Baseline activity measures have now been established in line with government funding targets. Kingston's progress of implementation has been slower than anticipated and but vigorous efforts by YOS staff in the final quarter of 2009/10 have resulted in us achieving the minimum target of 7 families engaged on the programme by 31 March 2010. It is anticipated that the intensive approaches being pioneered by the FIP will have a significant impact on custodial sentencing in 2010/11. The fact that three families accounted for almost all custodial sentencing illustrates how effective holistic family based interventions are critical to long term improvement.

11.4 Progress in reducing the **rate of disproportional BME representation in the local youth justice system** has been equally disappointing. 25% of Kingston's First Time Youth Justice system entrant population in 2008/09 were from the BME community. In 2007/08 this figure was 18%. Although below the current proportion of school age children and young people from BME communities (34%) this increase is concerning and will require a further review of targeted early interventions to ensure improved efficacy for all Kingston's diverse communities.

During 2008/09, 245 young people were supervised by the YOS. NI44 performance in 2009-10 indicates that 28% of those in the youth justice system locally come from BME groups, a 2.8 % point increase over the previous year out-turn. In terms of proportionality, black young people are over represented amongst the Kingston youth offending population: 8.2% of all supervised young people in 2009/10 compared with 6.5% in the previous year. In addition, there has been an increase of 2.2% points in the numbers of young people offending who are from a mixed ethnicity family background.

Three BME families in Kingston who have with 11 children between them contribute significantly to these statistics, as well as the custody figures reported at 11.3. A full EQIA of YOS procedures was completed in April 2009 in order to identify practice that may inadvertently hinder progress in this field. This highlighted key areas for improvement relating to assessment, intervention planning and the availability of specialist advice and whilst the YOS has been working on plans to develop practice, it is clear that to date the changes are not having the impact we had anticipated.

11.5 Progress in respect of increasing the **proportion of young people in education, training and employment (EET) on completion of an intervention** has however been less satisfactory. This is particularly pertinent for the deter cohort identified at 11.2. Whilst Kingston YOS are only just behind our comparator family, we are above the London and England average. For those young people still of statutory school age the EET figure for April - Dec 2009 is excellent at 93%; this represents only 2 NEET young people. However for those young people above statutory school age (and typically members of the deter cohort) there has been a reduction of 32% in EET with 63% of young people remaining NEET. This is in contrast to the Borough's NEET figure which is now 3.4%. The YOS partnership is very conscious of this difference and this aspect of work has been recognised as a top priority within the IYSS Performance Management Framework. The overall percentage of young people in EET on conclusion of their intervention is 78%, an increase of 7% points on the 2008/9 out turn.

We continue to perform well in providing 100% of young offenders access to suitable accommodation. Young offenders aged 16+ benefit from access to the provision of two separate units of semi independent supported accommodation. A YMCA hostel also provides emergency accommodation although this can be unsuitable for particularly vulnerable young people who may require more intensive support. This accommodation may be provided within the looked after system where the young person meets the criteria, or through locally based supported accommodation provision (eg Beverley House). Together with an increased emphasis on family support and mediation to maintain young people in their family homes, these strategies contribute to the ongoing excellent performance. This area of practice is particularly important for those released from custody as suitable accommodation is a key protective factor against re-offending.

11.6 Good progress has been made in reviewing and establishing a wide range of **weekend activities for young people including access to Integrated Youth Support Service facilities (IYSS)**. Consultation has taken place with young people in relation to services they would like to see on offer and discussions have taken place with the voluntary sector and all teams within IYSS. The new reception area for young people in Guildhall One in the town centre will provide further opportunities for additional hours for services for young people to be available. Work continues to extend the range of services available at evenings and weekends. Principally the weekend provision is delivered through partnerships with voluntary sector organisations.

39% of all young people in Kingston aged 13-19 have been reached by publicly funded youth services exceeding the national benchmark of 30% and this represents good progress in this area. This has been achieved by good partnership working with the third sector, as well as through developing new projects directly with young people with the support of the Youth Opportunity and Capital Fund.

11.7 Reducing **re-offending by young people** who have already received an intervention from the Youth Offending Service (YOS) is equally a top priority for Kingston. We are participating in the Youth Justice Board re-offending project which aims to support YOSs where the rate of re-offending is higher than average. Through the offer of consultation, YOS staff are supported to review critically their practice and performance. Early evidence from the 2009 cohort is demonstrating a significant improvement in performance reducing from 1.77 new offences last year (committed on average by an already identified offender) to 1.00 in 2009/10, although this is still less good than our comparator family members. Of the 79 young people in the latest cohort, 33 have re-offended committing 79 offences (re-offences rate=1.00). At the same stage as last year the cohort had committed 115 further offences. This represents a 22% reduction in the prevalence

of re-offending behaviour. Following these improvements the YJB Re-offending Project have agreed to undertake a further analysis of the data and we expect further improved outcomes through improved direct work with young people delivered through improved assessment quality and better planning, of proven effective interventions.

