

# Swindon Borough Council

## Schools Forum

**Wednesday, 27 June 2007**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, Swindon at 4.00 p.m.  
(Light refreshments will be available from 3.40 p.m.)

### **School Members:**

Gill Llewellyn, Primary Headteacher  
Terri Menham, Primary Headteacher  
Debbie Kalyinka, Primary Headteachers  
Paul Kohn, Primary Headteachers  
Chris Davies, Primary Headteachers  
Paul Boyles, Primary Governor (**Vice-Chair**)  
David Easter, Primary Governor  
Steve Colledge, Secondary Headteacher  
Steve Flavin, Secondary Headteacher  
Rachael Matthey, Secondary Headteacher  
Peter Wells, Secondary Headteacher (**Chair**)  
John Newman, Secondary Governor  
Pat Porter, Secondary Governor  
Bob Walker, Special Headteacher

### **Non-School Members:**

Sally Inskip, Diocese Representative  
Rhian Cockwell, Diocese Representative (Deputy)  
Phil Baker, Trade Union Representative  
Debbie Waldron, Early Years Representative  
Cathy Parker, Early Years Representative (Deputy)  
Tim Mason, Youth Representative

**Committee Officer:** Helen Harris

Telephone: 01793 463604 Email: hharris@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 463000)

---

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 4)  
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2007 and any matters arising.
- 3. Annual Performance Assessment and the Review of the Children and Young People's Plan** (GDC) (Pages 5 - 110)

4. **Consultation on School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-2011** (GDC) (Pages 111 - 138)
5. **School Meals** (GDC) (Pages 139 - 142)
6. **Schools Block Outturn 2006-07** (GDC) (Pages 143 - 150)
7. **Schools Block Budget 2007-08** (GDC) (Pages 151 - 160)
8. **Next Meeting**  
The next meeting of the Forum will be on 2 October 2007 starting at 4.00 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Civic Offices.

**Date of Despatch:** 19 June 2007

**Key:**

**Officers:**

CE	-	Chief Executive
GDC	-	Group Director: Children
GDHSC	-	Group Director: Housing & Social Care
GDEL	-	Group Director: Environment & Leisure
GDR	-	Group Director: Resources

**Public Question Time** - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

**Access Arrangements** – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

### SCHOOLS FORUM

WEDNESDAY, 28 MARCH 2007

PRESENT: -

**School Members:** Gill Llewellyn, Primary Headteacher  
Terri Menham, Primary Headteacher  
Debbie Kalynka, Primary Headteachers  
Paul Kohn, Primary Headteachers  
Paul Boyles, Primary Governor - **Vice Chair**  
Rachael Matthey, Secondary Headteacher  
Peter Wells, Secondary Headteacher - **Chair**  
Bob Walker, Special Headteacher

**Non-School Members:** Debbie Waldron, Early Years Representative

**Officers:** Ian Bickerton (Director of Local Provision), Geoff Hogg (Director of Services to Children and Young People), Stuart McKellar (Director of Finance), Hilary Pitts (Group Director Children), Karen Murray (Interim Group Finance Manager), Lorraine Billis (Deputy Head of Finance for Schools), Helen Harris (Committee Officer).

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Davies (Primary Headteachers), David Easter (Primary Governor), Steve Flavin (Secondary Headteacher), Pat Porter (Secondary Governor) and Sally Inskip (Diocese Representative).

#### 35. Chair's Statement

The Chair welcomed the Director of Finance, Stuart McKellar, to the meeting and invited him to comment on the Forum's role and how he saw it fitting in to the Council's structure. The Director remarked on the important role the Forum had in determining how the schools' budget was allocated. There would always be financial challenges to be faced and he saw its role as helping to find a way forward.

The Chair advised that the quality of support provided by officers was important. He saw their role as helping to inform the decisions made by the Forum and he welcomed their input as to the wider implications of any decision, as sometimes that could make a difference to what was finally decided.

#### 36. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2007, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **37. Schools' Forum - Roles and Responsibilities**

The Director of Local Provision presented a report by the Group Director Children to inform the Forum of its role, responsibilities and legal powers.

An enquiry was made as to how much impact the Forum's advice had on Cabinet decisions and whether the Cabinet was aware of the Forum's legal powers. The Director of Local Provision stated that there was a need to engage with Councillors and to publicise the Forum's decisions. Although executive Councillors could no longer be members of the Forum, the Forum may wish to invite them to attend meetings as observers. The Chair asked therefore whether it was possible to invite the relevant Councillors to attend meetings on occasions to provide feedback on decisions that had been made. The Group Director Children also stated that enquiries would be made on the possibility of the School Forum and Admissions Forum minutes being submitted to the Cabinet meetings.

The Chair commended the report as showing the current position of the Forum and advised that an annual update would be required.

Resolved – That the report be noted and endorsed.

### **38. School Funding Changes and Deprivation Review**

The Forum considered a report by the Group Director Children, as presented by the Director of Local Provision, regarding the Government's consultation on the future of school funding arrangements from 2008/09 and also relating to local arrangements for deprivation funding.

Members were provided with feedback from the DfES Funding Conference that was held on 23 March 2007. It was stated that, in real terms, education funding had increased over several years but growth generally would now be tailing off over the next few years. Key priorities that had been identified were a reduction in deprivation, continued improvement in attainment and closure of the social class gap. It was pointed out by the DfES that there was a 24% gap in GCSE's A\* - C between professional and non-professional families. The key issues involved were capacity to deliver, efficiency, personalisation, extended schools and 14 to 19. It was intended that would be more devolution to schools and greater flexibility in the use of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The areas that were the subject of the consultation and on which views were sought included:

- Minimum Funding Guarantee – should it continue?
- 0 to 5's and 14 to 19 education
- Should there be a stronger role for the Schools' Forum?
- School balances
- A focus on deprivation.

The Director of Local Provision referred to the proposal in the consultation document relating to the distribution of funding, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and commented that he was not sure which of the two options would be the most beneficial for Swindon. The Director of Finance advised members that a case was being put forward as to why Swindon, along with Brighton and Hove, should be treated differently and if this was accepted, then there would be three possible options but it was impossible to say which would be better for Swindon at

this stage. The Forum generally discussed the best way to approach and respond to the consultation and review. It was agreed that any issues that members wished the sub-group to consider should be channelled through the Deputy Head of Finance for Schools (Lorraine Billis). The Chair requested that the Forum be advised of the Chair of the sub-group, if one was appointed and also that a copy of the notes from the Conference be attached to these minutes.

Resolved – (1) That Option 2, as set out in paragraph 2.8 of the report be approved as the means of reviewing school funding arrangements from 2008/09 and deprivation funding.

(2) That Option B, as set out in paragraph 2.9 of the report, be agreed as the means of responding to the consultation on school arrangements from 2008/09.

### **39. Schools Block Budget 2007-2008**

The Deputy Head of Finance for Schools presented a report by the Group Director Children regarding the Schools Block Budget for 2007-2008.

Members were advised that the final amount of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2007/08 would not be known until June. It was therefore proposed to bring a report to the next meeting when details were known and information could be provided on the likely demands on the contingency fund.

Reference was made to the recommendation at the last meeting concerning the one-off funding for Out of School Provision (Minute 30). It appeared that there had been some confusion as to how the three initiatives were currently funded, when the funding would cease and what was required to secure their continuation. Members agreed that the aim was to ensure full provision until the end of the financial year, 31 March 2008, and that the full £200K initially proposed should be allocated for that purpose.

Resolved – (1) That the revised income projection for the Dedicated Schools Grant 2007/08, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted.

(2) That, subject to it being noted that an additional £35K be added to the special equipment budget, the Local Authority be authorised to implement the revisions to the Schools Block Budget 2007/08, as set out in Appendix B to the report.

(3) That the Local Authority be authorised to make supplementary one-off payments to Orchid Vale and Red Oaks Schools of £11,290 each in 2007/08 to reflect the financial difficulty they may experience due to the unpredictable flow of pupils in a new school, in accordance with the proposal set out in Appendix C to the report.

(4) That the initial proposal to allocate £200,000 from the unspent balance of the Schools Budget 2005/06 to secure Out of School Provision until 31 March 2008 be confirmed and agreed.

### **40. Local Public Service Agreement Grant**

The Group Director Children referred to the Local Public Service Agreement grant that had been delegated to schools during 2002. The purpose of the grant was to raise the level of attainment at GCSE and Key Stage 2. Peter Wells (Secondary Head Teacher) stated that there had been improvements in the secondary sector and confirmed that the funding had been well spent within the secondary schools. Paul Kohn (Primary Head Teacher) also confirmed that the funds had been well used within the primary sector and referred to the exemplary reports received by some of the schools.

**41.**

**Funding Formula for Swindon Schools**

The Director of Local Provision distributed a letter dated 14 March 2007 from the Head Teacher of Bridlewood Primary School regarding the school's funding and advised that it was proposed to bring a report to the next meeting.

### Annual Performance Assessment and the Review of the Children & Young People's Plan

**Schools Forum**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**Author: Group Director, Children and Cabinet Member for Children Services**  
**Parish / Wards Affected: All**

#### **Purpose**

- To receive information on the arrangements for the completion of the review of the Children & Young People's Plan, which will contribute to the Annual Performance assessment process for 2007.
- This Report will go to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

#### **Recommendation**

*Schools Forum* is recommended to:

- Endorse the self-assessment reviews as in Appendix 1 and 2 to this report.
- Receive an updated report on the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment process in November 2007, when the process will be completed.

#### **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 The Annual Performance Assessment, including the review of the Children and Young People's Plan, (CYPPB) will determine the overall score awarded by Ofsted for Children's Services as well as scores for:
  - Be Healthy;
  - Stay Safe;
  - Enjoy & Achieve;
  - Make a Positive Contribution;
  - Achieve Economic Well-being;
  - Capacity to improve.
- 1.2 As part of the process, a self-assessment is undertaken and this comprises of a review of the CYPP together with a review of the Joint Area Review (JAR) Action Plan. The results of the JAR Action Plan review are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.3 Members of the Children's Trust Performance Review Group and the Every Child Matters Task Group (Children's Services, Wiltshire Constabulary, Swindon PCT, Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust, the voluntary sector, schools' representatives and the Learning & Skills Council) have participated in the review for the self assessment and the final scores for each outcome have been agreed with partners.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sue Wald on (01793) 465713 or Email [swald@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:swald@swindon.gov.uk).

# **Annual Performance Assessment and the Review of the Children & Young People's Plan**

**Schools Forum**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

---

- 1.4 Due to the need to complete the review by the 14<sup>th</sup> June and to include social care end of year data, the final version report will be circulated on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and members are requested to submit views to Sue Wald by the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007 by e-mail so that these can be incorporated into the final version to be submitted to Ofsted on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. The final version of the CYPPB review will form Appendix 2 to this report.

## **2. Detail**

- 2.1 The DfES and Ofsted published guidance for the review of the Children & Young People's Plan. The review, together with outturn data for Social Care, the updated JAR Action Plan and the updated needs assessment will be submitted in June to Ofsted.
- 2.2 The review will need to focus on:
- Review of the progress made since the Joint Area Review in June 2006;
  - Review of the priorities set in December 2006 as part of the Priorities Conversation referred to above and in light of the needs assessment;
  - Involvement of stakeholders in the review process.

The Group Directorate (Children) has completed the following timetable to conduct the review:

- 2.3 February 2007
- Target setting for all indicators 2007/08;
  - Needs assessment identifying areas for improvement and neighbourhoods with specific issues;
  - Analysis of comments by young people about services from 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007 Children & Young People's Partnership event.
- 2.4 March 2007
- Start of Social Care data set with completion 31.5.2007;
  - Data gathering for Children & Young People's Plan, LAA and progress on JAR Action Plan.
- 2.5 April 2007
- First draft of review of Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP), LAA and JAR Action Plan 20.4.2007;
  - Stakeholder workshop on draft CYPP review 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007.
- 2.6 May 2007
- Second draft of CYPP review 14.5.2007;
  - Third draft CYPP completed 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007;
  - Data set completed for social care 21.5.2007.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sue Wald on (01793) 465713 or Email [swald@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:swald@swindon.gov.uk).



**Alternative Options**

- There are no alternative options.

**Risk Management**

*Financial and Procurement Implications*

- There are no procurement or financial implications arising from the content of this report, which are not already contained within the Children Services budget in relation to the Children and Young People's Plan

*Legal / Human Rights Implications*

- The improvement of Children Services in Swindon through the careful monitoring of targets and milestones will contribute to the overall well being of the Swindon community.

*Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

- The links to the Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan and Swindon 2010 Promises, particularly 'Your culture, leisure and learning' and 'Your children, your family – the people who matter'.

**Consultees**

- The Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services are consulted on all Reports.

**Background Papers and Appendices**

Appendix 1 JAR Action Plan update

Appendix 2 CYPP Review - Attachment to be circulated via e-mail, any amendments to be received by 11<sup>th</sup> June.

This page is intentionally left blank

# **Review of Swindon Joint Area Review Action Plan**



**Draft 1: 14 May 07**

## Swindon Joint Area Review Action Plan Final 18<sup>th</sup> December 2006

The detail of achievement and explanations of delay are included in the Annual Performance Assessment 2007.

Green (G) = completed

Purple(P) = good progress and milestones on target to be achieved

Red (R) = delay

### Be Healthy

<b>Recommendation 1 Reduce health inequalities through a reduction in teenage conception rates</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Reduction of teenage conception rate to 24 per 1,000 by 2009 from 58 per 1,000 in 2004		Year on year reduction in teenage conception rates (insert rates)	
<b>Links to existing plans</b>		Reduce second pregnancies by 10% by 2009	
<b>LAA Outcome 10.3</b>		Increase number of young mothers in education, training and employment to 53% by 2009	
Revise teenage pregnancy action plan and focus on neighbourhoods with high teenage pregnancy rates		January 2007	Milly Carmichael
Increase nurse led outreach services to meet identified local need and develop agreed scope of outreach activity in an action plan			Lynda Wearn
Recruit new Sex and Relationships lead post within the Healthy Schools team and develop work plan to include active support for building workforce skills and confidence in delivery of SRE		In post January 2007	Katrina Carpenter

Produce and agree a revised Media and Communications strategy and Action Plan	April 2007	Fran Birch
Action	Deadline	Person Responsible
Review Delivery times of Phase 1 training and scope of phase 1 and 2 (multi agency sexual health) training, and develop action plan to meet identified local need	March 2007	Olivia Hawkins
Produce an over-arching Sexual Health Policy for Swindon Borough Council	March 2007 (RED – not on track)	Geoff Hogg
Connexions take lead for increasing the accuracy of data collection and the practice of information sharing on young parents	March 2007	Sally Burnett
Develop and implement plan to better co-ordinate support to young parents who request it through midwifery, via a multi-agency partnership	April 2007	Sally Burnett
<b>Milestones completed or on target @ June 2007:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teenage pregnancy action plan refreshed and agreed in January 2007 (G)</li> <li>• Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Group with representation of directors in place in November 2006 (G)</li> <li>• Multi agency contraceptive services in place in priority neighbourhoods with high teenage pregnancy conception rates</li> <li>• Improved young person's led sexual health and relationship education January 2007 – staff in post January 2007 (P)</li> </ul>		

<b>Recommendation 2</b> <b>Reduce health inequalities through reducing the number of young people involved in illegal substance misuse and consumption of alcohol</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Reduce the number of young people involved in substance and alcohol misuse  <b>Links to existing plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 10.2</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
	<b>Success criteria</b> Increase the number of young people in treatment to 84 in 2006/07 100% of young people in youth offending team screened for substance misuse by March 2007 93% of young people looked after have health assessments in place by September 2007		
	Needs assessment for substance misuse refreshed and to inform substance misuse commissioning strategy	April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
	Needs assessment for young people and alcohol consumption to inform substance misuse and alcohol commissioning strategy	April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
	Commissioning Strategy to identify services to be commissioned and de-commissioned	June 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
	Evaluation of education materials for substance misuse so that children and young people are informed about the risks of substance misuse and alcohol misuse	April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
	Identification of children and young people whose parents have substance misuse and alcohol issues through screening tool linked to common assessment and specialist assessments so that their needs are met	February 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Development and implementation of Substance Misuse Action Plan 2007/08		April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning

**Milestones completed or on target @ June 2007:**

- Needs assessment in place in April 2007 (G)
- Needs assessment on alcohol consumption in place in April 2007 (G)
- Evaluation of educational materials completed and actions in place in April 2007 (G)
- Common assessment in place identifying and meeting the needs of children and 'See the adult' see the child' protocol amended to take account of substance misuse and alcohol in February 2007 (G)
- Training on screening tool implemented May 2007 (G)
- Commission parenting programme 24/7 with element of substance misuse/alcohol by January 2007 (G)
- Explore roll out 24/7 in local area Dorcan/Churchfields by March 2007 (G)

## Stay Safe

Recommendation 3 Variable quality in the completion of assessments			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Improved quality of assessments accurately reflecting children and young people's needs and ensuring effective plans are made  <b>Local Area Agreement 8.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of initial assessments completed to 260 per 10,000 by March 2007</li> <li>• Increase in the number of core assessments completed to 60 per 10,000 by March 2007</li> <li>• Increase the completion of core assessments on time to 80% by March 2007</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		
	Action	Deadline	Person Responsible
Implement senior practitioner role within long term teams modelled on Kent practice to locate 'best practice' practitioners in each team		May 2007	Director Children & Families
Incorporate initial and core assessments into training for Integrated Children System		March 2007	Director Children & Families
Develop process with partners to ensure quality of core assessment is improved		March 2007	Director Children & Families
Mandatory staff workshops on JAR action plan and quality assurance systems		April 2007	Director Children & Families
<b>Action</b>		Deadline	Person Responsible
Implement Practice Development Manager to ensure quality of assessments improves		June 2007	Director Children & Families



**Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007: Jean you need to update this**  
**ICS training - March 2007**  
Implement Practice Development Manager to ensure quality of assessments improves – June 2007 (G)  
Senior practitioner role within long term teams modelled on Kent practice to locate 'best practice' practitioners in each team  
agreed – June 2007 (G)  
Mandatory JAR workshops on assessment practice completed – April 2007 (G)

<b>Recommendation 4</b> <b>Develop and deliver more consistent support, planning and co-ordination for vulnerable children and thereby reducing inequality of access to services</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Vulnerable children and young people are consistently identified, joint plan agreed and needs met through common assessment in place across Swindon There is consistent access to specialist services and children in need		<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll out of Common Assessment across Swindon by September 2006</li> <li>• 120 common assessments and lead professionals completed during 2006/07</li> <li>• 85% of evaluation targets met by March 2007</li> </ul>	
<b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 8.1</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Common assessment training monthly so that practitioners are confident in implementing the common assessment process and children & young people have their needs met earlier		Every month	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Lead professional briefings so that the action plans for all children and young people are reviewed on time and improvements in outcomes are recorded		December, March, June, September	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Pilot of lead professional in voluntary sector so that vulnerable children and young people receive co-ordinated services earlier		March 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Evaluation of LPG and CAF to ensure the process improves outcomes for children and young people		May 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Development of parenting support strategy so that there is a continuum of services addressing children and young people's needs locally and improve outcomes		July 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning

**Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007:**

- LPG training completed monthly (G)
- Lead professional briefings held in December, March, June, September (G)
- Evaluation of LPG and CAF completed in May 2007 (G)
- Parenting support strategy draft July 2007 (G)

<b>Main Recommendation 5 within 6 months</b> <b>In order to ensure better consistency and support for older vulnerable teenagers the council and its partners should ensure that</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The review of the 16 plus service is completed and an action plan to improve consistency and range of services is implemented</li> <li>• The review of the 16+ services addresses the specific needs of children with disabilities leaving care</li> </ul>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of eligible, relevant and former relevant young people leaving care 16+ with access to Connexions PA and suitable housing</li> <li>• Proportion of care leavers in education, training and employment rises</li> <li>• Transition arrangements with adult services in place and disabled young people have access to employment and training</li> </ul> <b>LAA Outcome 7.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of care leavers in education, training and employment rises to 0.7: 1. 95% of care leavers in contact</li> <li>• 100% of disabled young people with agreed transition plan at the age of 17 and 6 months</li> </ul>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Complete review of 16+ Team and agree action plan		April 2007	Director Children & Families
Review transition protocol for disabled young people leaving care and ensure access to employment and training		May 2007	Director Children & Families
Allocate a personal adviser from Connexions to every young person looked after and leaving care at the age of 14 in Swindon		May 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People

**Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007: Jean please update**

- Review of 16+ Team completed in April 2007 – review started completion by June 2007
- Transition protocol reviewed and agreed by Children & Young People's Partnership Board in May 2007 – review started and completion by?
- 100% of looked after children over the age of 14 and care leavers in Swindon with nominated personal adviser from Connexions in May 2007 (G)

<b>Recommendation 6</b>			
<b>Train team managers in managing complex child care cases and improve quality of supervision</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Improved management oversight of complex cases 100% of appraisals and supervision in place		100% of social workers receiving monthly supervision 100% of social workers receiving annual appraisal	
Provide specific training for team managers on complex cases		May 2007	Director Children & Families
New supervision policy implemented		Nov 2006	Director Children & Families
Supervision training for managers		March 2007	Director Children & Families
Audit of supervision (quantity and quality) established		Dec 2006	Director Children & Families
Inspirational leadership programme for Children & Families Leadership Team		March 2007	Director Children & Families
<b>Milestones:</b> Training completed on complex child care cases in May 2007 (G) Quarterly report on completion of supervision and six monthly report on appraisals reported through LPAR monthly (G) Two day workshop for managers on supervision January 2007 (G) Follow-up to supervision training March 2007 (G) Supervision training for voluntary sector completed March 2007 (G) Inspirational leadership training by Kent completed March 2007 (G)			

<b>Main Recommendation 7 Develop a Children's Rights Services</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	
100% of children and young people looked after have access to advocacy when making a complaint and evaluate this positively 100% of children over 10 meeting the criteria supported during the Child protection Process		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Rights service in place</li> </ul>	
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
	Service specification for Children's Rights Service agreed	December 2006	Director Children & Families
	Provider agreed following successful tender	June 2007	Director Children & Families
	Service operating with new provider	July 2007	Director Children & Families
<b>Milestones completed and on target &amp; June 2007:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service specification agreed in December 2006 (G)</li> <li>Tender for Children's Rights Service awarded in June 2007 (P)</li> <li>Start date for Children's Rights Service July 2007 (P)</li> </ul>			

<b>Main Recommendation 8 within 6 months</b> <b>In order to ensure the council and its partners understand and provide effective corporate parenting and guidance, they should develop a written strategy. This should describe the distinct role and responsibilities of councillors in overseeing arrangements and promoting good outcomes for children. The strategy should be supported with training and defining the information councillors need to receive</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved understanding by elected members and the Council of their responsibilities towards improving outcomes for looked after children</li> </ul>	<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Parenting Strategy</li> <li>Training plan agreed for 2007/08 and all Cabinet Members and members of Corporate Parenting Board allocated training dates</li> </ul>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Development of Corporate Parenting strategy in conjunction with Corporate Parenting Board and Senior officers across the Council		April 2007	Director Children & Families
Training for elected members and senior officers on the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Every Child Matters		June 2007	Director Children & Families
Review of current schedule of performance reporting to Corporate Parenting Advisory Board		May 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
<b>Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007: <span style="color: red;">Jean please check</span></b> <span style="color: green;">Draft corporate parenting Strategy agreed by Cabinet in April 2007 (g)</span> <span style="color: green;">Training plan for elected members in place in June 2007 (P)</span> <span style="color: green;">Performance reporting agreed by Children &amp; Young People's Partnership Board and Corporate Parenting Forum in May 2007 (P)</span>			



## Enjoy and Achieve

<b>Recommendation 9</b> <b>Increase the percentage of young people in achieving Level 5+ at Key Stage 3 in all subjects and in achieving 5+ GCSE A* - C including young people looked after</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Improvement in attainment of young people aged 14+ Reduce the number of schools below the floor target Increase the percentage of looked after young people with 5+ GCSE A* -C  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 7.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> 55% of young people achieving 5+ GCSE A* -C in summer 2007 excluding special schools No secondary schools below the floor target in summer 2007 Increase the percentage of looked after young people with 5+ GCSE 5A* -C to 13% in 2007		
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
<b>Deliver actions in aim 3 of 14-19 strategy implementation plan (enhancing achievement and progression of all young people in the 14-19 phase and beyond)</b>		Summer 2009	Director Quality & Standards
Target support in secondary schools to meet LAA target in relation to GCSE by 2009		Summer 2009	Director Quality & Standards
Ensure personalised learning plans are in place for children and young people looked after, targeting Key Stage 3 and 4		Summer 2007	Director Quality & Standards and Director of Children & Families
Audit personal education plans for looked after children and develop action plan to improve quality		March 2007	Director Children & Families
Support schools in areas of disadvantage to become more effective in		July 2009	Director Quality &

personalising learning for children and young people.			Standards
<b>Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools in disadvantaged areas have in place an intervention plan for personalising learning (G)</li> <li>Audit of personal education plans completed by March 2007 (G)</li> <li>Personalised learning plans for all looked after children and young people in place by May 2007 (G)</li> <li>Local authority piloting at least two of the new diploma lines by 2008 (G) – pilot awarded</li> </ul>			

<b>Recommendation 10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the lines of accountability for young people receiving education in establishments other than schools, PRU and Swindon colleges.</li> <li>• Reduce fixed terms exclusions and improve re-integration rates into secondary schools</li> </ul>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> All young people in flexible provision receive 195 days full time education and improve their educational attainment Improvement in re-integration rates  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 8.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> . Increase number of young people re-integrated following permanent exclusion from a baseline figure of 5 achieved in academic year 2005/6 Reduce fixed term exclusions to a level that does not exceed 64.1 per 1000 pupils (total 1859) by 2008/9.		
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Guidance issued to alternative education providers on model behaviour policies to provide a parallel system to that existing within mainstream schools particularly in relation to temporary or permanent removal of provision. This will be done in consultation with Secondary School Head Teachers and the 14 – 19 team.		January 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People
Guidance issued to Secondary Schools on the monitoring of absence where pupils are placed with alternative education providers.		January 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People.
Attendance and behaviour workshop held and information distributed to schools to clarify absence recording and monitoring of pupils.		January 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People

		People.
Build on re-integration protocol and 'ready to return system' undertaken by the PRU in consultation with the Exclusion and Reintegration Officer to increase re-integration into schools where this is appropriate.	July 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People
Support to schools in reducing fixed term exclusions through: target setting, monitoring of pupils at risk of exclusion, building on the success of the 'managed move' protocol and implementation of DfES regulations regarding the provision of full time education for any pupil excluded over five school days – to take effect from Sept 07.	July 2007	Director Services to Children and Young People
<b>Milestones:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance in place regarding a model Behaviour Policy for alternative education providers February 2007 (G)</li> <li>Head Teachers consulted on the implications of DfES regulations on exclusion February 2007 (G).</li> <li>Monitoring of level of Borough exclusion to all schools January 07/May 07/Nov 07 (G)</li> <li>All schools issued with guidance relating to the monitoring and recording of attendance where pupils are supported in alternative education provision. December 06 (G)</li> <li>Guidance issued to alternative education providers on model behaviour policies to provide a parallel system to that existing within mainstream schools (G)</li> </ul>		

<b>Recommendation 11</b> <b>Increase access to recreational activities for children and young people in neighbourhood renewal areas including opportunities for life skills thereby reducing inequalities</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Improved self esteem and life skills of children and young people in neighbourhood renewal areas		<b>Success criteria</b>	
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Targeted youth service provision in neighbourhood renewal areas including opportunities for volunteering		June 2008	Director Services to Children & Young People
Map access to leisure services by disabled children and establish working groups		May 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People
<b>Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swindon School Sport Partnership is established Dec 06 (G)</li> <li>• Link agreed between PCT and Schools Sport Partnership to support physical activity strand of Healthy Schools agenda (G)</li> </ul>			

## Make a Positive Contribution

Recommendation 12 Youth Service provides limited support to 13 – 19 year olds facing key decisions in their lives and in making a positive contribution, particularly for vulnerable groups of children and young people			
Expected Outcome There is evidence that young people's views have changed services and improved outcomes  Links to other plans LAA Outcome 9.2	Success criteria		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>100% of secondary schools have representation on Youth Forum</li><li>Young people from vulnerable groups have representation on Youth Forum</li></ul>		
	Action	Deadline	Person Responsible
All School Councils send representatives to Youth Forum		December 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Youth Forum with representation of groups of vulnerable young people including the FOCUS group, Young Carers, STEP and Stepping Forward		March 2008	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Youth Forum organises event for senior managers discussing improvements in services and outcomes for young people		March 2007	Director, Strategy & Commissioning
Project plan agreed for implementation of 'Youth Matters'		January 2007	Director, Services to Children and Young People
Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth Forum membership with secondary school representation – April 2007</li><li>FOCUS, STEP, Stepping Forward, Young Carers represented on Youth Forum - March 2008</li><li>90% of children in care contribute to their review - March 2007 (G) target exceeded</li></ul>			

Recommendation 13 Improve the effectiveness of the Youth Service in enabling young people to make a positive contribution			
Expected Outcome Youth Service judged good through inspection and enabling young people to make a positive contribution  Links to other plans LAA Outcome 9.2	Success criteria		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>25% of young people participating in the Youth Service and gaining an accredited outcome</li><li>592 young people participating in Youth Achievements awards and similar initiatives by 2009</li></ul>		
	Action	Deadline	Person Responsible
	Implement and monitor Youth Service Plan 2006 – 2009	November 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People
	Achieve Youth Service Performance targets 2006-09	Monthly reporting from April 2006	Director, Services to Children & Young People
	Establish Youth Matters Task Group and link to Every Child Matters Task Group with project plan to implement 'Youth Offer'	January 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People
	Publicise 'Positive Activities for Young People	March 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Establish separate Swindon Connexions service as part of Youth Support Service	April 2008	Director, Services to Children & Young People	

**Milestones:**

- Proposals for Youth Offer finalised - April 2007 (G)
- Annual monitoring youth service action plan – November 2006 and 2007 (G)
- Transition plan agreed for separate Connexions Service – April 2007 (G)



<b>Recommendation 14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the number of looked after children and young people and those from minority ethnic communities involved in offending</li><li>• Improve re-integration of young offenders into employment and training including links with PRU</li></ul>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Reduction in offending by young people looked after and those from minority ethnic communities Increase in employment and training for young offenders	<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain improvement of looked after children involved in offending at 1:1 in 2007/08</li><li>• Reduce BME groups involved in offending to</li><li>• Improve employment and education of young offenders to 90% by 2009</li></ul>		
<b>Local Area Agreement Outcome 9.1</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Implement and monitor Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board Race Action Plan		October 2007	Yot manager
Implement and monitor Swindon Yot Race Action Plan		April 2007	Yot manager
OLAS (Offender Learning & Skills) funding to scope the need for targeted support to increase young offenders in education, training and employment		April 2007	Yot manager
Continue partnership working between Yot and fieldwork teams to maintain low rate of offending among looked after children		April 2007	Yot manager
LSC funding to increase Connexions support to Yot to improve participation rates of young offenders		February 2007	Yot manager
<b>Milestones:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board Race Action plan October 2007 (G)</li><li>• Implementation of Swindon Race Action plan April 2007 (G)</li><li>• OLAS funding secured April 2007 (G)</li></ul>			

<b>Recommendation 15</b> <b>Increase the number of young people entering and remaining in further education and achieve Level 2 at age 19</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Young people aged 16 progress into learning and achieve a level of educational attainment at the age 19 in line with the national average	<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 78% Of 16-18 year olds in learning by 2009</li> <li>• Reduce the number of young people not in education, training or employment to 5.6% in 2009</li> </ul>		
	<b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 6.1</b>		
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Deliver actions in aim 2 of 14-19 strategy implementation plan (raising aspirations of young people and significantly increase engagement in learning)		September 2009	Director Quality & Standards/Partnership Director, LSC
Deliver actions in aim 3 of 14-19 strategy implementation plan (enhance achievement and progression of all young people in the 14-19 phase and beyond)		September 2009	Director Quality & Standards/Partnership Director, LSC
Deliver Swindon NEET strategy		September 2009	Bindi Shah/Geoff Hogg
<b>Milestones:</b> Milestones as indicated in the implementation plan (P) NEET figure January 2007 (cross refer LAA target) ®			

<b>Recommendation 16 within 18 months</b> In order to increase the support and availability of work-based learning for young people, the council and LLSC should develop clear arrangements that include large and medium-sized employers in providing work-based learning opportunities. This should also be supported by plans that increase the proportion of young people achieving level 2 (equivalent to 5 good GCSEs) by the age of 19.			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Employer Partnership strategy provides basis for collaborative activity and more effective engagement of employers within a framework Commitment to Swindon Borough Council action plan for supporting work related learning	<b>Success criteria</b> Successful completion of vocational level 2 and 3 qualifications tbc		
<b>Action</b> Implementation of aim 6 in the 14-19 strategy implementation plan (Respond to the demands of the local economy and encourage further engagement in meeting the needs of young people) SBC adopt and implement policy for supporting work related learning, offering a package of activities Improve completion of Apprenticeships by learners in Swindon		<b>Deadline</b> September 2008  September 2008  September 2009	<b>Person Responsible</b> Director Quality & Standards/Partnership Director, LSC  Chief Executive/Director Human Resources  Partnership Director, LSC
<b>Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007: <span style="color: red;">Martin please check</span></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase number of apprenticeship places available in September 2008 (P)</li> <li>• Swindon Borough Council adopt Work Related Learning Policy by April 2007</li> </ul>			

<b>Recommendation 17</b> <b>All services to be focused on delivering improved outcomes for children and young people underpinned by strong performance management</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Improvement in year on year measurable outcomes for children and young people evidenced in improvements in PI's		<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No BVPI and PAF indicators in bottom 25% nationally</li> </ul>	
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Workshops for all managers on outcome focused service delivery		December 2006	Group Director Children
Review of Strategic Management Plan evaluating outcomes and re-prioritising		December 2006	Group Director Children
Review of business plans and new business plans for 2007/08 with engagement of all staff and ensure links between operational plans are in place across Directorates		February 2007	All Directors
Setting team based performance targets linked to financial information and reporting on those monthly		February 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Quarterly monitoring of Children & Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement demonstrating improvement in outcomes for children and young people		Quarterly starting October 2006	Director Strategy & Commissioning

**Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007:**

- All managers attend Outcome Focused Service Delivery Workshops in December 2006 (G)
- Strategic Management Plan is reviewed and refreshed in January 2007 (G)
- All business plans are reviewed and information fed into SMP in December 2006 (G)
- All business plans for 2007/08 with local targets and financial information in place in March 2007(G)
- Quarterly monitoring of LAA and Children & Young People's Plan starting in September/October 2006 and thereafter monthly by Performance Review Group and quarterly to Children's Trust Executive based on agreed escalation procedure (G)

<p><b>Main Recommendation 18 within 18 months</b></p> <p>In order to ensure that the council's ambition for improvement and delivery of services to children is achieved, plans need to be refined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable managers to further develop their skills and capacity to effectively implement change, provide support and enhance the impact of services and staff interventions, and ensure clarity and consistency about what needs improving and when; and</li> <li>• To identify the resources required and how they are to be allocated.</li> </ul>			
Expected Outcome		Success criteria	
Action		Deadline	Person Responsible
Workshops on good practice examples across Directorates and agencies to facilitate learning		March 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Lateral learning workshops on equalities		June 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Leadership 2 Academy for senior and middle managers		July 2007	Director Human Resources
Completion of Kent programme of manager mentoring in Children and Family services		March 07	Director Children & Families
Virtual Staff College Management Training programme		Start January 2007	Group Director Children
Diploma in Management Studies for Children & Families Managers		January 2007	Director Children & Families

**Milestones:**

- Workshops on good practice completed in March 2007 (G)
- All relevant managers signed up to Leadership 2 Academy by November 2006 (G)
- Virtual staff college course agreed – January 2007 (G)
- Kent programme on inspirational leadership and mentoring in place – June 2007 (G)
- Lateral workshop on equalities planned in June 2007 (P)

Recommendation 19			
Improved communication to support change management process			
Expected Outcome	Success criteria		Person Responsible
All staff make a positive contribution to the development of children's services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication strategy</li><li>• Marketing strategy</li></ul>		
Action		Deadline	
Simple and clear communication arrangements across all agencies in children's services		March 2007	Director Local Provision/
Marketing of children's services in relation to recruitment		January 2007	Director Customer Services
Change for children day for managers in Children Services on sharing good practice		April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
<b>Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 - 8 weekly staff briefings across children's services (G)</li><li>• Quarterly managers briefings starting January 2007 (G)</li><li>• Change for Children electronic newsletter monthly from January 2007 (G)</li></ul>			



**ANNUAL  
PERFORMANCE  
ASSESSMENT  
2007**

This page is intentionally left blank

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2007: SELF-EVALUATION GRADES

Please provide the following grades using the LSIF four point scale and descriptors as a guide.

<b>Name of Local Authority</b>	<b>Swindon</b>
<b>Name of APA Link Officer</b>	<b>Sue Wald</b>
<b>Contact details for APA Link Officer</b>	Telephone: 01793 465713 Email: swald@swindon.gov.uk

<b>Areas for judgement</b>	<b>Being healthy</b>	<b>Staying safe</b>	<b>Enjoying and achieving</b>	<b>Making a positive contribution</b>	<b>Achieving economic well-being</b>
The contribution of the council's services in maintaining and improving this outcome for children and young people.	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>The council's children's services</b>	<b>Grade</b>
The contribution of the council's children's services in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people.	<b>3</b>

<b>Capacity to improve</b>	<b>Grade</b>
The council's capacity to improve its services for children and young people	<b>3</b>

Please complete this form and return it by email to [South\\_APA@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:South_APA@ofsted.gov.uk) by **14 June 2007**.