The YOS has endeavoured to sustain a programme of regular consultation with young people to address concerns they may have arising from compliance with orders and how programmes of intervention may be made more relevant. A new baseline relating to breach proceedings will be established based on the 2009/10 out-turn, from which to measure the impact of these initiatives.

11.8 There continues to be good relationships between partners in the Children and Young People's Trust and Safer Kingston Partnership to promote wider **understanding of the potential influence of gang culture** amongst vulnerable young people in Kingston.

In April 2009 there was a serious incident arising from the presence in the borough of a gang from another part of South London. To date however there has been no local replication of gang related activity and this is in part due to the strengthening inter-agency relationships and the effective use of good intelligence. Awareness sessions continue to be delivered in universal settings as part of established Youth Service curriculum practice and sessions are held on an impromptu basis as young people themselves raise issues of concern. Greater attention is now being paid to possible gang related activity through inclusion of this aspect of behaviour on the council's corporate risk register.

11.9 Developing approaches to address **violent youth crime and youth victimisation** continues to be a key priority. The number of young people recorded as victims of crime has increased from 633 to 864. However there has been a change to the police system of recording victim details and the YOS performance officer has been commissioned to ascertain the collection methodology and as far as possible extrapolate the ongoing trend line, which to date has been reducing. The figure of 864 is therefore a current new baseline from which to measure improved practice in future years. This is a policy area that will be developed by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board which, jointly with the YOS Management Board, has commissioned a review of YOS Safeguarding activity and its relationship with public protection.

23% of young people convicted by a court in Kingston have been convicted of a violent crime in 2009/10 (classified as violent in British Crime Statistics) and this provides a useful bench mark against which to assess future progress.

Outcome 12: All children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities will have the same equality of opportunity as other children and make good progress educationally, emotionally, physically and socially

12.1 Kingston pupils with SEN at all Key Stages generally perform better than their national peers. Between 2006 and 2009, gaps at KS2 narrowed in English, mathematics and Science and are now in line with the national average gaps. The smallest gap is in Science and the largest in English and mathematics which also mirrors the national trend.

Gaps at KS4 between SEN and non SEN pupils are larger than the national gaps. In 2009, Kingston SEN pupils were 4% points above their peers nationally in achieving 5A*-C including English and mathematics. Since 2006 considerable progress has been made. Gaps have narrowed by 6% points in 5A*-C and by 1% point in 5A*-C including English and mathematics. The performance of SEN pupils at KS4 has increased by 16% points in 5A*-C and 10% points in 5A*-C in English and mathematics. The 3 levels of progress in English made by those classified as SEN at the start of Key Stage 4 has increased by 6.6% points since 2008 which is 5.7% points above the national figure. SEN pupils making 3 levels of progress in mathematics fell slightly by 2.5% points, which is however 1.8% above the national figure.

There are high expectations for pupils with SEN/LDD in Kingston. As for all pupils, those identified as having SEN are expected to make at least two levels of progress across a key stage, with the exception of a small minority of pupils with significant learning needs. Where such pupils are assessed as being unlikely to reach National Curriculum levels, schools use P Scales to measure progress as well as individual targets related to their specific needs. Bedelsford School hosts an annual moderation process for all schools in relation to those pupils operating at P Scales. Target setting procedures are robust and are both personalised and ambitious. To increase challenge in schools related to the progress pupils make with SEN the Local Authority has provided access to a benchmarking tool called CASPA (Comparison and Analysis of Special Pupil Attainment). This will be in use from Summer 2010 in the Special Schools and those mainstream schools with SEN Resource bases.

The three Special schools were inspected during the Summer and Spring terms. Dysart and Bedelsford were judged as outstanding and St Philips was judged as good. Tolworth Infant School SEN provision was also judged as outstanding in 2009.

The LA SEN Strategy was refreshed in 2009. It confirms our goals in relation to personalisation, inclusion and partnership and is embedded throughout the Children and Young People's Plan. We continue to be committed to increasing the range of specialist resource bases in both Primary and Secondary Schools.