This page is intentionally left blank

# **Children & Young People's Plan Action Plan 2007 - 2008**

**Final 14.6.2007**

## Be Healthy

<b>Action 1 Reduce health inequalities through a reduction in teenage conception rates</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Reduction of teenage conception rate to 24 per 1,000 by 2009 from 58 per 1,000 in 2004	Year on year reduction in teenage conception rates to reach 37 per 1,000 for 2007 (H08)	April 2008	Director Public Health
<b>Links to existing plans</b>	Reduce second pregnancies by 10% by 2009	October 2007	Programme Manager Public Health
<b>LAA Outcome 10.3</b>	Increase number of young mothers in education, training and employment to 53% by 2009	April 2007	Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator
<b>Action</b>		September 2007	Sex and relationship Adviser
Implement Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan for 2007 – 2008 so that there is a reduction in the conception rates		July, September, November, January, March 2008	Programme Manager Public Health
Increase nurse led outreach services to meet identified local need and develop agreed scope of outreach activity in an action plan to ensure teenage conception rates reduce in areas of disadvantage		October 2007	Connexions Manager
Produce and agree a revised Media and Communications strategy and Action Plan so that all staff are aware of common message and disseminate to young people			
Refresh sexual health and relationship education programmes and guidance with schools to improve young people's sexual health			
Submit monitoring reports on the implementation of Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan to Children's Trust Performance Review Group bi monthly and Children's Trust Executive Management Group every three months so that all actions are implemented timely			
Develop and implement plan to better co-ordinate support to young parents who request it through midwifery, via a multi-agency partnership			

<p><b>Action 1</b>  <b>Reduce health inequalities through a reduction in teenage conception rates</b></p>	<p><b>Milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan for 2007 – 2008 by April 2008 Director Public Health</li> <li>• Multi agency contraceptive services in place in priority neighbourhoods with high teenage pregnancy conception rates October 2007 deputy Director Public Health</li> <li>• Monitoring reports to Performance Review Group July 2007, September 2007, November 2007, January 2008, March 2008 Programme Manager Public Health</li> <li>• Improved young person's led sexual health and relationship education programmes in place September 2007 Director Quality &amp; Standards (DQ&amp;S)</li> <li>• Implementation plan to improve co-ordinated support to teenage parents October 2007 Director Services to Children &amp; Young People (DSC&amp;YP)</li> </ul>
---	---

<b>Action 2</b> <b>Reduce health inequalities through reducing the number of young people involved in illegal substance misuse and consumption of alcohol</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Reduce the number of young people involved in substance and alcohol misuse  <b>Links to existing plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 10.2</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> Increase the number of young people in treatment to 63 (TBC) in 2007/08 (H014) 100% of young people in youth offending team screened for substance misuse by March 2008 (H015) 93% of young people looked after have health assessments in place by September 2007 (H016) 100% of schools working towards Healthy Schools Status March 2008 (H01)		
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Needs assessment for substance misuse refreshed and to inform substance misuse commissioning strategy		April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Needs assessment for young people and alcohol consumption to inform substance misuse and alcohol commissioning strategy		April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Agree treatment target for Young People's Treatment Service		July 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Refreshed See the Adult, See the Child protocol agreed by LSCB to ensure support to children and young people		September 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Commissioning Strategy to identify services to be commissioned and de-commissioned so that children & young people receive timely intervention		October 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Evaluation of education materials for substance misuse so that children and young people are informed about the risks of substance misuse and alcohol		April 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning



<b>Action 2</b> <b>Reduce health inequalities through reducing the number of young people involved in illegal substance misuse and consumption of alcohol</b>			
misuse			
Implementation of Substance Misuse Action Plan 2007/08 and quarterly updates to GOSW and Performance Review Group so that all actions are delivered timely and targets are met		June 2007 – March 08	Director Strategy & Commissioning (DS&C)
<b>Milestones completed or on target @ June 2007:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Needs assessment in place in April 2007 (G)</li><li>• Needs assessment on alcohol consumption in place in April 2007 (G)</li><li>• Evaluation of educational materials completed and actions in place in April 2007 (G)</li><li>• Sexual health education programmes in place with schools and meeting Healthy schools targets DQ&amp;S October 2007</li><li>• 'See the adult' see the child' protocol amended to take account of substance misuse and alcohol and agreed following consultation September 2007</li><li>• Training on screening tool implemented May 2007 (G)</li><li>• Parenting programme 24/7 with element of substance misuse/alcohol delivered by November 2007</li><li>• Implementation of Substance Misuse Action Plan 2007/08 and quarterly updates to GOSW and Performance Review Group so that all actions are delivered timely June 2007, September 2007, December 2007, March 2008</li><li>•</li></ul>			

<b>Action 3</b> <b>Reduce health inequalities through integration of children's services between Swindon Borough Council and PCT and children's centres</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Reduce health inequalities in areas of disadvantage  <b>Links to existing plans</b> <b>CYPP</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> Open 10 children's centres by March 2008 (SS01) Reduce the number of children killed each year to no more than 10 children by 2008 (SS02) The prevalence of children receiving the MMR by their second birthday is maintained at 85% for 2007/08 (H03) The percentage of breastfeeding increase to 74% in March 2008 (H04) The reduction of smoking in pregnancy is 15% by March 2008 (H05) Infant mortality reduces by 10% by 2010 (H06) 100% of mothers are screened for post natal depression by March 2008 (H07) Reduce the number of children in households where nobody is working by 50% by 2020 (AE07)		
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Health & Well Being Board is established to provide leadership for addressing health inequalities and addressed through development of the Health Inequalities Plan		June 2007 and November 2007	Director Public Health
Strategic needs assessment is completed identifying areas of priority across agencies		March 2008	Director Public Health
10 children's centres are designated in areas of disadvantage improving health outcomes for children under five		March 2008	Director Services to Children & Young

<b>Action 3</b> <b>Reduce health inequalities through integration of children's services between Swindon Borough Council and PCT and children's centres</b>		
		People
Virtual multi agency teams are in place led by Integrated Service managers increasing the support to vulnerable children	December 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning/ Director Services to Children & Young People
Reduce health inequalities and ensure equality of access to services by taking learning from equalities workshops and developing targeted programmes with parents from black and minority ethnic communities	January 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Complete child care audit so that the number of children in households where nobody is working reduces	January 2008	Director Services to Children & Young People
<b>Milestones</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; Well Being Board is established to provide leadership for addressing health inequalities and addressed through development of the Health Inequalities Plan, Director Public Health November 2007</li> <li>Strategic needs assessment is completed identifying areas of priority across agencies, Director Public Health March 2008</li> <li>10 children's centres are designated in areas of disadvantage improving health outcomes for children under five, DSC&amp;YP March 2008</li> <li>Virtual multi agency teams are in place led by Integrated Service managers increasing the support to vulnerable children, DSC&amp;YP December 2007</li> <li>Reduce health inequalities and ensure equality of access to services by taking learning from equalities workshops and developing targeted programmes with parents from black and minority ethnic communities, DS&amp;C December 2007</li> <li>Draft child care audit, DSC&amp;YP, September 2007</li> </ul>		

<b>Action 4</b>			
<b>Delivery of effective CAMHS Service so children's emotional and mental health is good</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Children's social and emotional health is good	<b>Success criteria</b> The Child and Adolescent Mental Health services provide 24-hour cover. An early intervention in psychosis service is available. A plan has been developed to meet the needs of all 16 and 17 year olds. 18 week target from referral to treatment to be met by April 2008		
<b>Links to existing plans</b> <b>CYP</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Refreshed CAMHS needs assessment is in place and informs effective commissioning strategy including mainstreaming of early intervention, support to young offenders, looked after children and young people with substance misuse needs		November 2007	Joint Director Commissioning PCT
Review of primary Mental Health Link Worker service is completed and informs CAMHS strategy		July 2007	Service Manager, Resources
<b>Milestones</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refreshed CAMHS needs assessment is in place and informs effective commissioning strategy, Director Commissioning PCT, November 2007</li> <li>Review of primary Mental Health Link Worker service is completed, Service Manager Resources, September 2007</li> </ul>			

## Stay Safe

<b>Action 5</b> <b>Continue to improve the referral and assessment process so children continue to be safe and receive timely intervention</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Improved quality of assessments accurately reflecting children and young people's needs and ensuring effective plans are made	<b>Success criteria</b> Increase the completion of core assessments on time to 80% by March 2008 and initial assessments to 75% (SS07)		
<b>Local Area Agreement 8.1</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Implement senior practitioner role within long term teams modelled on Kent practice to locate 'best practice' practitioners in each team		October 2007	Director Children & Families (DC&F)
Implement Practice Development Manager to ensure quality of assessments improves		November 2007	Director Children & Families
Audit of supervision (quantity and quality) completed and action plan agreed		July 2007	Director Children & Families
Management training delivered in partnership with Kent to continue further improvements in the quality of assessment and planning		October 2007	Director Children & Families
<b>Milestones</b> Senior practitioner role within long term teams modelled on Kent practice to locate 'best practice' practitioners in each team agreed, DC&F October 2007 Implement Practice Development Manager to ensure quality of assessments improves, DC&F, November 2007 Complete audit of supervision and publish action plan, DC&F, June 2007 Management training delivered in partnership with Kent to continue further improvements in the quality of assessment and planning, DC&F, October 2007			

<b>Action 6</b> <b>Develop consistent support, planning and co-ordination for vulnerable children through a parenting support strategy and thereby reducing inequality of access to services</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Vulnerable children and young people are consistently identified, joint plan agreed and needs met through common assessment in place across Swindon There is consistent access to specialist services and children in need  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 8.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> 300 common assessments and lead professionals in place by March 2008 (SS03) Establish baseline for bullying based on results of Tell Us Survey (SS05) Establish baseline of children feeling safe based on Tell Us Survey 2007 (SS04) Meet needs of children who have experienced domestic violence (SS06)		
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Common assessment and information sharing training monthly so that practitioners are confident in implementing the common assessment process and children & young people have their needs met earlier		Every month	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Lead professional briefings so that the action plans for all children and young people are reviewed on time and improvements in outcomes are recorded		June – March 2008	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Evaluation of LPG and CAF to ensure the process improves outcomes for children and young people		May 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Agreement of parenting support strategy so that there is a continuum of services addressing children and young people's needs locally and improve outcomes		October 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
<b>Milestones</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPG training completed monthly, DS&amp;C (G)</li> <li>Lead professional briefings held DS&amp;C June, September, December, February 2008</li> <li>Evaluation of LPG and CAF completed, DS&amp;C in May 2007</li> <li>Parenting support strategy final, DS&amp;C October 2007</li> </ul>			

<b>Action 7</b> <b>Increase long term placement stability for looked after children and reduce the number of looked after children and those places outside the Borough in independent placements</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Looked after children have stability in their lives and are placed with carers who meet their needs locally to maintain family and friendship networks  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 8.2</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> The number of looked after children reduces to 245 in March 2008 (SS09) The percentage of children looked after in out of borough placements reduces by 15% by 2010 The percentage of children adopted increase to 9.2% in March 2008 (SS11) The percentage of children looked after for 2.5 year who lived in the same placement increases to 66% in March 2008 (SS10) Short term breaks for disabled children increase to 50 by 2008		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Implement Adolescent Support Project to reduce the number of young people becoming looked after		March 2008	Director Children & Families
Implement regional residential preferred Provider contract to increase placement stability for looked after children		March 2008	Service manager Resources
Family Placement Team reconfiguration to increase quality of placements and matching		Sept 07	SM Resources
Agree and procure a Children's Rights Service		July 2007	SM Resources
Placement Strategy effectively implemented to increase placement stability		March 08	SM Resources/ TM Family Placement
Capital Project for CLA Resource Centre completed		Nov 07	SM Resources
Review delivery of short term break provision increasing access for disabled children		November 2007	Director Children & Families

Take learning from equalities workshops in September/October 2007 to inform a strategy to further reduce the number of children in care from minority ethnic communities	December 2007	Service Manager, Fieldwork
<b>Milestones</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with key stakeholders on shape of Family Placement Service completed D C&amp;F – May 07</li> <li>• Appoint staff and implement Intensive Adolescent Support Project, DC&amp;F – September 07</li> <li>• Award contract for Children's Rights Service &amp; write Gateway 3 report D C&amp;F July 07</li> <li>• Establish regional working group on residential procurement, DC&amp;F – January 07</li> <li>• Complete Gateway and tendering process (residential procurement) with service providers established, DC&amp;F – November 07</li> <li>• Complete options on short term break provision, DC&amp;F November 2007</li> <li>• Management workshops on equality and diversity completed with action planning, DS&amp;C November 2007</li> </ul>		



<b>Action 8</b> <b>In order to ensure the council and its partners understand and provide effective corporate parenting and guidance, they should develop a written strategy.</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved understanding by elected members and the Council of their responsibilities towards improving outcomes for looked after children</li> </ul>	<b>Success criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Parenting Strategy</li> <li>Training plan agreed for 2007/08 and all Cabinet Members and members of Corporate Parenting Board allocated training dates</li> </ul>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Corporate Parenting Strategy agreed by CYPB		October 2007	Director Children & Families
Training for elected members and senior officers on the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Every Child Matters		June 2007	Director Children & Families
<b>Milestones</b> Training plan for elected members in place in June 2007 Corporate Parenting Strategy agreed by CYPB DC&F October 2007			

## Enjoy and Achieve

<b>Action 9</b> <b>Increase the percentage of young people in achieving Level 5+ at Key Stage 3 in all subjects and in achieving 5+ GCSE A* - C including young people looked after and those from minority ethnic communities</b>		
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Improvement in attainment of young people aged 14+ Reduce the number of schools below the floor target Increase the percentage of looked after young people with 5+ GCSE A* -C  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 7.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> 57.5% of young people achieving 5+ GCSE A* -C in summer 2008 excluding special schools (EA01) No primary schools below the floor target in summer 2008 In secondary schools at least 91% of young people achieving 5+A*-G GCSE summer 2008 (EA01a) In primary schools at least 84% of children achieving level 4 at Key Stage 2 in English and 85% maths by 2008 80% of children looked after for a year or more will achieve 5+A*-G GCSEs (LAA target EA013), 60% of children looked after for a year or more achieve at least 1 GCSE A*-G (Swindon Promise 33), and 18% will achieve 5+ GCSE A*-C (LAA target) by 2008 The percentage of looked after children who achieve Level 4 + at KS2 will increase year on year (Swindon Promise 33) (EA012) At least 79% English, 79% Maths, 76% Science Of14 year olds achieve level 5 at KS3 or by 2008 By 2008 54.5% of children reach a 'good' level of development at the end of the foundation stage (EA02). 75% of children to spend a maximum of 2 hours per week on high quality PE and sport, in line with the government's PSA target (EA04)	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Deliver actions in aim 3 of 14-19 strategy implementation plan (enhancing achievement and progression of all young people in the 14-19 phase and beyond)	Summer 2009	Director Quality & Standards

<b>Action 9</b>			
<b>Increase the percentage of young people in achieving Level 5+ at Key Stage 3 in all subjects and in achieving 5+ GCSE A* - C including young people looked after and those from minority ethnic communities</b>			
Embed the Secondary National Strategy to ensure that the attainment at KS4 improves faster than the national average	March 2008	Secondary Strategy Manager	
Embed the Primary National Strategy to ensure continued improvement in primary standards	March 2008	Primary Strategy Manager	
Ensure high quality provision in early years settings including the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework	March 2008	Early Years Team Leader	
Target support in secondary schools to meet LAA target in relation to GCSE and implement by 2009	Summer 2009	Director Quality & Standards	
Ensure personalised learning plans are in place for children and young people looked after, targeting Key Stage 3 and 4	Summer 2007	Director Quality & Standards and Director of Children & Families	
Support all schools to provide personalised and an inclusive education including for those from BME and traveller backgrounds, those who are new arrivals, and looked after children	March 2008	Inclusion Adviser	
Support schools in areas of disadvantage to become more effective in personalising learning for children and young people and effectively address the needs of children from minority ethnic communities increasing attainment at KS2 and 3	July 2009	Director Quality & Standards	

<p><b>Action 9</b></p> <p><b>Increase the percentage of young people in achieving Level 5+ at Key Stage 3 in all subjects and in achieving 5+ GCSE A* - C including young people looked after and those from minority ethnic communities</b></p>	<p><b>Milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to CSLT on 14-19 Action Plan, D Q&amp;S – March &amp; September</li> <li>• Report to CSLT on quality of provision in early years settings, DQ&amp;S – December annually</li> <li>• All School and Early Years Settings received initial training on Early Years Foundation Framework, DQ&amp;S – January 2008</li> <li>• Report to Children's Overview Committee on attainment and attendance of different pupil groups including black and minority ethnic groups, children with special educational needs, traveller children, looked after children and low attainers, D Q&amp;S – September 2008</li> <li>• Cluster of Schools deliver a transfer and transition programme, D Q&amp;S – December 2007</li> <li>• Implementation of National Strategies initiatives – report to CSLT and HT Associations, D Q&amp;S – July annually</li> <li>• Personalised learning plans for all looked after children and young people in place D C&amp;F, June 2007</li> </ul>
--	--

<b>Action 10</b> <b>Improve school attendance and reduce fixed terms exclusions and improve re-integration rates into secondary schools</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> All young people in flexible provision receive 195 days full time education and improve their educational attainment Improvement in re-integration rates  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 8.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> Reduce fixed term exclusions to a level that does not exceed 67.4 per 1000 pupils (1,956) by 2008 (EA010) Reduce fixed term exclusion of BME young people by 5% by 2009 from baseline of 2005/06. Target for 2008 if 180 exclusions (EA09)		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Analyse attendance and exclusion data to identify management actions so that school attendance improves and fixed term exclusions reduce		October and November 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People
Build on re-integration protocol and 'ready to return system' undertaken by the PRU in consultation with the Exclusion and Reintegration Officer to increase re-integration into schools where this is appropriate.		July 2007	Director Services to Children & Young People
Support to schools in reducing fixed term exclusions through: target setting, monitoring of pupils at risk of exclusion, building on the success of the 'managed move' protocol and implementation of DfES regulations regarding the provision of full time education for any pupil excluded over five school days – to take effect from Sept 07.		July 2007	Director Services to Children and Young People

<p><b>Action 10</b>  <b>Improve school attendance and reduce fixed terms exclusions and improve re-integration rates into secondary schools</b></p>	<p><b>Milestones:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on analysis of exclusion data to S2CYP Management – October 2007</li> <li>• Report on implementation of new arrangements for Elective Home Education to S2CYPMT – October 2007</li> <li>• Report to S2CYPMT on analysis of attendance – November 2007</li> </ul>
---	--

## Make a Positive Contribution

<b>Action 11</b> <b>Ensure participation of young people in the Youth Forum, particularly for vulnerable groups of children and young people</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> There is evidence that young people's views have changed services and improved outcomes	<b>Success criteria</b> 100% of secondary schools have representation on Youth Forum through school councils (MP01) Young people from vulnerable groups have representation on Youth Forum (MP03) 95% of looked after children participate in their review (MP10)		
<b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 9.2</b>			
Action		Deadline	Person Responsible
All School Councils send representatives to Youth Forum		December 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Youth Forum with representation of groups of vulnerable young people including the FOCUS group, Young Carers, STEP and Stepping Forward		March 2008	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Youth Forum is re-organised with termly residential events and meets with members of the Children & Young People's Partnership Board annually so that young people's views inform service planning		November 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Participation conference held informing LAA and CYPP 2008		November 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning

<p><b>Action 11</b>  <b>Ensure participation of young people in the Youth Forum, particularly for vulnerable groups of children and young people</b></p>	<p><b>Milestones completed and on target @ June 2007:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Forum membership with secondary school representation – July 2007</li> <li>• FOCUS, STEP, Stepping Forward, Young Carers represented on Youth Forum - March 2008</li> <li>• Meeting held between Youth Forum and members of Children &amp; Young People's Partnership Board, DSC&amp;YP November 2007</li> <li>• Participation conference held, DS&amp;C, November 2007</li> </ul>
--	---



<b>Action 12</b> <b>Improve the effectiveness of the Youth Service in enabling young people to make a positive contribution and implement Integrated Youth Support Service</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Youth Service judged good through inspection and enabling young people to make a positive contribution  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 9.2</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>		
	60% of young people participating in the Youth Service gaining an accredited outcome by March 2009 (MP03) 30% of young people gaining an accredited outcome through for example Duke of Edinburgh (MP02) Ensure support to 100% of young people reporting racist incidents by March 2008 (MP05)		
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Implement and monitor Youth Service Plan 2006 – 2009 and work with young people from minority ethnic communities		November 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Achieve Youth Service Performance targets 2006-09 and monitor monthly through LPAR process		Monthly reporting from April 2006	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Clear vision, mission and purpose is written for Youth Service and delivered by achieving outcomes in Youth Service Plan for 07/08.		March 2008	Head of Youth Service (HYS)
Leadership of Youth Service has clearly defined management roles & responsibilities, & staff have high expectations		March 2008	Head of Youth Service (HYS)
Establish separate Swindon Connexions service as part of Youth Support Service		April 2008	Director, Services to Children & Young People
Detailed plans and structure re Universal and targeted level for Youth 13 – 19, including Youth Matters recommendations, in place following staff consultation.		October 2007	Director, Services to Children & Young People

<p><b>Action 12</b>  <b>Improve the effectiveness of the Youth Service in enabling young people to make a positive contribution and implement Integrated Youth Support Service</b></p>	<p><b>Milestones:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual monitoring youth service action plan, DSC&amp;YP – November 2007 and 2007</li> <li>• Transition plan implemented for separate Connexions Service, DSC&amp;YP – March 2008</li> <li>• Annual report for Youth Service progress published, DSC&amp;YP - September 2007</li> <li>• Report to S2CYPMT on Summer Programme 2007, DSC&amp;YP - September 2007</li> <li>• The Youth Service is operating in 10 secondary schools, 2 FE Colleges and Special Schools, DSC&amp;YP - September 2007</li> <li>• Duke of Edinburgh's Award and other accreditation programmes have 1000 young people participating, DSC&amp;YP - December 2007</li> <li>• Six monthly report on racist incidents and support offered to Cross Phase, DS&amp;C, November 2007</li> </ul>
--	---

<b>Action 13</b>			
<b>Reduce young people offending and re-offending</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>		
Reduction in offending by young people looked after and those from minority ethnic communities Increase in employment and training for young offenders	Reduce first time offending by March 2008 to 354 young people (MP07) Reduce re-offending to 34.83 by March 2008 (MP08)		
<b>Local Area Agreement Outcome 9.1</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Produce Swindon Yot 'Youth Justice Plan' 2007/8 to Youth Justice Board timescales.		30 <sup>th</sup> April 2007	Head of Yot Service
Implement Post HMI Inspection Action Plan.		Dec 2007	Head of Yot Service
Implement the Race and Diversity Action plan in consultation with other partner (justice) agencies.		Sept 2007	Head of Yot Service
Implement action plans arising from EPQA validation in areas of Mental Health and Remand Management		Sept 2007	Head of Yot Service
<b>Milestones:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yot Plan – approval by cabinet (June 2007) and validation by YJB, DC</li><li>• EPQA review, DC&amp;F – September 2007</li><li>• Actions in Yot post inspection plan completed DC&amp;F Dec 2007.</li><li>• 90% of Yot staff have completed equalities training, DC&amp;F March 2008</li></ul>			

Action 14 To meet the needs of disabled young people and their families through integrated services				
EXPECTED OUTCOME: Co-ordinated and integrated services to maximise the educational, social health and emotional potential of disabled children & young people.  RESPONSIBLE: Director of Children & Families Service Manager Disabled Children  Links: Integrated Service for Disabled Children and Young People Strategic Plan Local Area Agreement Promise 29 & 33	SUCCESS CRITERIA: Increase the number of parent carers for children with a disability and young disabled people aged 16/17 receiving direct payments (25 by April 2008) (MP09) Payment for Skills system for Home & Away foster carers implemented, enabling us to support them to provide placements that address a wider range of challenges (SS08) Transition Implementation Plan completed to ensure transition is a positive experience for service users and 80% of young disabled people are in education, training and employment (AE10) Integrated service for disabled children and young people established at Saltway (H013) 100% of children and young people receive a statement of their educational needs on time by March 2008 (EA11)			
		ACTIONS		
		Complete Direct Payments pilot project and implement Direct Payment service	DEADLINE Oct 2007	PERSON RESPONSIBLE Service Manager Disabled Chil
		Revise the payments system for the Home and Away Scheme	Nov 2007	Service Manager Disabled Chil
Complete need analysis for residential provision for severely disabled children and young people and develop options appraisal/commissioning plan.		Aug 2007	Service Manager Disabled Chil	

Action 14 To meet the needs of disabled young people and their families through integrated services			
Develop a detailed multi-agency Transitions Implementation Plan	May 2007	Service Manager Disabled Chil	
Develop a NEET Strategy for disabled / young people (SEN/LDD)	Aug 2007	Service Manager Disabled Chil	
Ensure the development of the integrated service for disabled children / young people links to other multi-agency plans / development of the other multi-agency teams	March 2008	Service Manager Disabled Chil	
Develop a model for the integrated service (Saltway) and an implementation plan	March 2008	Service Manager Disabled Chil	
Set up a working group to produce an Inclusion Policy and Strategic Action Plan and send out draft for consultation	December 2007	Principal Education Psychologist	
<b>Milestones:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch Direct Payments Scheme, D C&amp;F – October 07</li><li>• Complete review of payments to Home and Away carers, DC&amp;F – August 07</li><li>• Complete options appraisal / commissioning plan for residential services for severely disabled children DC&amp;F – August 07</li><li>• Transition Implementation Plan agreed by Children &amp; Young People's Partnership Board / Disabled Children &amp; Young People's Partnership Board, DC&amp;F – August 2007</li><li>• Develop NEET strategy for SEN/LDD, DC&amp;F – August 07</li><li>• A Plan/Strategy to establish processes to transform the co-located service at Saltway into an integrated service has been discussed and ratified by the Disabled Children &amp; Young People's Partnership Board, DC&amp;F March 2008</li><li>• Inclusion Policy, DSC&amp;YP March 2008</li></ul>			

<b>Action 15</b> <b>Increase the number of young people entering and remaining in further education and achieve Level 2 at age 19 and reducing young people not in education, training or employment</b>			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Young people aged 16 progress into learning and achieve a level of educational attainment at the age 19 in line with the national average  <b>Links to other plans</b> <b>LAA Outcome 6.1</b>	<b>Success criteria</b> 91% of 16 year olds to be in education, training or employment by 2008 (AE01) Reduce the number of young people not in education, training or employment to 5.6% in 2009 (AE05) Increase the percentage of young parents in EET to 48% by March 2008 (AE011) Increase the proportion of care leavers in EET to 0.7:1 by March 2008 (AE012) Increase the percentage of young offenders in EET to 89% in March 2008 (AE012) Establish baseline for young people from BME communities who are not in education, training or employment (AE08)		
	<b>Action</b>		<b>Person Responsible</b>
	Deliver actions in aim 2 of 14-19 strategy implementation plan (raising aspirations of young people and significantly increase engagement in learning)	September 2009	Director Quality & Standards/Partnership Director, LSC
	Deliver actions in aim 3 of 14-19 strategy implementation plan (enhance achievement and progression of all young people in the 14-19 phase and beyond)	September 2009	Director Quality & Standards/Partnership Director, LSC
	Deliver Swindon NEET strategy	September 2009	Chief Executive Connexions Service
<b>Milestones:</b> Milestones as indicated in the implementation plan			

<b>Action 16</b> In order to increase the support and availability of work-based learning for young people, the council and LLSC should develop clear arrangements that include large and medium-sized employers in providing work-based learning opportunities.			
<b>Expected Outcome</b> Employer Partnership strategy provides basis for collaborative activity and more effective engagement of employers within a framework Commitment to Swindon Borough Council action plan for supporting work related learning	<b>Success criteria</b>		<b>Person Responsible</b> Director Quality & Standards/Partnership Director, LSC Chief Executive/Director Human Resources Partnership Director, LSC
	<b>Action</b>		
	Implementation of aim 6 in the 14-19 strategy implementation plan (Respond to the demands of the local economy and encourage further engagement in meeting the needs of young people)	September 2008	
	SBC adopt and implement policy for supporting work related learning, offering a package of activities	September 2008	
Improve completion of Apprenticeships by learners in Swindon		September 2009	
<b>Milestones</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase number of apprenticeship places available in September 2008</li><li>• Swindon Borough Council adopt Work Related Learning Policy by April 2007</li><li>• Deliver three vocational diplomas by September 2008 and a further one by September 2009</li></ul>			

## Implementation of Children Act milestones 2007/08

<b>Action 17</b> <b>To provide effective strategic planning to deliver the key outcomes of the Children Act 2004 and Youth Matters</b>			
<b>EXPECTED OUTCOME:</b> Timely implementation of the legal requirements of the Children Act & Youth Matters being achieved by the directorate providing effective strategic leadership and implementing a focused change management programme.  <b>RESPONSIBLE: Director Strategy &amp; Commissioning</b> <b>Links:</b>  Corporate Plan Local Area Agreement.	<b>SUCCESS CRITERIA:</b> 300 common assessment completed with lead professionals in place for March 08 Four multi-agency teams co-located by April 2008 with 75% of staff grading the process at least satisfactory Stakeholder boards covering multi-agency teams areas by March 2008 identifying the top five priority areas of work for their area		
	<b>ACTIONS</b>		
Review project plan & milestones through project board with multi-agency teams so that change process is implemented successfully and an increased number of children receive services locally through common assessments		Monthly	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Implementation of common processes so that children's needs are assessment and met in a timely manner through Child Index Implementation Plan Electronic Common Assessment Framework Integrated Children Services implementation support Common business process across 4 multi-agency teams in draft Multi-agency teams across Swindon		April 2007 December 2008 April 2008 July 2007 April 2008	Director Strategy & Commissioning



<b>Action 17</b>			
<b>To provide effective strategic planning to deliver the key outcomes of the Children Act 2004 and Youth Matters</b>			
Pilot CAF as referral		June 2007	
To ensure vulnerable children continue to receive early intervention and support the mainstreaming programme for Children's Fund implementation		December 2007	Service Manager – Strategic Planning and Commissioning
To ensure successful transition to multi agency teams with improved service quality and the delivery of a change management programme for staff in multi-agency teams		October 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
Establish task group to develop stakeholder involvement		November 2007	Director Strategy & Commissioning
<b>Milestones:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly highlighted report submitted to LPAR. LARA assessments submitted to DfES, DS&amp;C July 2007</li> <li>Preparation for Child index completed, DS&amp;C December 2007</li> <li>Final business processes for multi-agency teams, DS&amp;C – December 07</li> <li>List of change management events agreed, DS&amp;C – September</li> <li>Establishment of Workforce Development Board – October 2007</li> <li>Pilot of common induction completed, DS&amp;C July 2007</li> <li>Stakeholder task group established, DS&amp;C November 2007</li> </ul>			

This page is intentionally left blank

# **Children & Young People's Plan 2006 – 2009** **Review June 2007**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PART ONE: Commentary</b>	<b>3</b>
1. JAR findings	3
2. New assessment of need	4
3. Impact on outcomes	5
4. Progress on objectives and actions	5
5. Partnership and structural change	6
6. Priorities and maintaining the momentum of Improvement	6
<b>PART TWO: Reviewing the plan</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>First Part</b>	
Section 1: Vision	7
Section 2: National Agenda	7
Participation	7
Financial information	8
Section 3: Aims, outcomes and actions	9
Be Healthy	9
Stay Safe	14
Enjoy and Achieve	19
Make a Positive Contribution	24
Achieve Economic Well-being	28
<b>Second Part: Children Act Implementation, Planning and Commissioning Arrangements</b>	<b>33</b>
Section 1: Common process	33
Section 2: Integrated working	34
Section 3: Planning and Children's Trust arrangements	35
Section 4: Needs and services	36
<b>Third Part</b>	<b>38</b>
Monitoring arrangements for the CYPP	38
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>38</b>

## INTRODUCTION

This review of our Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) measures progress to date and particularly since the Joint Area Review (JAR). It takes account of the findings of the JAR, our action in response to those findings, as well as new developments and changes. It evaluates the impact of what we have done on outcomes for children and young people. At the same time, it considers how we can maintain the momentum of progress. In addition, we have undertaken a new and more detailed assessment of need ([www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children\\_youngpeoples\\_plan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan)) and the review considers our existing priorities in the light of that.

New guidance on Local Area Agreements means that we have to publish a new Local Area Agreement for Swindon in April 2008. We will use this opportunity to also publish a new Children & Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011. This will enable us to set priorities for children and young people based on the findings of this review of the Children & Young People's Plan, together with the refreshed needs assessment 2007, results from the Tell Us Survey 2007 and consultation with stakeholders, parents and carers and young people (planned for November 2007).

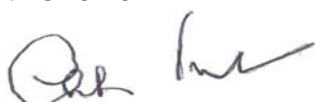
Following the JAR, we produced an Action Plan to address its recommendations and findings (Appendix 1). Additional and more detailed information on action to date is contained in that plan.

This review follows the structure of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). We have reviewed each section of the plan in the light of the following questions:

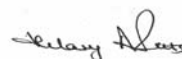
- **Does the plan adequately reflect issues identified by the Joint Area Review (JAR) and the need to respond to them?**
- **Do we have evidence of impact and improvement?**
- **What more do we need to do and what could we do better?**
- **Do we have the right priorities and actions in the light of our new needs analysis and changes in circumstances?**

During the period since the plan was written, we have continued to develop the participation of children and young people, parents and carers. In February 2007, 50 young people met with 50 professionals, to share information about their roles, experiences and services. Parents who are members of the Special Needs Forum regularly discuss improvement to services with senior officers. This review draws on these processes and is consequently informed throughout by the views and wishes of children, young people, their parents and carers.

On behalf of the Children's Trust Executive Management Group, we would like to thank the staff from across the agencies in Swindon who have contributed to this review .



Caroline Fowles, Chief Executive,  
Swindon Primary Care Trust



Hilary Pitts, Group Director Children  
Swindon Borough Council

## PART ONE: Commentary

### Joint Area Review findings

The 2006 Joint Area Review (JAR) judged outcomes for young people in Swindon to be generally adequate with some positive and emerging strengths. It made a number of recommendations for action.

We have made good progress in addressing the main recommendations and critical issues and this has resulted in improvements in outcomes for children and young people

- Reduction in annual teenage conception rates
- More young people accessing drug treatment services
- Improvements in the completion and quality of assessments for children in need
- More consistent support, planning and co-ordination for vulnerable children through common assessment and lead professionals
- Improved quality of supervision for social work staff
- Effective corporate parenting including a draft strategy and training for elected Members
- Improvements in educational attainment following targeted intervention
- Improved support to care leavers through the 16+ Team
- Increase in the number of young people participating in the Youth Service
- Improved employer engagement leading to increased apprenticeship opportunities
- Increased capacity of middle managers in managing change following targeted training and staff development

We still need to do better on three issues. These are

- Further improvements in the quality of assessments through senior practitioners and training of social work staff
- Further increase in the number of young people participating in the Youth Service with accredited outcomes
- Implementation of the 14 – 19 Strategy thereby improving educational attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4, increasing the number of young people with Level 2 qualification at the age of 19, improving educational attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4 and increasing educational achievements of looked after children

In addition, the Children and Young People's Plan did not prioritise the need to reduce health inequalities. This has been highlighted as an area requiring focused intervention in the JAR and the needs assessment 2007. Therefore, specific actions will be taken in 2007/08 to address this issue and it will be taken forward as a priority into the Local Area Agreement and Children & Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011.

## New assessment of need 2007

We have been moving ahead rapidly with the development of multi-agency area working in Swindon as outlined in the CYPP. Accordingly, we have undertaken a more detailed area based assessment of need, building on the needs assessments of 2002 and 2004. In particular, we now have solid demographic data related to ethnicity. Analysis of this reveals that

- By 2016 the child population (under 10) is expected to remain similar but there will be an increase of 6 percent in the under five's. The overall population increase is largely due to new-build or brown-field site development in the North and South areas. A further development in the east of Swindon is also planned
- The number of children from families seeking asylum increased from five in 1999 to 81 in 2006
- The percentage of primary age children from minority ethnic communities and those from diverse backgrounds has risen from 12.5% to 13.9% and those at secondary schools from 10% in 2005/06 to 11.2% in 2006/07. The largest increase of 0.8/0.9% is among Asian children and young people

The needs assessment 2007 shows that there are three critical issues:

- An increase in the number of children and young people from diverse communities in primary schools and the potential impact on services to meet the needs of children. The need for secondary schools to prepare for meeting the needs of a more diverse group of children.
- Significant educational, social and health inequalities in Penhill, Gorse Hill & Pinehurst, Park North and South, Walcot East, Central and Moredon reflected in all three needs assessments (2002, 2004 and 2007) and the need for services to target these communities
- Persistent low scores for Swindon particularly in the areas of disadvantage in the Indices of Deprivation Domain (2004) for education, training and skills and the consequent need to focus on raising aspirations of all children and young people

The CYPP included targeted actions focused on the areas of disadvantage through children's centres and Children's Fund services. These actions have improved children's health outcomes in Penhill, educational attainment at Key Stage 2 in Park North (Goddard Park) and school attendance through early intervention (Local Preventative Groups using the common assessment). In order to extend the impact of early intervention services on inequalities, multi agency service delivery will be implemented and will continue to be prioritised.

Raising aspirations is a priority in the CYPP, addressed through targeted work with schools and the implementation of the Aim Higher Programme in five secondary schools with increasing numbers of children participating. Further actions will be taken in 2007/08 and this will remain a priority.

Priorities and action in the Children & Young People's Plan 2006 – 2009 do not adequately reflect the need to address equality and diversity issues. We have planned management workshops for September 2007 to identify the service specific and strategic actions to be prioritised and implemented.

## Impact on outcomes

Overall there have been improvements in all five outcomes since the JAR

- A sharply focused approach and the active involvement of directors and chief officers has resulted in improvements in educational attainment at Key Stage 4, a reduction in schools not reaching the floor target at Key Stage 2 and no failing schools. Applying the same approach to critical issues identified in the JAR has reduced the annual teenage conception rate and increased numbers of young people receiving substance misuse treatment services
- Strong director led multi agency focus on early intervention has resulted in more timely assessments for vulnerable children through multi agency Local Preventative Groups (LPGs) with increased capacity and investment in areas of disadvantage
- Co-ordination and active leadership by senior officers resulted in increasing the number of children and young people participating in service development and an increasing number of young people participating in the Youth Service with a recorded outcome
- Increased partnership working by Connexions, secondary schools, colleges, the Learning & Skills Council and the new 14 – 19 Strategy Team has resulted in more young people accessing learning
- Multi agency working targeting looked after children has led to an increase in care leavers in education, training and employment and more care leavers with 5+ GCSE A\* - C
- Strong multi agency working on safeguarding and looked after children has led to 83% of PAF indicators graded good or excellent in 2006/07

## Progress on objectives and actions

The CYPP sets out the actions to be taken to achieve our priority objectives. All the key actions are underway and milestones set for 2007 have been met. There has been good progress in the implementation of the Youth Service and Youth Offending Team Action Plans and the Youth Forum. Services for disabled children are now co-located at Saltway centre and a National Service Act 2006 Section 75 Agreement between Swindon Borough Council and Swindon Primary Care Trust is in place. This has already resulted in improved multi agency working for children under 5. Improvements have been made in social care services with focused training and staff and management development workshops. Recruitment and retention of social workers remains challenging but has improved as we have trained our own previously unqualified staff to become qualified social workers. Capacity at middle management level is good and further improving with the completion of change management workshops, more social care managers undertaking a Diploma in Management Studies, outcome focused service delivery workshops, Leadership Academy 2 for all middle and senior managers and a Virtual Staff College management development programme. There will be a small loss of posts in Quality & Standards and a robust recruitment system is in place to ensure high-qualified replacements.

## **Partnership and structural change**

The CYPP spells out our Children Act implementation, planning and commissioning plans. We have made excellent progress in embedding the children's trust arrangements and completing all relevant milestones in implementing the Children Act 2004. The Children's Trust Executive Management Group provides strong leadership on integration and has effectively unblocked barriers to improve the performance of services, for example in agreeing management action to increase the number of young people in education, training and employment.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board was established in January 2006 and formally launched in October 2006 and was assessed as effective in the JAR and Government Office South West. Performance management systems are robust and performance is benchmarked and monitored monthly by the Children's Trust Performance Group.

## **Priorities and maintaining the momentum for improvement**

There are clear and challenging objectives and targets for children and young people. These are set out in the CYPP and LAA, have been agreed with partners and are shared across services. All targets and priorities have been reviewed following the Joint Area Review. The priorities identified in the LAA remain the key matters on which we need to make progress as evidenced by this review and the needs assessment. In addition, we need to develop a more robust and action focused overall approach to diversity and equalities.

We will be preparing a new Local Area Agreement and Children & Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011 in the autumn of 2007 taking account of existing as well as new challenges:

- Targeted action to meet the needs of an increasing number of children from minority ethnic communities
- Targeted actions to address inequality and diversity
- Raising aspirations of all children and young people to improve education and skill levels

In 2007/08 we will also:

- Implement the actions outlined in the current CYPP and Local Area Agreement
- Increase capacity for early intervention and the common assessment through virtual teams in four geographical areas of Swindon, prioritising the areas of high inequality
- Hold management workshops to develop service and strategic actions addressing equality and diversity
- Work with schools to ensure they are well equipped to meet the new duty to promote social cohesion
- Establish joint working between the 14 – 19 Team, Connexions and the Economic Development Directorate to improve engagement and attainment of young people
- Further develop the Corporate Parenting Strategy to enhance outcomes for our looked after children and young people



## PART TWO: Reviewing the plan

### First Part

#### Section 1: Vision

Our vision as set out in the CYPP has not changed. We believe that

**“Children and young people in Swindon deserve the best start in life and we want them to enjoy life, to achieve, to stay safe from harm, to be healthy and to grow up to be successful adults in a loving, caring environment.”**

In order to ensure a focus on well-being and safeguarding, local organisations are working together through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the children’s trust arrangements prioritising:

- Strong core services
- Intervening early
- Improved multi-agency working

The Children’s Services vision and priorities are reflected and supported within the council in its community leadership role (draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2007, Swindon 2010 Promises, Corporate Plan and Swindon’s Local Area Agreement 2006 – 2008)

#### Section 2: National Agenda

Since the publication of the CYPP in 2006, further plans, policies and statutory requirements have been introduced and the actions in the CYPP for 2007/08 will be amended to take account of:

- *Education and Inspection Act 2007*
- *Child Care Act 2006*
- *Adoption Act 2006*
- *A new duty on schools to promote well-being and community cohesion*

#### Participation

Participation by young people in service development is well established and is leading to improvements in services and new services.

There are clear participation structures in place. The Youth Forum is established with representation of vulnerable young people through voluntary sector agency STEP (10 to 18 Project) and the FOCUS, looked after children group. Youth Forum members met with the Children & Young People’s Partnership Board and Directors and in future will meet twice a year with members to inform strategic planning and receive progress on issues raised at previous meetings. 2,980 young people have participated across agencies. Young people’s views have informed the Corporate Parenting Strategy, resulted in the development of advocacy support during the Local Preventative Groups, and a new magazine for by and for young people (Havoc) distributed by the

Swindon advertiser highlighting the issues young people are interested in and promoting participation and volunteering.

Participation by parents of disabled children has led to the co-location of staff for disabled children and young people's services, a special resource provision for autistic children and parents are represented on the Disabled Children Partnership Board. A draft strategy for participation by parent and carers has been developed and is currently being consulted on as part of the Parenting Support Strategy.

## **Finance and Value for Money**

Swindon demonstrates good value for money in the delivery of its children's services. Results in secondary schools have risen steadily in the last three years at KS 3 and 4 and though there are variations in this rise between schools and across different indicators the overall picture is of improvement which is faster than the national improvement. Other positive signs include that for the first time ever Swindon has no schools requiring special measures and improving outcomes for looked after children including low placement costs. Strategic management costs, spend on PRU and SEN transport are also below the England and comparator average. Improvements have been made with a new programme of VFM and joint commissioning with regard to independent foster care placements and transport.

In the current financial year Swindon remains in the bottom quartile for Children's Services funding and is 17th lowest for the Dedicated Schools Grant. This low level of government funding and a below average increase for 2006/07 presents a challenge as Swindon faces some of the fastest population growth anywhere in Europe. There has been an increase of just under £5m in the funding within the schools block to £104.6m in 2007/08 compared to 2006/7. The majority of this increase will go to schools directly and represents an investment to strengthen universal services. The Children's Services budget within the Council has increased by 3.4% to £21.6m in 2007/08. However, because of the low level of funding for Swindon Council, the financial allocation (£) to Children services is the lowest of our statistical neighbours. Investment is targeted at our priorities, particularly reducing out of borough placements

- Additional resources for the Family Placement Team to increase the number and quality of local foster care placements to ensure more children can be placed locally
- An invest to save project of £225k will also be implemented in 2007/08 to support parents of teenagers and thereby reduce the number of looked after children
- £160K Children's Services grant is allocated to increase early intervention and targeted support for children through the common assessment and developing the multi agency teams

These changes will be reflected in the new CYPP. In 2006, 4.5% of primary schools and no secondary schools had 25% or more surplus places compared to 10.4% and 10% respectively for 2005, thereby achieving better value for money. The Council has agreed a refreshed Children's Services four year capital programme of £106 million on top of a PFI package of seven new and replacement schools. It includes the replacement/removal of unsuitable temporary accommodation on school sites (Swindon 2010 Promise 17).

### Section 3: Aims, outcomes and actions to achieve change

Section three has been reviewed using the same format for each outcome

- Summary statement
- Progress against indicators and targets set in the CYPP and the LAA and targets for 2007/08
- What is the evidence of services providing early intervention
- What is the evidence of services improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people
- What is the evidence of impact of services on the priorities identified in the LAA and CYPP

#### Be Healthy

The Joint Area Review assessed health outcomes for children as good. The CYPP has three priorities and we have made further improvement in these areas, which were also raised in the JAR

- 73% of schools achieved the Healthy School Status in 2006
- The teenage pregnancy rate reduced significantly by 17.2% in 2005
- More young people received substance misuse services

Further improvement in the reduction of teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and reducing health inequalities remain our priority for 2007/08.

A significant amount of work is underway to tackle inequalities, which was identified in the JAR. Sure Start intervention in Penhill has increased breastfeeding rates and reduced smoking in pregnancy thereby reducing health inequalities. The development of children's centres for all children under five and the co-location of staff in multi agency team will accelerate our approach to reducing health inequalities.

#### Impact indicators 2006/07 Children & Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA) and targets 2007/08

**H01:** 100% of schools are working towards the new Healthy Schools Status and 31 schools achieved the new status by 31.3.2007 from 23 in December 2006 (**LAA 10.1**) exceeding national and regional average. **Target 2007/08:** 100% participating

**H02: (LAA 10.1)** Swindon PCT reception year children obesity rate was 10.5% compared to 10% nationally; 2005/06 year 6 pupils measured in the first term of year 7 for a Swindon baseline of 18% compared to 17.3% nationally. 86% in Swindon were measured compared to 57% nationally (reception age and participation rate at year 6 was 79% in Swindon compared to 42% nationally)

**H03:** The prevalence of children receiving the MMR by their second birthday was maintained at 85% for 2006/07. **Target 2007/08:** 85%

**H04:** The percentage of breastfeeding increased from 72% in March 2006 to 75.3% in March 2007 (**LAA 7.2**) **Target 2007/08:** 74%

**H05:** The reduction of smoking in pregnancy is 17% and has not met the target of 15% by March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 15%

**H06:** Infant mortality reduced from 5.8 per 1,000 in 2004 to 4.4 per 1,000 in 2005 and is close to statistical neighbour mean rate. **Target 2010:** 10% reduction from 2004 figures

**H07:** 100% of women are screened for postnatal depression and those as identified as having postnatal depression receive appropriate treatment. **Target 2007/08:** 100%

**H08:** The under eighteen teenage conception rate reduced from 54 per 1,000 in 2004 to 44.2 per 1,000 young women in 2005 (latest data) **(LAA 10.3).** **Target 2007:** 37 per 1,000

**H09:** Chlamydia screening to be rolled out starting in May 2007 targeting sexually active 16-25 year olds. In order to achieve the target of 15% screened, 100 16-25 year olds will be screened each week in 2007

**H010:** Low birth weight babies remained at similar levels with 8.8% in 2004 compared to 9% in 2005. Invalidated data for 2006 indicates reduction to 7.35%. **Target 2007:** 7.9%

**H011:** 100% of young offenders and 91.3 % of looked after children were screened for substance misuse and all young people receiving Intensive Connexions Services in 2006/07 **(LAA 10.2).** **Target 2007/08** 100% for young offenders and 92% for looked after children

**H012:** The Child and Adolescent Mental Health services provide 24-hour cover. An early intervention in psychosis service is available. A plan has been developed to meet the needs of all 16 and 17 year olds. Target **2007/08:** 18 week target from referral to treatment to be met by April 2008

**H013:** 35 disabled children have received a lead professional (key worker) through the Portage Services. **Target 2007/08:** All children allocated through Integrated Services for Disabled Children & Young People with a lead professional

**H014:** The number of young people with substance misuse needs in treatment increased from 40 in March 2006 to 63 In March 2007 **(LAA 10.2).** **Target 2007/08:** TBC with National Treatment Agency

**H015:** 100% of young offenders with mental health needs were referred and received treatment from CAMHS. Target 2007/08: 100%

**H016:** The health needs of 91.3 % of looked after children were assessed in 2006 compared to 91% in 2005 **(LAA 10.2).** **Target 2007/08:** 93%

### Children and young people's views

Participation by children and young people is good and has resulted in changes to services. 40% of children and young people commented in the Tell Us Survey 2006 that they felt very healthy compared to 35% nationally. 73% of children, who classed themselves as quite healthy in the Tell Us Survey 2006, said they wanted more access to sports and leisure facilities. This has been incorporated into the draft Leisure Strategy. 400 children participate in 32 boys schools football teams and 12 girls team including schools in the areas of disadvantage. Consultation with 100 young people through focus groups on substance misuse service has informed the substance misuse needs assessment and the delivery of substance misuse education. School nurses regularly consult young people on service development such as the "Chat room" and young people evaluated this as positive in giving them appropriate advice.

This has resulted in plans to extend this service in two schools covering areas of high inequalities. Teenage Pregnancy Service has regular focus groups and is consulting young people on branding young people's sexual health services. The development of an Integrated Service for Disabled Children and Young People was a direct result of consultation with parents and they have continued to be involved as this has developed.

50 young people from FOCUS, STEP, Stepping Forward, Young Carers and secondary schools were brought together for a seminar to inform strategic direction and young people commented on the benefit of being listened to and learning about the roles of different workers in Swindon.

Boys and young men took part in a health promotion and healthy lifestyle event for young people looked after addressing issues of sexual health.

### **Early intervention and targeted prevention**

Targeted interventions have been developed to improve the health of vulnerable children living in areas of disadvantage. The first and second wave children centres, based in areas of disadvantage have reduced health inequalities. Sure Start (Penhill) was in contact with 85% of all babies born in 2006/07. Smoking in pregnancy reduced from 36% in 2005/06 to 33% in 2006/07. Breastfeeding at birth increased from 56% in 2005/06 to 59% in 2006/07 (H04/5). Specialist midwives work with substance misusing and HIV positive women.

As a result of work by the Family Welfare Association with parents, ninety two per cent of families in areas of disadvantage, who have mental health problems and substance misuse issues, report increased self-esteem and confidence. One hundred per cent report improved physical health and improved nutrition of children.

Children and young people have better access to mental health services through the joint funded Primary Mental Health Workers providing a single access point to CAMHS. Since April 2006 1,276 cases were referred to the Primary Mental Health Workers, 619 of which were redirected to specialist CAMHS, 111 redirected to other services, 341 managed by the team and 158 families withdrew from the service.

The Nurture Group (providing in school support in building children's self esteem and confidence) and Go Zone have reduced exclusions, improved behaviour and self-esteem for the children in the areas of disadvantage (Penhill, Pinehurst & Gorse Hill, Parks, Walcot East) (H01/2). Of 220 primary aged children, 70% of children have had either a parent or teacher reporting an increase in self-esteem after working with Rainbow. 60% of children also attending Rainbow have either a teacher or parent reporting an increase in self-control.

Multi agency co-located teams will introduce a model of public health workers to accelerate our work in reducing health inequalities. The team covering the central area with high numbers of children from minority ethnic communities will take learning from equalities workshop and needs assessment to develop targeted programmes with parents from minority ethnic communities.



### **Services for children and young people who are vulnerable including those with disabilities, from minority ethnic communities and looked after children**

Specialist CAMHS was judged good in the JAR. Children and young people are seen by the Specialist CAMHS within 11 weeks, with 60% of referrals seen within 8 weeks, from a wait of 12 months in 2004/05 (H012). This has been achieved by Specialist CAMHS restructuring service delivery to offer time limited interventions. There are agreed fast track referral processes for children who are looked after, young offenders and those with substance issues.

Services for disabled children are good and being further improved. A multi agency service for disabled children has been established at the Saltway Centre. The service creates a single point of access, a single assessment process using the Common Assessment Framework and key worker all based on the same site (H013/14). A multi-agency residential/short term break facility is being planned on the same area.

Young offenders and looked after children's health needs are addressed and outcomes continue to be good through a focused multi-agency approach, (H015/16).

### **Children & Young People's Plan and LAA Priorities**

#### **Healthy Schools – LAA Priority 10.1**

The Healthy Schools team is effective and judged good in the JAR. PHSE work has been strengthened and is targeted on key areas such as healthy living, reducing smoking, sex and relationship and drugs education with new advisers in post for the latter two areas (JAR Report 36). A sustainable school transport strategy is under development and the majority of schools have school travel plans.

#### **Substance Misuse – LAA Priority 10.2**

Strong senior leadership and effective multi agency working (JAR Report 37) has resulted in an effective joint commissioning group and in a new needs assessment and the full establishment of the Young People's Treatment Service (Uturn). This has already resulted in an increase in the number of young people in treatment from 40 in March 2006 to 63 in March 2007 and 23 new young people in treatment in 2006/07. A new target for 2007/08 is being negotiated based on an accurate needs assessment with the National Treatment Agency. National data shows that 81% of young people were treated by Young People's Services, compared to a target of 100%. All young people requesting treatment in the last two years have been seen by the Young People's Service. The remaining 19% are historical records, which will be removed by the NTA by the end of June 2007. A targeted support service for vulnerable young people is provided by the voluntary sector, ensuring joint work between them and UTurn to ensure access to treatment services.

#### **Teenage Pregnancy – LAA Priority 10.3**

Teenage pregnancy strategy is led by senior officers and services have been effective in reducing the conception rate. Sexual health services are targeted and have been effective in reducing rates in Penhill and Parks (H08) by a higher percentage than the national average (JAR Report 26/38). Support to teenage

parents is good. A review of uptake in all services is underway with a view to providing services where young people tend to gather. Young people will be involved in this review (H09).

#### **Next Steps on priorities for action 2007/08**

There has been good progress in further improving health outcomes due to strong partnerships and joint working, particularly in reducing teenage conception rates and improving access to drug treatment services. There is a need to accelerate progress in reducing health inequalities through multi agency working led by the Health & Well-Being Board ensuring actions taken are improving outcomes. The following priorities have been identified

- Reduce teenage conception rates to 37 per 1,000 through implementation of teenage pregnancy action plan 2007/08 (CYPP Action 1)
- Increase number of young people in treatment to at least 63 through implementation of Substance Misuse Action Plan 2007/08 (CYPP Action 2)
- Reduce health inequalities through the integration of children's services between Swindon PCT and Swindon Borough Council, co-located multi agency teams, children's centres and the development of the Health Inequalities Plan. Develop the Public Health Role and Service Model for Public Health Nurses so that breastfeeding rates increase, infant mortality and the rate of low birth weight babies reduces
- Reduce health inequalities and ensure equality of access to services by taking learning from equalities workshops and developing targeted programmes with parents from black and minority ethnic communities (CYPP Action 3)

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Actions 1 – 4 pages 2 – 8

[www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children\\_youngpeoples\\_plan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan)

## Stay Safe

The JAR judged outcomes for staying safe as adequate. Our priorities in the Children & Young People's Plan and the LAA are to

- Reduce the number of looked after children
- Increase the number of children and young people who are assessed and supported by qualified staff including early intervention and prevention

Areas for improvement identified in the JAR have been addressed and 83% of PAF indicators were graded good or excellent in 2006/07

- The corporate parenting strategy has been drafted and training for elected Members implemented
- An advocacy service is in place and a children's rights service is out for tender
- The completion of initial and core assessments has improved and workshops have been completed to improve the quality of assessments
- A consistent approach across Swindon has been implemented through the common assessment and Local Preventative Groups thereby improving the support, planning and co-ordination for vulnerable children and reducing inequality in access to services
- Services for care leavers have improved with the review of the 16+ Team and the percentage of care leavers in education, training and employment increased.