12.2 Good progress has been made in improving the skills and confidence of staff working with pupils of SEN. As part of a continuing commitment made by the then DCSF in a publication *Removing Barriers to Achievement* the Inclusion Development Programme has been rolled out to all schools, the most recent being Behaviour, Emotional and Social Needs. This is an e learning programme designed to support staff expertise and improve confidence and expertise in working with pupils with SEN. A recent study commissioned by the DCSF on the impact of the initiative after the first 6 months found the barriers to its having a quick impact on CPD was the timing of the roll-out of phase 1 materials (speech, language and communication needs and dyslexia). The phase 2 materials (autistic spectrum) were generally viewed more favourably although here too there were accessibility difficulties resulting from IT compatibility in some schools. Engagement with the materials at LA level was stronger than school level, reflecting the stage of the dissemination strategy.

Kingston was selected as a Pathfinder Authority following a bid for the launch of the training programme for Speech Language and Communication Needs. All schools were involved and many have followed up this initial familiarisation with further school based training supported by LA

advisory staff. A similar format was followed for subsequent programmes related to Autism. This was led by Latchmere Primary school. Feedback from school staff has been positive with many feeling better equipped to identify and support pupils with SLCN and ASD. Further actions to keep a focus on these aspects of SEN will be to provide further INSET for staff and facilitate discussion between staff and with parents. Many schools followed up the roll out with schools based training. An increasing number ensure the materials form part of NQT Induction in their schools. The programme related to working with pupils with social and behavioural needs has recently been published and the SEN Conference held this year concentrated on this theme.

The LA continues to be challenged in finding suitable local provision for pupils with Autism or significant Behavioural needs at Secondary transition. Our strategy for transformation in Secondary mainstream schools as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme includes all schools having a school based resource base for pupils with SEN.

12.3 Progress is good in relation to ensuring all **children and young people with SEN are fully engaged in their Annual Reviews**. Our systems and procedures ensure that where the views of young people have not been made available to the LA as part of the review, they are subsequently collected. Pupils' views are taken into account during any decision making and pupils receive feedback.

We have audited schools' use of pupil voice materials and followed up impact of materials used by schools so good practice can be disseminated. Schools who have not attended the training have been identified and additional CPD has been put in place. We continue to promote the importance of collecting pupil views and ensuring that these influence provision and placement.

12.4 We are making good progress in increasing **access to suitable post 16 provisions for pupils with LDD/SEN**. Our SEN Inclusion Policy has been refreshed and sets out our vision that commissioned provision for young people with special educational needs in further education colleges increases the range of opportunities available. The action plan includes an objective to ensure that every young person aged 16-19 with a learning difficulty or disability is prepared for access to employability and independent living, accessing an appropriate course with additional support where needed.

We have increased the number of pupils subject to a statement of SEN who continue in full time education aged 16-19, from 49 in 2007 to 50 in 2008 and 65 in 2009. This represents a 38% increase over the past 2 years. St Philips Special School is embarking on an ambitious programme to fully embrace the Foundation Learning curriculum which will see the majority if not all of the school's provision becoming accredited.

12.5 Progress on ensuring timely **completion of statutory assessments** continues to be very good and maintained at 100% for those with allowable exceptions. The percentage of Final Statements produced within 26 weeks (without exception) was 72.2% which is below our target and represents satisfactory progress. This does however represent a significant improvement on 2007/08 and was at 75% until the final month of the year when advice was received late for 2 cases. We continue to alert advice givers where there is a risk of lateness.

12.6 Good progress is being made overall in reducing the **waiting time between referral and treatment for therapies** towards the national targets of 18 weeks during 2009/10. In particular significant improvements have been noted within the occupational therapy service where the waiting list has decreased from 18 months to 6 months at March 2010. As at 15 March 2010, 83% children received occupational therapy within 18 weeks of referral, 89% received physiotherapy and 80% received speech and language therapy.

The waiting time for social communication assessment continues to be unacceptably long however the newly formed integrated service for children with disabilities has plans in place to improve this by increasing capacity from one clinic per month to 2 - 3 clinics per month during 2010/11. The

service is currently reviewing the training requirements and the pairing of teams to work together in order to assess capacity to clear the waiting list after which children will be allocated and notified of their likely assessment dates.

12.7 Progress in delivering the **core offer for families for children and young people with disabilities and complex needs** has been slower than expected overall. However, very good progress has been made in implementing the long term strategic goal of establishing a fully integrated service. In September 2009, and in accordance with the strategy developed in 2006, social care and hospital based staff moved to the Moor Lane Centre and are now co-located. This has already led to improvements in service quality for families who are now able to access a wide range of services on the same site. The opportunity to tell stories only once has been greatly enhanced and there has been significant development in terms of shared professional understanding of roles and responsibilities. Work has continued to progress during the last six months to develop a service specification for the integrated service which we expect will be fully implemented from 1 October 2010, underpinned by a NHS Act Section 75 agreement that supports single line management. This will facilitate further service improvements against key targets. This work includes developing clearer referral and care pathways for universal or multidisciplinary intervention where this is appropriate and work to establish common policies and procedures.