Areas for further improvement continue to be prioritised and maintained through the CYPP and LAA. There has been good progress in preventing a further rise in looked after children through targeted initiatives on preventing children entering the care system and securing alternative permanent placements. However, long term placement stability for looked after children has reduced this year. This is being addressed through further investment to accelerate the provision of in house foster carers to ensure better placement choice and matching. Our priority is to implement a five-year plan to reduce the number of children looked after and increase the early intervention services in areas of disadvantage.

### Impact indicators 2006/07 Children & Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA) and targets 2007/08

**SS01:** Increase in the number of children's centres offering advice to parents from 3 in March 2006 to 7 in March 2007, (LAA 7.2) **Target 2007/08:** 10 children's centres by April 2008

**SS02:** 10 children were killed or injured in a road accident reduced in 2005 (annual target of 12). There were 56 children with minor injuries, (LAA 7.2). **Target 2007/08:** No more than 10 children killed or injured

**SS03:** Number of completed common assessments resulting in LPG increased from 112 in 2005/06 to 222 in 2006/2007. Satisfaction rate of parents was 95% in March 2006/07. This is ahead of national target to implement CAF by March 2008. **Target 2007/08:** 300 assessments



**SS04:** 92% of children in the Tell Us survey 2006 said they felt very safe and quite safe in their area, compared to 84% nationally. **Target 2007/08:** To be based on Tell Us 2 results

**SS05:** Data for all children is expected from the Tell Us Survey in 2007 and this will inform target for 2008

**SS06:** A baseline has been established for children and young people who have experienced domestic violence in 2006/07. There were:  
 2,389 children present at Domestic Violence incidents  
 207 Children were injured  
 100% referrals are made to Police CPU who refer details to specialist post in Referral Team

**SS07:** Timely completion of initial assessments rose from 58% to 68% and core assessments from 78% to 89% in 2006/07 exceeding LAA PRG target by 9%, (**LAA 8.2**). **Target 2007/08:** Initial assessments: 75%; core assessments 80%

**SS08:** Short-term breaks remained static with 50 children being supported by March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 50 children

**SS09:** The number of looked after children remained at 253 at 31.3.2007, (**LAA 8.2**). **Target 2007/08:** 245. 98% of looked after children were allocated to a qualified social worker

**SS10:** The percentage of children looked after for 2.5 year who lived in the same placement reduced from 75% in March 2006 to 53.8% in March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 66%

**SS11:** The percentage of children adopted fell from 9% in March 2006 to 7.2% in March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 9.2%

### Children and young people's views

Joint work across agencies has led to more children feeling safe and happy in Swindon in their local area than the national average as evidenced in the first Tells Us Survey 2006. Tell Us 2 will be taken account of in the CYPP 2008-2010. A Disabled Children Partnership Board has been established with participation by statutory and voluntary agencies as well as parents. Looked after children have access to a support group (FOCUS), their achievements are celebrated annually and they have contributed to the Corporate Parenting Strategy and met members of the Corporate Parenting Board. The Director Children & Families meets FOCUS on a regular basis and FOCUS has participated in developing the specification for a Children's Rights Service. Advocacy and independent visitors are provided to all looked after children who require this.

### Early intervention and targeted prevention

We are identifying more vulnerable children and young in need of a joint plan as a result of the roll out of Local Preventative Groups (LPGs) across Swindon. There is now a consistent approach to the identification of children with additional needs (JAR Report 47, SS03). The model has been evaluated as effective in involving parents and young people in developing a joint plan (page33). It has informed the draft parenting support strategy (SS06). There is evidence of improved outcomes for children from voluntary sector agencies working in areas of disadvantage, for instance 95% of families using the

Welcome Family Centre reported feeling they had improved access for help and support and 92% of parents working with The Family Welfare Association reported increased stability in relationships. 100% of parents at the Babies are Us Group gained confidence in their parenting. Children and young people raised the need to address bullying in schools. In response the Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Consultant has supported two schools in areas of disadvantage in the development of pupil anti-bullying groups.

### **Services for children and young people who are vulnerable including those with disabilities, from minority ethnic communities and looked after children**

Domestic violence was identified as a risk factor in 23% of common assessments in 2005/06 (JAR Report 51). The Family Welfare Association has been commissioned to provide individual support packages for this group of children and parents who have issues around mental health. Ninety four per cent of families report dealing successfully with life changes and challenges and 100% report having developed strategies for bullying/discrimination (SS05). A detailed analysis of 146 racial incidents in 2006/07 found that there has been a reduction across primary and secondary schools generally. All children received support from schools in addressing the issue (MP05). Targeted work with schools will ensure that incidents of harassments are identified and children and teachers are offered support in dealing with this. Service Level Agreements with the voluntary sector will include a requirement to report racist incidents. The early co-location of Portage and the Opportunity Group Koalas as part of the Integrated Service for Disabled Children and Young People has already led to effective joint working. The assessment of younger disabled children will improve as it can be undertaken in surroundings, where children are confident and familiar with staff. Transition arrangements are being reviewed and the process improved so that disabled children and those with mental health problems receive seamless support from Adult Services.

### **Children & Young People's Plan and LAA Priorities**

#### **The referral, assessment and planning process for children in need has improved and is preventing a rise in the numbers of looked after children – LAA priority 8.1**

Early intervention through use of the common assessment and work on thresholds with schools and agencies has been effective and led to a reduction in the referral rate to Children & Families at 514 per 10,000 (573 in 2005/06). Information for schools and agencies on managing children with emotional behaviour difficulties has been published and the re-referral rate has reduced to 23% in 2006/07 (26% in 2005/06). Actions have been taken to improve the quality of assessments (JAR Report 45; JAR Action Plan 3) through a focus on developing management skills in partnership with Kent County Council, additional resources for senior practitioner's role and a Practice Development Manager post. The scope and capacity of Family Group Conferences, delivered by Barnardos, has been increased to prevent children from becoming looked after and enable looked after children to return home.

## **Outcomes for children on the child protection register are good LAA priority 8.1**

JAR action in relation to safeguarding has been addressed. Managers have continued to focus on improved supervision. There is a well-established multi agency learning & development programme, lessons from serious case reviews are shared and Social Care Team Managers have received a two-day training programme for supervision linked to the new social care supervision policy. This work has led to improvements in safeguarding. 100% of children were reviewed on time. Duration on the Child Protection Register increased to 10% and a good performance. The percentage of children re-registered was 17% and above the comparator average for 2005/2006 but the number of children de-registered after two years has also risen, giving confidence that children are not de-registered too early. Advocacy is provided to children during the child protection process. Since the advocacy service started in July 2006, 68 children over 10 years in the Child Protection process have had an advocate. A service specification for a comprehensive Children's Rights Service has been agreed and is out for tender (JAR Report 59; JAR Action Plan 7). Training in managing complex child protection cases has been developed and will be delivered by September 2007 (JAR Report 56; JAR Action Plan 6)

The Local Safeguarding Children Board, led by senior officers, was judged effective in the JAR and has developed joint procedures regionally on Working Together. There is good multi agency training, [www.swindonlscb.org.uk](http://www.swindonlscb.org.uk). Allegations management training will take place in July 2007 and be disseminated across the Council. Multi agency faith work has continued to raise child protection within black and minority ethnic communities and there has been good participation from voluntary and community groups. Swindon's model for the completion of Serious Case Reviews has been recognised nationally as effective.

## **Outcomes for looked after children – LAA priority 8.2**

The knowledge of elected members as corporate parents has increased as senior managers have worked closely with elected members (JAR Report 59; JAR Action Plan 8). A corporate parenting strategy is currently out for consultation and workshops have been held for elected members and group directors and directors. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Board is in place monitoring the outcomes for looked after children. A review of the 16+ Team has been completed supported by Kent County Council and an action plan is in place (JAR Report 48/82; JAR Action Plan 5). Closer work with Connexions has increased the number of care leavers with a personal adviser and the proportion in employment and training to 1:0.69. There has been a reduction in the number of looked after children from minority ethnic communities from 3:1 in March 2006 to 2.6:1 in March 2007 (SS09/10).

Outcomes for looked after children are good. The Leadership Team and managers in social care effectively monitor and review outcomes and practice. A contract is in place with preferred providers for independent foster care. This has led to over 90% of children and young people placed in foster care aged 10 – 16 and the percentage of young people placed at a distance reduced from 20% to 15% (SS10/11). Foster carers are well supported (Fostering Inspection Report 2006) and this has led to good performance in relation to short-term

stability (15.8% of children with 3+ placements in 12 months). There is a need to improve long term stability for children looked after for more than two years as this reduced from 75% to 53%. This was due to a family of five disabled children moving and three more children entering the cohort in the last two months who had previously moved. Adoption performance remains good. Further investment has been made in 2007/08 to accelerate the provision of well-matched placements and increasing the skills of foster carers to support children with a range of challenging needs

#### **Next Steps on priorities for action 2007/08**

There has been considerable progress in ensuring outcomes for children in staying safe are good due to robust implementation of actions identified through the JAR and partnership working with Kent County Council. Further investment in programmes such as Family Group Conference, increased early intervention through the common assessment and Adolescent Support will reduce the number of young people becoming looked after. A focus on permanency planning with managers will increase permanent arrangements for children and young people. Our priorities are to

- Reduce the number of children becoming looked after by 10% and those placed in placements outside the Borough by 15% by 2010 (CYPP Action 7)
- Increase long term stability of children looked after for 2.5 years who have been in the same placement for 2 year to 70% by March 2008 through increased support to foster carers and fast track referrals to CAMHS (CYPP Action 7)
- Develop learning from equalities workshops in 2007 to inform a strategy to further reduce the number of children in care from minority ethnic communities (CYPP Action 7)
- Agree and implement corporate parenting strategy so that children in care and care leavers receive improved support (CYPP Action 8)
- Continue to improve the quality of the referral and assessment process so children continue to be safe and receive timely intervention (CYPP Action 5)
- Develop and implement a parenting support strategy increasing the effectiveness of early intervention for vulnerable children (CYPP Action 6)

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Actions 5 - 8 pages 9 - 13

[www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children\\_youngpeoples\\_plan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan)

## Enjoy and Achieve

Outcomes for Enjoy and Achieve were judged good in the JAR 2006. Our priorities in the CYPP are to

- Improve educational attainment and narrow the gap between children not achieving and those achieving at school
- Develop children's emotional, social and health development through children's centres

Critical issues identified in the JAR have improved

- More children and young people are reintegrated into school and fewer are excluded
- Support is targeted at schools to increase attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4
- No schools in 'special measures'

Our priorities are to increase attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4 and narrow the gap in attainment, to increase educational attainment for children in care and to improve young children's emotional and social and communication skills. The needs analysis has highlighted the increase in children from minority ethnic communities in particular primary schools and inequalities in educational attainment. These issues will be addressed in the LAA and CYPP 2008-2010.

### Impact indicators 2006/07 Children & Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA) and targets for 2007/08

**EA01:** The rate of improvement at Key Stage 4 5+ GCSE A\* - C was 3.3% to 53.4% and above the national rise of 2.9% but is still below the national average and statistical neighbours (**LAA 7.1**). **Target 2008:** 57.5% (LAA PRG).

The number of schools not reaching the floor target at Key Stage 2 reduced from 12 schools in English in 2005 to 7 schools in 2006; in maths from 9 schools to 5 schools in 2006 and in both subjects from 5 schools in 2005 to 3 schools in 2006 (**LAA 7.1**). **Target 2008:** Reduce to zero; KS2 targets of 84% English, 85% Maths,

**EA01a:** The percentage of children achieving 5+ GCSE A\* - G improved from 85.2% in 2005 to 87.2% in 2006. The % improvement of students getting 5A\*-C including English and maths is better than statistical neighbours (**LAA 7.1**). **Target 2008:** 91%

**EA02:** The percentage of children with a 'good' level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage improved was 52% in summer 2006. The gap in achievement for children living in the 30% most disadvantaged areas was 16.6% (**LAA 7.2**). **Target 2008:** 54.5% and the gap of achievement between children living in the 30% most disadvantaged areas reduced to 14.8%

**EA03:** The number of half days missed in secondary schools increased from 7.3% 2004/05 to 7.54% in 2005/06 but better than statistical mean of 7.91. The increase was due to a serious flu epidemic. Unauthorised absence has



reduced from 1.1% in 04/05 to 0.88% in 05/06 (**LAA 8.1**). **Target summer 2008: 7%**

**EA04:** The data in relation to the number of children with access to 2 hours of PE is due July 2007. **Target 2008: 75%**

**EA05:** The number of school children visiting museums and galleries was 14,250 in 2005/06 exceeding target of 13,000. **Target 2007/08: 13,000**

**EA06: 12 primary and 4 secondary and 1 special school** (20% of schools) were accredited with ArtsMark status in 2007, exceeding target of 15%. **Target summer 2008: 29 schools (33% of schools)**

**EA07:** 40 young people were accredited with Arts Award in 2006/07. **Target summer 2008: 60 young people**

**EA08:** The percentage of leaders of integrated early education and childcare settings funded or part funded by the local authority with a qualified leader at Level 4 NVQ or above was 37% in April 2007 exceeding the target of 20% (**LAA 7.2**). **Target 2007/08: 40%**

**EA09:** There were 189 fixed term exclusions involving BME pupils in 2005/06 compared to 173 in 2004/05. This represents 8.9% compared to 7.6% in 2004/05 of the Borough total of fixed term exclusions (total 2126) against a school BME population of 11.6%. **Target 2007/08: Reduce by 5% to 180 fixed term exclusions**

**EA010:** Days lost due to fixed term exclusions have reduced from 2,282 in 2004/05 to 2,114 in 2005/06. The number of pupils with a fixed term exclusion was 74 per 1,000 pupils and the average length of the exclusion was 2.77 days. **Target 2007/08: 67.4 per 1,000 (1,956 exclusions) and length 2.7 days**

**EA011:** 100% of children who require a statement of their educational needs were assessed on time. **Target 2007/08: 100%**

**EA012:** The percentage of children looked after for a year or more achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 was 22% in 2006 down from 46% in 2005. This had been predicted due to a number of young people with learning difficulties in the cohort. **Target summer 2008: 75% (based on 4 children in cohort)**

**EA013:** The percentage of children looked after for a year or more who achieved 1+ GCSE A\* - G was 53% in 2006. This was lower than the 2005 figure of 73% due to a number of young people with special educational needs. There have been no permanent exclusions of looked after children in the past two years. (**LAA 7.1**). **Target summer 2008: 80%**

### Children and young people's views

More children and young people in Swindon say they are very happy and safe at school (48% of children and young people) compared to the national average in the Tell Us Survey 2006 (46%) and more children and young people said that it is very easy and quite easy to do things in their local area (34% very easy and 48% quite easy compared to 30% and 46% nationally). A new leisure strategy has been agreed and young people have contributed during the consultation (EA04). Transport, cost and inclusion issues are being addressed to make activities accessible for all children, (JAR Report 68; JAR Action Plan 11). Between May 2006 and March 2007, Artsmad facilitated 8 events accessed by

656. The Youth Festival of music, drama and sport organised by young people involved over 1,000 young people in the summer 2006. Targeted work has been done in disadvantaged areas to provide access to sport.

### **Early intervention and targeted prevention**

- The Children's Fund is providing targeted services in areas of disadvantage (JAR Report 68, EA02) and this has increased play activities during school holidays. 100% children felt that they had been able to try something different and 83% reported that these activities had made them think about their behaviour and 88% reported that they now got on better with families and friends. The following outcomes from Play Service Work were reported by schools in disadvantaged areas,
- 98% reported having had fun and having felt that they had achieved something
- 71% reduction in risk of fixed term exclusion and internal exclusion
- 70% increase in attendance at school
- 64% increase in understanding of how to behave appropriately in unstructured times of the school day i.e. breaks and lunch times
- 71% increase in verbal communication skills
- 82% felt better prepared for transition from Y6 to Y7

### **Services for children and young people who are vulnerable including those with disabilities, from minority ethnic communities and looked after children**

Educational attainment at Key Stage 4 for children from BME communities is in line with the Borough average but lower at Key Stages 2 and 3, where they achieve significantly below the Borough average. This is due to a high number of children from Asia (particularly Goa) entering schools at Key Stage 2 and 3 with limited English language. Children who achieve below their expected level are effectively monitored (JAR Report 65, EA09) through a cross directorate team using MOLAG data (Monitoring of Low Attaining Group) and achieve at Key Stage 4. We have restructured to meet the needs of BME children and recruited an early years adviser for BME achievement. Through the VSSR /SIP visits we review the progress of BME children on a named pupil basis. The JAR judged the systems and services in place for disabled children and those who achieve below average as effective. The statementing process for children continues to be good. 92% of requests by schools for additional funding to supported children with special educational needs were successful (EA011). STEP provides an accredited weekly group for young people with autism working with 24 young people resulting in positive use of leisure time.

The Looked After Children Education Service was judged as good and effective by the JAR and the Fostering Inspection. Further resources have been invested to improve the quality of Personal Education Plans and over 90% are up to date. A specialist teaching posts provides 1:1 support to children and a link with the 14-19 curriculum-working group to provide more flexible solutions, inc vocational options, in this age range. In 2004 and 2005 educational attainment

of looked after children had been good and improving. Although the number of care leavers with 1+ GCSE A\* - G has fallen to 44.8% in 2006, there was a very significant rise of those care leavers with 5+ GCSE A\* - C to 20.7%. Attainment data for looked after children and those, who have left care, has been affected by the number of children with special needs (EA012/13).

Provision other than in schools was judged good by the JAR and Ofsted inspection (November 2006). Protocols are in place with all Primary and Secondary schools to support the reintegration process resulting in improved reintegration rates of pupils permanently excluded rising from 3 in 2004/05 to 9 in 2006/07 (JAR Report 67; JAR Action Plan 10). This is in the context of consistently low levels of permanent exclusion (25 2005/06). Behaviour and Attendance workshops were held for all schools in December 2006, meeting JAR recommendations 67 EA03). This has supported good attendance rates and a reduction in unauthorised absences from 1.1 in 2004/05 at secondary schools to 0.88.

## Children & Young People's Plan and LAA Priorities

### Improve educational attainment – LAA Priority 7.1

Attainment at Key Stage 1 and 2 is good and in line with or better than statistical neighbours. Reading Recovery has been successfully introduced in the LA and will target the lowest attaining pupils in Y1 in the areas of disadvantage. 10 schools will join the programme in September 2007 thereby reducing educational inequalities.

Raising attainment at Key Stage 3 and 4 remains our priority. Using level 5+ as the marker at key stage three, there has been no major change in relative performance this year after a very significant rise last year, though four schools improved their results in all three test subjects. Results at key stage 4 improved. This has been due to focused in school support. Both subject knowledge and leadership and management have been provided in secondary schools including sharing of good practice and leadership course for middle and aspiring middle leaders. **The 14-19 agenda** is being advanced rapidly and issues from the JAR Report have been progressed (JAR Report 77; JAR Action Plan 16) including a higher number of young people participating in the Aim Higher Programme. The **School Improvement Partner** management at primary was judged outstanding by the National Strategy and **validated school self-review** process is used robustly with schools. This has resulted in improvements in the leadership and management of schools and the quality of provision, particularly teaching and learning, as validated through JAR 2006, Section 10 and 5 school inspections and HMI School monitoring reports. Cross Directorate Task Groups co-ordinate support to schools causing concern and monitor school progress and the impact of the support. As a result, support to schools causing concern has been judged by HMI to be good and all schools have been removed from Ofsted categories within agreed timescales. There are currently no schools in special measures.



## **Improve young children's communication, social and emotional development – LAA Priority 7.2**

All phase two children's centre contracts are in place and 3 of 7 phase 2 children's centres have been designated (EA02). An average of 619 children under five, including 20 children with a disability and 96 children from black and minority ethnic groups have accessed children's centre services each quarter. The childcare and early education offered by the children's centres has been rated as good with outstanding aspects. 64.9% of childcare settings received an Ofsted judgement of good or better in 2005/06 compared with a national average of 59.8%. The Primary National Strategy Communication Language and Literacy Development programme has been introduced to 10 schools and their linked settings in areas of disadvantage. The focused work on early reading and writing, along with detailed analysis of the Foundation Stage 2 cohort involved in the programme, show that these pupils are at least in line with national expectations (May 07).

### **Next Steps on priorities for action 2007/08**

Educational attainment continues to improve faster than the national average at Key Stage 4 and the local authority management of school improvement remains good addressing school failure rigorously. We will build on effective processes to ensure continued progress especially at Key Stage 4 and for looked after children by

- Raising attainment at all key stages but especially at KS3 in 2008 (79% English, 79% Maths, 76% Science) and KS4 (57.5% 5+GCSE A-C PRG) through challenge of under-performance at all levels and for specific groups of children from BME communities at Key Stage 2 and 3, and specifically reduce the number of primary schools below the floor target at key stage two in both English and maths to zero in 2008 (CYPP Action 9)
- All settings and provision in schools is judged by Ofsted to be at least satisfactory (CYPP Action 9)
- School attendance improves by reducing the percentage of young people missing half days in secondary schools (CYPP Action 10)
- Develop learning from equalities workshops in 2007 to inform a strategy to increase the attainment of children from minority ethnic communities at Key Stages 2 and 3. Undertake a specific project with primary and secondary schools to address equality and diversity issues in schools (CYPP Action 9)
- Increase attainment of looked after children through targeted work by schools and LACES Team (CYPP Action 9)

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Action 9 and 10 pages 14 - 18

[www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children\\_youngpeoples\\_plan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan)

## Make a Positive Contribution

Outcomes for Making a Positive Contribution were judged good in the JAR. Our priorities in the CYPP are to

- Increase participation by young people
- Reduce offending and re-offending

There have been significant achievements since the Joint Area Review and critical issues have been addressed.

- The Youth Service in improving through the implementation of targeted action and workforce development. This has resulted in more young people participating and gaining a recorded outcome
- Participation by young people in all areas of service development is good. The Youth Forum is meeting regularly
- The Youth Offending Team is effective and the number of looked after young people involved in offending has reduced
- More young people in care contributed to their review
- A direct payment scheme is in place.

Further improvements in the participation of young people in the Youth service and reducing offending and re-offending remain our priorities.

## Impact indicators 2006/07 Children & Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA) and targets 2007/08

**MP01:** All secondary schools and 50% of primary schools have a school council, **LAA 9.2. Target 2007/08:** 100% of secondary schools and 60% of primary schools with schools council

**MP02:** The number of young people participating in volunteering with an accredited outcome was 187, down on a target of 350. **Target 2007/08:** 466

**MP03:** The percentage of young people participating in the Youth Service with a recorded outcome increased to 78% in March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 60%

**MP05:** There were 146 reports of a racist incident by schools and 27 by the Police in 2006/07. **Target 2007/08:** 100% of young people receiving support when reporting a racist incident

**MP06:** The percentage of young people participating in youth activities and gaining an accredited outcome was 11% in March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 30%

**MP07:** The number of first time offenders in 2006/07 was 358 compared 391 in 2005/06, a reduction of 8.2% exceeding statistical neighbours, **LAA 9.1 Target 2008:** 354

**MP08:** Re-offending by young people after 24 months based on tracking of cohort (133 in the cohort) October – December 2003/04. Latest figure 2005/06 for 12 months re-offending is 27.1%, **LAA 9.1 Target 2008:** 34.83%

**MP09:** The number of young people using direct payments increased from three in 2006 to six parents and three young people by March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 9 parents and young people

**MP010:** The percentage of young people looked after contributing to their review increased from 85% in March 2006 to 90.7% in March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 95%

### Children and young people's views

Participation by young people in service development is well established and is leading to improvements in services and new services as evidenced in the JAR, (MP01, 2,3). The Children's Fund and STEP are effective in targeted participation by hard to reach young people and the Youth Offending Team (YOT) has a group for young people, who are members of the Youth Forum, (statutory and voluntary sector working together).

An effective multi agency strategic participation group co-ordinates participation. Regular meetings with young people ensure that their views influence service developments in corporate parenting, provision of services for young carers and staff recruitment. Hear by Right was launched at a multi agency conference and further training will lead to greater participation by children and young people.

### Early intervention and targeted prevention

Children and young people continue to receive good support in developing emotionally as evidenced in the JAR. Effective mentoring schemes are provided by the voluntary sector targeted at vulnerable young people. 15% of young people attending STEP are working towards mentoring accreditation. There is good support for young people in managing change. Up to January 2007 59 referrals were made to the YOT/New College 24/7 parenting group (awarded Beacon status) with 95% completing the course. In 2005, 57.1% of young people whose parents engaged with the YOT parenting worker did not re-offend. In 2006 that figure increased to 71.7%.

### Services for children and young people who are vulnerable including those with disabilities, from minority ethnic communities and looked after children

150 young carers are supported through groups and individual work. Young carers participated in the recruitment of staff and have asked for identity cards to be launched in schools so that young carers can be appropriately supported. Good links between the Community Safety Partnership Team and Children's services have resulted in joint work, so that the anti social behaviour protocol is linked to the common assessment ensuring that children receive multi agency support packages. (MP07). Effective strategies are being developed to address bullying and reducing racist incidents (Stay Safe page16).

More young people looked after have contributed to their review and care plan in 2006/07 and performance is good (MP010). The Listening and Participation Strategy for looked after children was reviewed and the FOCUS Group met with Directors and senior officers (page 15). A transition policy is in place for disabled children and all looked after children have a transition plan. Direct payments have been implemented with 6 parents and 3 young people aged 16 and 17 now using the scheme, exceeding the target of 3. The Direct Payment

Scheme has been closely developed with a steering group of parents and one young person, who have evaluated this positively (MP09).

A partnership between Connexions, the Youth Service and Churchfields School is aimed at BME young people in year 10 to increase their participation in positive activities and raise their aspirations post 16.

### **Children & Young People's Plan and LAA Priorities**

#### **Reduce youth offending and re-offending – LAA priority 9.1**

Effective strategies are in place to prevent and deter offending and re-offending (MP07/08) due to good multi agency working using the Common Assessment to identify those children and young people at risk of offending. The results have been effective in reducing first time offending. YOT Early Interventions team (YISP/LPG) received a total of 135 referrals for 2006/07 and using a sample based on Youth Justice Board definitions, none of the young people re-offended. Outcomes for the Youth Offending Team remain very good (graded 5<sup>th</sup> best performance nationally). In 2006/07 the Swindon YOT has achieved its performance target for Final Warnings offered with interventions. The first three quarters of 2006 saw the YOT exceed the YJB target of 95%, achieving 100% in each quarter. Parents' satisfaction with Yot performance was 100% and victims' satisfaction was 85%, both above statistical neighbour and national average. The Youth Offending team through joint work with partners also reduced the over representation of young people from minority ethnic communities from 3.2% to 2% and there was a very substantial reduction in the offending rate of looked after children, reducing from 3:1 to 1:1. The Youth Offending team achieved a Level 5 performance in relation to re-offending and has the lowest percentage in the use of remand and custodial sentences compared to statistical neighbours and the national average.

#### **Increase the number of young people who participate and volunteer including the Youth Forum – LAA Priority 9.2**

In response to the inspection, the Youth Service is implementing an action plan. It has developed new services, which have resulted in improved rates of participation by young people with a recorded outcome (JAR Report 71; JAR Action Plan 12; MP03). 10 young people have become young volunteers for the Youth Service, 8 of who have now graduated from the Introduction to Youth Work course (leading to an Level 2 qualification).

Youth projects are currently working with development groups of young people (operating in 7 different centres) who are contributing and learning skills in running local programmes. These will feed into Area Hub Youth Forums (4 in all), which will then feed into the Borough Youth Forum (MP03), along with school and voluntary group representatives (MP01 This plan has been devised through young people's feedback and evaluation from the initial Youth Forum, and through consultations with schools. A young people's working group is has developed a pilot, which is currently being reviewed by young people.

A Youth Matters Task Group has been established. Staff consultation has been undertaken on a model to deliver an Integrated Youth Support Services through multi agency/multi disciplinary teams.

We were below target on accredited outcomes but are planning to raise the numbers of young people achieving next year (MP01/3). We already have 37% of young people participating in Youth Service activities registered on an accreditation scheme.

#### **Next Steps on priorities for action 2007/08**

There has been good progress overall in ensuring young people make a positive contribution owing to high level support for the Youth Service from elected members, schools and partners and a clearly focused and targeted Youth Offending Team. The commitment of senior officers to an Integrated Youth Support Service and the maximisation of support from TDA will ensure an acceleration of developing targeted support and activities for young people. Our priorities are

- Implement Integrated Youth Support so that there is an increase in young people with a recorded outcome participating in the Youth Service (BV221a) to 80%; Increase young people with an accredited outcome participating in the youth service (BV221b) to 30% (CYPP Action 12)
- Implement early intervention and prevention through multi agency teams and YOT to reduce first time offending from 375 to 354 in 2008 and 349 in 2009 (CYPP Action 13)
- Ensure participation of vulnerable young people and those looked after children in Youth Forum (CYPP Action 11)

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Action 11 – 14 pages 19 - 25

[www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children\\_youngpeoples\\_plan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan)

## Achieve Economic Well-being

The outcomes for young people in achieving economic well being were judged adequate in the JAR. The priority outlined in the CYPP and LAA is to

- Reduce the number of young people not in education, training and employment

We have not succeeded in reducing the number of young people not in education, training and employment (NEET). This is because there have been fewer young people gaining employment. The JAR raised the need for increased employer engagement to increase the number of young people with level 2 qualifications and a need to accelerate the implementation of the 14 – 19 Strategies. These were areas included in the CYPP and significant progress has been made.

The 14 – 19 development team is in place and has progressed the implementation of the 14 – 19 Strategy

- The Swindon consortium will be delivering three diploma qualifications from September 2008
- An employer partnership strategy has been developed and the Young Apprenticeship Programme has three new vocational areas – engineering, creative and media and health and social care
- The proportion of care leavers in education, training and employment has increased and is good

The reduction of young people not in education, training and employment remains as priority as well as an increase of young people with a Level 2 qualification at the age of 19. These are core elements of the 14 – 19 Strategy and priorities in the Local Area Agreement.

## Impact indicators 2006/07 Children & Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA) and targets 2007/08

**AE01:** The percentage of 16 year olds in education, training and employment was 90.7% in March 2007. **Target 2007/08:** 91%

**AE02:** The number of young people entering higher education (full time) increased from 475 in 1999/2000 to 635 in 2005/06.

**AE03:** The number of bus passengers increased from 11,009,000 in 2005 to 11,093,000 in 2006. **Target 2007/2008:** 11,900,000

**AE04:** The number of children's centres reaching children under 5 increased from 3 in April 2006 to 6 in April 2007. **Target March 2008:** 10

**AE05:** The percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) increased from 6.9% January 2006 (new definition) to 8.5% in January 2007 (**LAA 6.1**). **Target 2007/08:** 5.8%

**AE06:** The number of SBC properties meeting the decent homes standard increased from 86% in 2005 to 91.4% in October 2006. **Target 2007/08:**



91%

**AE07:** The number of children in households where nobody is working was 2,543 in 2001 (Census data). **Target 2020:** Reduce by 50%

**AE08:** The number of young people from black and minority ethnic communities not in education, training and employment increased from 6.21% in March 2006 to 7.76% in March 2007. **Target March 2008:** 7%

**AE09:** The number of young people aged 16 and 17 who were homeless reduced from 30 in 2005/06 to 12 in the first six months of 2006/07.

**Target 2007/08:** Reduce by 10% to 24 young people

**AE10:** The percentage of young people with SEN/LDD in education, training and employment increased from 79% in March 2006 to 82% in March 2007, and is above the national average of 76% (Connexions destinations data). **(LAA 6.1).**

**AE011:** The percentage of young parents in education, training and employment remained at 35% in March 2007 compared to December 2005 **(LAA 6.1)** **Target 2007/08:** 48%

**AE012:** The percentage of young offenders in education, training and employment has remained stable since 2005 and is 87%. This is above the national average and statistical neighbours **(LAA 6.1).** **Target 2007/08:** 89%

**AE012a:** The proportion of care leavers in education, training and employment increased from 1: 0.6 to 1: 0.6.8 **(LAA 6.1)** and is above statistical neighbours. **Target 2007/08:** 1:0.7

### Children and young people's views

Consultation is currently taking place on of implementing Youth Matters. The original consultation in 2005 informed the work of the Youth Matters Task Group. UK Youth Parliament elections took place and Swindon now has an elected UK Youth MP and a Deputy, who hold regular surgeries for young people. Young people have taken part in developing the service specification for a Floating Support Housing Service and this service is currently out for tender. Consultation around delivery of 14-19 reforms fed into the Gateway submission and feasibility study. The views of young people expressed at the Partnership Participation conference in February 2007 will be incorporated into the development of the Integrated Youth Support Service and actions reported back to young people at the planned Participation Conference in November 2007.

### Early intervention and targeted prevention

The implementation of the 14 – 19 Strategy has been accelerated (AE01). There is a broad curriculum for young people at Key Stage 4, providing vocational learning opportunities for a wide range of young people including: the Increased Flexibility Programme (IFP), Young Apprenticeships (YA) and the Key Stage 4 Engagement programme. There are 475 Swindon KS4 learners taking part in IFP and YA in 2006/2007. Teaching and learning is good and has resulted in improved achievement. No learning providers are providing cause for concern. The proportion of young people in learning post-16 is stable and

satisfactory (JAR Report 77/79; Jar Action Plan 15). Connexions' destination data for young people 16 – 19 shows that the numbers in learning increased from 4,857 in January 2006 to 5,475, in January 2007 (AE01). The Swindon Partnership has been successful in securing approval for delivery of four of the five specialised diploma lines (three in 2008 and one in 2009). A post-19 progression strategy has been developed which outlines plans to work with stakeholders to increase the percentage of young people accessing FE, HE or employment with training. Key objectives are to increase progression to higher education and to espouse, develop and sustain the culture of higher education 'for' or 'in' Swindon, supporting progress towards the establishment of a university. This will be an important development in raising aspirations of all young people (AE02).

We have a good supply of childcare places and the draft audit for consultation will be completed in September 2007(AE04). There is good supply of quality group based childcare in areas of disadvantage (AE07). Actions prior to registration for child minders are slightly above the national average but not statistically significant. Additional training and support to child minders prior to registration will be targeted at areas where actions have been raised previously.

### **Connexions Transfer**

The Connexions Service will be disaggregated from Wiltshire from April 2008. A Transitions Board has met regularly to plan the transition process. A consultation took place from January to April 2007 with all staff on the implementation of 'Youth Matters' and plans are well advanced for an integrated youth support service in Swindon as part of the development of multi agency teams.

### **Increasing employer engagement in work based learning JAR main recommendation (JAR 78)**

At the time of the JAR links with employers were not well established. Rapid progress has been made and there are effective links with employers through the range of vocational and work related programmes, particularly for the disaffected through the Key Stage 4 Engagement programme and the Connexions vacancy canvassing service. The Education Business Link Consortium has undertaken targeted activity to improve the quality of employer engagement. SBC has adopted a policy to support work-related learning (JAR Report 78, JAR Action Plan 16). The introduction of the enterprise agenda has achieved a positive impact in Swindon schools including an increased breadth of provision at KS4 and retention officers deployed by each college. The Swindon Enterprise Group, has elected to focus on the engagement of young people in enterprise as one of its three priorities for action during 2007/08. The group comprises businesses and business support organisations and work has already started on engaging school students in enterprise, be it through the Young Enterprise programme or through mentoring and the setting up of student led social enterprises within schools. *Swindon Skills and Employment Board, responsibility for increasing the take up NVQs in the Borough works jointly with the Colleges. The target for the take up NVQ Level II qualifications over the three year period has been exceeded and the Board is now looking at opportunities to extend the measure.*



### **Services for children and young people who are vulnerable including those with disabilities, from minority ethnic communities and looked after children**

Information, advice and guidance provided by partners is effective and there are Borough wide programmes to support young people at transition (e.g. the Widening Participation programme, Transition programme for vulnerable students). Transition planning for disabled young people is in place. (AE010). Care to Learn has been successful in ensuring access to work and training for teenage parents with one of the highest participation figures nationally (AE011), Parentline Plus with outreach in Swindon and a re-integration officer and teenage pregnancy specialist, support young women into education and training.

Partnership working is increasingly coherent and co-ordination between health, education and social care is improving. This has led to improved support to care leavers (JAR Report 82) with 100% of young people allocated to personal advisers. The number of young people in education, training and employment at the age of 19 is good (AE012) and the completion of pathway plans has improved with 90% - 100% of young people with a plan.

The majority of young people have access to decent affordable housing as evidenced in the JAR and continued good partnership working has reduced homelessness among young people from 30 in 2005/06 to 13 in the first 6 months of 2006/07 (AE09). Housing for care leavers and young offenders is good. 95% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the age of 19. The majority of young offenders were in suitable accommodation and the small number in unsuitable accommodation reduced from 10 out of 367 in 2005/06 to 6 out of 314 in 2006/07. A thematic review of supported housing for young people has been completed with the development of a floating support services for young people with the aim of reducing homelessness further.

### **Children & Young People's Plan and LAA Priorities**

#### **Reduce the number of young people not in education, training or employment – LAA Priority 6.1**

The proportion, and number, of 16-18 year who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) rose to 8.5% and our target was not achieved (AE05/8). Improved tracking, by Connexions has led to a decrease in the 'not known' group since 2005. The single highest group within the NEET group are 17 and 18 year olds. Detailed analysis of the management information shows an increase of young people who are unemployed, as figures for those in learning have increased. The number of young people leaving further education has also reduced from 83 in November 2005 to 67 in November 2006. Following discussion at the Children's Trust Executive, management actions were agreed to address this issue including additional resources (to ensure NEET strategy is implemented effectively. A range of new provision has been developed to target the NEET group. There is progress with implementing the September Guarantee to ensure stakeholders and young people are aware of opportunities

and increased focus on prevention work with a conference planned for October 2007.