As part of the Aiming High agenda a number of objectives have been identified to ensure an improved 'core offer' to children to families with children with disabilities and complex needs. The target related to the use of 'About Me' guides to use with children and young people has not been achieved this year but is identified within the service's work programme for 2010/11. The Aiming High programme now supports 28 individual projects that offer targeted short breaks or better inclusive access to universal provision. Many of these are delivered by third sector voluntary and community organisations. RBKs approach to commissioning, monitoring and project managing this programme has been identified as a good practice example by Together for Disabled children and the borough retains its role as a national Aiming High Champion.

The target related to person centred review processes being used in all schools has not yet been achieved however key staff will be undertaking person centred planning training during the forthcoming year. The Lead Professional role following a diagnosis has not yet been implemented and will be reviewed to support the implementation of the service plan for 2010-11.

12.8 Some progress has been made in improving **short break provision for children and young people with disabilities and complex health needs**. A full time training officer has been appointed and a training programme is being developed. The working parents' scheme for 18 to 19 year olds with disabilities and complex health needs has been developed. Work is currently underway to expand the number of specialist foster carers to support children with disabilities, developmental and complex needs although access to placements continues to be limited.

Through the Aiming High Programme one pilot has currently been developed and negotiations are underway to ensure that our children's centres provide universal access for this population of children and young people. A rolling training programme to enhance the skills of Early Years' providers is currently being developed following the successful appointment of a full time Training Officer this year. This will supplement the training and support already available through the Early Years team.

The Integrated Service has identified the number of children with autism in Kingston and the autism development group will be charged with taking forward the development of an autism strategy next year. This strategy will be part of the overall LA strategy for SEN and LDD. A range of specialist extended services for children with autism has been commissioned through, Warren Park, Yorda Adventures and with Barnardos. The latter is delivering groups 50 weeks a year with specific focus on children of different age groups. It is not anticipated that universal training will be required to assist with the management of autistic children, rather that training programmes will continue to be developed to support the needs of any children accessing the Moor Lane (or any

other) external service. The Local Authority however, through the Inclusion Development Programme, schools sharing practice and recent partnerships with the National Autistic Society, is providing universal training for autism.

12.9 Progress in improving experiences for **children and young people and families living with life limiting and life threatening conditions** has been slower than expected. Children with cancer and other life limiting conditions have access to multi agency care plans and are managed by Kingston Hospital in line with agreed shared care protocols with tertiary providers. Further work is required now to develop shared care principles across acute / community based services. Children with life limiting diseases will have a key worker and end of life care is multidisciplinary (including primary care and other agencies as required) and both child and parents are fully involved in decision-making.

The national survey of services to parents of disabled children is extremely positive for Kingston and the overall satisfaction rate of 62% is the highest across London. This survey provides a national measure of parental experience of three sectors (health, education and care in the family support) in relation to information, transparency, assessment, participation and feedback.

Under the Aiming High programme, children with life limited conditions will have access to short breaks directly provided or commissioned by the Disabled Children's Team (DCT). Further work is required in negotiation with the clinical team at Kingston Hospital to raise the profile of the programme so that children and young people who are not known to the DCT fully utilise the short break programme.

Children's Trust Eligibility Criteria are currently being developed and it is expected that these will be considered by the Trust Board in the early summer.

Key Issues and Priorities for Improvement

The following are key issues for improvement or further development. These include targets in the Children and Young People's Plan where progress is slow or has been less than satisfactory or where performance dipped in 2009-2010. The priorities also include targets in the Local Area Agreement.

Priorities for further improvement or further development including LAA priorities

- School place planning
- Provision of additional school places through BSF and Primary Expansion Strategy
- Multi-disciplinary working
- Early intervention and prevention
- Embedding Integrated Disabled Children's Services

- Reduce Obesity (LAA)
- Improve participation in PE and Sport (LAA)
- Effectiveness of CAMHS (LAA)
- Improve timeliness of initial and core assessments
- Improve placement stability (LAA)
- Improve the attainment of looked after children
- Close attainment gaps between those on FSM and their peers (LAA)
- Reduce the numbers of young people receiving court conviction sentenced to custody
- Reduce the proportion of young people in local youth justice system
- Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds (LAA)
- Reduce the U18 conception rate
- Increase the take up of childcare tax credits (LAA)
- Improve the % of care leavers in EET and in suitable accommodation
- Reduce inequality gaps in the achievement of qualifications by the age of 19 (LAA)
- Reduce Child Poverty