#### **Next steps on priorities for action 2007/08**

There has been good progress in developing the 14 – 19 Partnerships, which led to a successful application for implementing four diplomas in Swindon and developing employer engagement. Plans for Connexions transfer are well advanced and will consolidate the 14 – 19 Partnership. We will build on this successful work and further develop employer engagement to improve outcomes for young people and reduce NEET figures

- Reducing the percentage of young people not in education, training and employment through acceleration of NEET Strategy (CYPP Action 15)
- Raising aspirations of young people and increasing further the number of young people in learning and achieving a Level 2 qualification at the age of 19 through implementation of the 14 – 19 Strategy (CYPP Action 15)

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Actions 15 – 16 pages 26 - 27

[www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children\\_youngpeoples\\_plan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan)

## Second Part: Children Act Implementation, Planning and Commissioning Arrangements

We have continued to make good progress in the implementation of the Children Act and milestones outlined in the Children & Young People's Plan have been met:

### Section 1 Common Process

#### **Common assessment and lead professionals through Local Preventative Groups leading to improved information sharing**

Implementation of the common assessment started in Swindon in January 2005. The common assessment and information sharing training has been implemented and 500 members of staff have been trained. Information sharing guidance has been updated and published. The implementation of the common assessment has been taken forward through Local Preventative Groups, where professionals, parents and young people come together to review the common assessment, agree a joint plan and the lead professional. The initial pilot ran in two areas of Swindon (Penhill/Gorse Hill & Pinehurst and Parks/Walcot East). The common assessment and Local Preventative Groups were rolled out across Swindon in September 2006. 222 Local Preventative Group meetings took place in 2006/07. The evaluation of Local Preventative Groups has found that they are effective in:

- Improving school attendance and preventing exclusions of children through a jointly agreed plan supporting the school and parents
- Developing a jointly owned solution by a multi agency workforce
- Fully involving parents in the process and this is scored good and excellent by 95% of parents
- Enabling staff to learn about each others roles and services
- Improving information sharing by professionals and developing a holistic picture of the child and young person

#### **Implementation of Contact Point**

Implementation of Contact Point well ahead and judged 11<sup>th</sup> nationally in January 2007. Local data has been matched successfully, project management, a project board and project plan are in place. During the JAR the whereabouts of three young people could be established effectively due to the matched data sources. The way staff will access Contact Point has been agreed and an audit of workforce is currently being undertaken. Swindon is due to have first deployment slot for Contact Point in South West in August 2008.

#### **Workforce development**

A multi agency Children's Workforce Strategy is in place covering recruitment and retention initiatives and the development of multi agency training programmes based on common core skills. Children's Services Directorate has IIP status. Multi agency training addressing priorities is in place with emphasis on safeguarding, substance misuse, sex and relationship education, information

sharing and the common assessment. A multi agency common induction programme has been piloted in June 2007. A voluntary sector training programme is in place and this has increased skills in evaluating services across the sector. A corporate competency based appraisal system is in place and all staff receives regular supervision. A staff survey was completed in December 2006 and the results showed that staff in children's services are supported well and are clear about their roles and the vision and priorities for the service. The capacity of middle managers is good and has improved further with the completion of a full programme of staff development.

## **Section 2: Integrated Working**

### **Children's centres, Children's Fund and extended services**

Six children's centres are now operating across Swindon in the areas of highest disadvantage and there has been an improvement in outcomes for children using the services. Multi-agency plans are helping the development of extended schools services and links to children's centers and multi agency/multi disciplinary teams. All schools, including special schools, are participating in extended services clusters and have development plans in place (EA01/1a).

### **Multi agency teams**

As part of the implementation of the Children Act 2004, staff providing universal and targeted services to children and young people are to be co-located in four geographical teams across Swindon. Staff providing specialist services for disabled children have already been co-located.

- Consultation on operation of multi agency co-located teams has been completed and management arrangements have been agreed with agencies
- The Children & Young People's Partnership Board is due to consider the proposals for co-location of staff providing universal and targeted services on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007 with the aim of starting the recruitment process of Integrated Service Managers in July 2007
- Virtual teams in place across four areas of Swindon using the model of Local Preventative Groups are in place and Integrated Service managers will take on this model and the learning from early intervention services in developing teams in each of the four areas. There will be close links between children's centres, extended services and the multi agency teams. The multi agency teams will include the Integrated Youth Support Service, [www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp) for details of consultation
- Integrated Services for Disabled Children & Young People co-located and National Service Act 2006 Section 75 Agreement in place

### **School Organisation**

The School Organisation Plan is effective and reviewed and updated annually in consultation with schools and partners. It integrates with the School Improvement agenda, enabling Swindon to strategically address the need for removing surplus places and building additional capacity. This ambitious school building and refurbishment programme is developed in the context of rapid and

increasing development. Three new schools will be built in the new housing development to the South of Swindon (Wichelstowe). Swindon has been selected as a DFES Pathfinder for the new Primary Capital Programme. In addition to a school replacement and new built programme, provision of primary schools has been re-organised in West Swindon. This will reduce surplus places through amalgamation and rebuilding of a further three schools and the opening of a multi agency children's centre. A 0 – 19 Academy, run by the United Learning Trust is due to open in September 2007. This will incorporate Headlands Secondary School and Pinehurst Infant and Junior Schools, thereby increasing educational attainment in Penhill and Pinehurst, two of the most disadvantaged areas of Swindon.

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Action 17 page 28 [www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children\\_youngpeoples\\_plan](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan)

### **Section 3: Planning & Children's Trust Arrangements**

#### **Governance**

Clear decision-making arrangements, terms of reference and a memorandum of understanding are in place for the children's trust. The children's trust arrangements are built on strong partnerships, where partners trust and respect each other and share a joint vision and shared priorities, outlined in the Children & Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement. The trust arrangement builds on the very effective practice of the Children & Young People's Board, which consists of all key stakeholders including the voluntary sector. Risk registers for Children & Young People's Plan, Integration, Local Area Agreement and the Strategic Management Plan are in place. Robust performance management of services against priorities in the CYPP and LAA and risk is reviewed monthly by the Children's Trust Performance Group and the Children's Services Leadership Team, Corporate Board and the Lead Member. Exception reports are presented to the Children's Trust Executive Management Group and management actions agreed, which have resulted in improved strategies for integration, teenage pregnancy and young people not in education, training and employment. A voluntary and community forum has been established specifically for organisations working with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. The Local Safeguarding Children Board is fully established with good representation from senior officers, who are ensuring that policies and procedures and workforce development is in place to safeguard children.

## Section 4: Needs and services

### Needs profile

**The CYPP is informed by the Community profile and “Identifying areas with Vulnerable Children, July 2004 “. A further needs profile undertaken in 2007 maps need based on the four areas for multi agency teams:**

- North
- Central North (including part of Central ward, Penhill, Gorse Hill & Pinehurst, Moredon)
- Central South (including Park North and South and Walcot East)
- South (including Toothill and Freshbrook)

**This new analysis indicates some population changes.**

- ONS population profile shows that the child population will stay at similar levels overall but that there will be a six percent rise in children under five
- The percentage of children and young people from minority ethnic communities has increased from 12.5% to 13.9% in primary and 10% to 11.1% in secondary schools. The largest increase is in children from Asian, mixed heritage and European backgrounds (Poland).
- Children from minority ethnic communities are over represented among a small number of primary schools in the centre and west of Swindon. ranging from 73% (Drove Primary) to 21% and 31% in West Swindon (Freshbrook and Toothill). Churchfields and St Josephs covering central and Parks area of Swindon have larger percentages of children from BME communities than other secondary schools.

**These changes have implications for services.**

The increase in under fives has implications for early years services and for primary schools.

The CYPP notes educational under achievement amongst children from minority ethnic groups. In particular, children from ethnic minority communities achieve below the Swindon average at KS2. Pupils from Asian backgrounds achieve less than the Swindon average at KS 3. The new analysis indicates increasing need for language and other educational support, in particular for those schools with high concentrations of newly arrived pupils. This work will be progressed by the new BME advisor post.

Moreover, children from minority ethnic communities are over-represented amongst looked after children, the largest group being those of mixed heritage.

The new CYPP and LAA will incorporate our planned responses to these newly identified needs.

The current CYPP identifies the areas of Swindon with the highest inequalities. Children living in these areas do less well than others in Swindon on all the five outcomes.

The largest number of services are currently provided to children in neighbourhoods with the greatest needs. Evaluations indicate that our integrated area-based multi-agency approach is beginning to bear fruit.

### **When consulted vulnerable children and young people and their parents said they wanted**

- Earlier services before problems become complex and long standing;
- Advice and information available near to where they live and by professionals who were well informed
- One common assessment record so that children and young people only have to tell their story once
- One professional for each family who knows who else is involved and can ensure services as and when required
- Professionals sharing information and expertise and provide the best services for children, young people and their families
- More play, youth and leisure facilities near to where children and young people live including youth clubs, sports, skate parks and clubs for girls

We are now providing these services for increasing numbers of people through local preventative groups, lead professionals and other developments. The CYPP identifies areas for improvement in specialist, targeted and universal services. We have made progress on all of these, as indicated in this review. Nonetheless, there is still more to be done. These remain key areas for improvement.

### **Joint Commissioning arrangements**

There has been good progress in developing joint commissioning arrangements. The Children's Trust Executive Management Group will become a Children's Joint Commissioning Board from September 2007. New terms of references and an amended membership has been agreed by Swindon Borough Council and Swindon Primary Care Trust. The Board will monitor the development and implementation of joint commissioning strategies, the Children & Young People's Plan, Local Area Agreement and all National Health Service Act 2006 Section 75 Agreements. A virtual joint commissioning team has been agreed and a consultation document to integrate joint commissioning across Swindon Borough Council and Swindon Primary Care Trust has been drafted. Swindon Borough Council and Swindon Primary Care Trust are developing a National Health Service Act 2006 Section 75 Agreements covering joint commissioning.



### **Third Part**

## **Monitoring arrangements for the Children & Young People's Plan**

The monitoring arrangements for the Children & Young People's Plan have been effective as identified by external scrutiny through Government Office and the Audit Commission. The Children & Young People's Plan will continue to be monitored monthly by the Children's Trust Performance Review Group. Any indicator or action, which is red or amber for 2+ reporting periods with no sign of improvement will continue to be reported to the Children's Trust Executive Management Group by the relevant director. The Children's Trust Executive Management Group will continue to agree management actions to be taken forward and agree review process.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall, we have made good progress on implementing our Children and Young People's Plan. Outcomes have improved and as we increase our knowledge and understanding of needs, we are able to target our resources better to make a difference.

We do however need to make faster progress on some matters. In particular implementation of jointly owned strategies led by senior officers targeting the reduction of young people not in education, training and employment, reduction of teenage conception rates, implementation of the Youth Service development plan and sharply focused work with head teachers on improving the quality of teaching and learning to ensure improved attainment at key Stages 3 and 4.

However, circumstances change as revealed by our latest needs analysis and it is clear that we need to develop new plans in response. Work on this will begin in June 2007. In particular, we need to adopt a sharper approach to tackling inequalities and supporting diversity. Alongside this, there is the long-standing challenge of raising aspirations across the board in Swindon. We intend to take on this challenge and in the context of our good progress on implementing "Every Child Matters", are confident that we can ultimately raise achievement and improve life chances for all our children and young people.



## Consultation on School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-2011

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

**Author:** Group Director, Children Services

**Parish / Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose**

- To advise the Schools Forum on the response of the Local Authority and the Schools Forum to the Consultation on School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-2011 (the DfES Consultation)
- To seek the recommendation of the Schools Forum on the proposed timetable to implement the potential outcome of the DfES Consultation
- To seek the recommendation of the Schools Forum on the proposed timetable to undertake the Local Authority Deprivation Review

### **Recommendation**

The Schools Forum is recommended:

- To note the DfES Consultation response document;
- to recommend to the Local Authority that it adopts the timetable set out in Appendix B to undertake the review with all schools and education partners on the potential changes to the Swindon Formula, the Swindon Scheme of Delegation and Finance Regulations for Schools that it is anticipated will result from the outcome of the DfES Consultation
- To recommend to the Local Authority that it adopts the timetable set out in Appendix B to undertake the review of deprivation funding within the authority, the outcome of the review to inform the review of the Swindon Formula and Swindon Scheme of Delegation
- To agree the powers and responsibilities of its Sub Group in respect of future meetings of the Sub Group

### **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 The Schools Forum agreed at its meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 that its Sub Group should be granted delegated powers to respond to the DfES Consultation and to subsequently circulate the response to members for information.
- 1.2 The Schools Forum also agreed at its meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 that its Sub Group should also carry out the deprivation review.
- 1.3 The response to the DfES Consultation was considered by the Sub Group on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007 together with Local Authority officers and a joint response was made to the DfES by the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

# Consultation on School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-2011

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

- 1.4 The continued progress of the consultation process now needs to be determined.

## 2. Detail

2.1 The DfES Consultation was considered as described in 1.3 above and the joint Local Authority and Schools Forum response was sent to the DfES by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007. A copy is attached at Appendix A.

2.2 The Schools Forum should note that the Chair of the Schools Forum was contacted by the Local Authority prior to the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007, to request agreement to include the Schools Forum Early Years Representative as the Private Voluntary and Independent representative on the Schools Forum Sub Group. The reason for this was that it was held to be important that this sector had an input into the consultation.

2.3 Additionally, it was agreed at the meeting of the Schools Forum Sub Group that the early years section of the DfES Consultation should be completed at a meeting of Early Years representatives held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007, at which not all members of the Schools Forum Sub Group could be present.

2.4 At the meeting of the Schools Forum Sub Group it was agreed that the Local Authority should prepare a timetable for the progress of the review of the Swindon Funding Formula, the deprivation review, and the review of other documents that might require amendment as a result of the DfES Consultation. The timetable has been circulated to Schools Forum members and is attached at Appendix B.

2.5 The Schools Forum will note from the timetable that a meeting of the Sub Group has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> June 2007 to commence the review referred to in 2.4 above. It is proposed that immediately following the meeting, a draft document is prepared containing the proposals made by the Sub Group as a result of the review, in preparation for consulting with all schools and education partners. That document will be available for the Schools Forum at its meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

2.6 Progress of the timetable will require additional meetings of the Schools Forum Sub Group and the Schools Forum, together with the Schools Forum's determination of the delegated powers of the Sub Group.

## Alternative Options

- The Schools Forum may recommend an alternative timetable for the progress of the review.

<b>Risk Management</b>
------------------------

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

# Consultation on School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-2011

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

## *Financial and Procurement Implications*

- The level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2007/08 was confirmed on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.
- The proposed review of the Swindon Funding Formula and the deprivation review may result in the funding at individual school level to either increase or decrease. The outcome of the review may require “floors and ceilings” or “transitional” funding to be put in place if any increases or decreases create an anomaly in the funding for individual schools

## *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

- It will be a legal requirement to implement the outcome of the DfES Consultation.

## *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

- Promise 45 states “We will make sure that schools will be at the heart of each community”.

## **Consultees**

- 

## **Background Papers and Appendices**

- Appendix A – Timetable
- Appendix B – Response to DfES Consultation

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank

# **Draft Timeline for Implementing Changes to Swindon Schools Funding Formula (to include review of social deprivation funding), Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Working days</b>
Prepare proposals and draft consultation document to be considered by Schools Forum Sub Group (SFSG) at the meeting 18 June 2007. Proposals to reflect where possible likely outcomes from DfES consultation eg changes to MFG. Directors to be involved as appropriate.	Monday 21 May - Friday 8 June	14
Officer meeting to go through proposals and draft consultation document ahead of SFSG meeting 18 June.	Tuesday 12 June (10am Room 2.9 Sanford House)	1
Revise proposals and draft consultation document ahead of SFSG	Wednesday 13 June - Friday 15 June	3
SFSG meet to consider proposals and the draft consultation paper	Monday 18 June	1
Undertake revisions and updates to proposals following meeting of SFSG (draft to be circulated to all head teachers).	Tuesday 19 June - 10 July 2007	16
School Forum meeting to consider formula review	Thursday 27 June	1
Consultation on proposals with all schools and stakeholders	Thursday 5 July - Wednesday 5 September	44
Consultation seminar on proposals (likely to be two seminars)	Monday 9 July - Friday 14 July	2
Prepare report on outcome of consultation for SFSG	Monday 3 September - Friday 7 September	5
Meet with SFSG on outcome of consultation	End September (tbc)	1
Schools Forum meet to consider recommendations of SFSG	End October (tbc)	1
Approved changes implemented	End October	10
Under new DfES arrangements Pupil Count Undertaken	Autumn 2007	1
School Forum meeting to finalise budgets (tbc subject pupil count)	December / January (tbc)	1
Provisional Local Government Settlement announced including allocations of final DSG for 2008/9, 2009/10, 2010/11.	November (tbc)	1
Final three year school budgets prepared and distributed to schools	(tbc)	1

Note: This timeline may be subject to change as a result of the outcome of the DfES consultation.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Consultation on school, early years and 14-16 funding 2008-11

## Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 1 June  
2007

Your comments must reach us by that date.

department for

**education and skills**

creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

**THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online or offline response facility available on the Department for Education and Skills e-consultation website (<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations>).**

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

**Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.** ☐

Name Hilary Pitts  
Organisation (if applicable) Swindon Borough Council  
Address: Sanford House  
Sanford Street  
Swindon

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact e-mail: [SchoolFunding.Questions@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolFunding.Questions@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on: Telephone: 01928 794888; or email: [consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on: Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794 311

e-mail: [consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)



Please tick one of the boxes below that best describes you as a respondent

<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools Forum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint LA and Schools Forum
<input type="checkbox"/> Headteacher Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher or Support Staff Union	<input type="checkbox"/> School Leader
<input type="checkbox"/> School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Bursar/School Business Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> Other School Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Years Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-19 Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-19 Partnership
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Pupil or student	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)

Please Specify:  
Response from Swindon Borough Council including views from Schools Forum.

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	--

Please Specify:

Which Local Authority area do you come under?

Comments:  
Swindon Borough Council

If you are a school respondent, please tick as appropriate

<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary	<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary
<input type="checkbox"/> Special	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	

Please Specify:

If you are an early years provider, which setting are you from?

<input type="checkbox"/> Early Years Providers - Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Years Provider - Voluntary	<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Centre
--	---	--

Please Specify:

CHAPTER 2: THE DISTRIBUTION OF DSG TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

1 Do you agree that the 'proportionality test' should be removed from the criteria used by local authorities and Schools Forums to decide whether there should be a contribution from the centrally retained Schools Budget to local authority combined services budgets in support of ECM outcomes?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Removal of the proportionality test will mean greater flexibility for Schools Forums in deciding whether to support combined services budgets from centrally retained budgets.

2 Which method of distribution would you prefer for the period 2008-11: Spend plus or single formula?

<input type="checkbox"/> Spend plus	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Formula
-------------------------------------	---

Comments:

Not enough information is available to have an informed view over which option to select. Overall the spend plus arrangements whilst not as transparent as a single formula will offer greater stability that is reasonably straight forward to understand although this approach will continue to disadvantage the lowest funded authorities such as Swindon. For low funded authorities it is difficult to make a choice between continued low funding or unknown level of funding that could be low funding. The proposals to move to a single formula could take as long as 7 years to implement and with the use of floors and ceilings to offer some protection this makes the process more complex and less timely. (Floors and ceilings cannot be finalised until the outcome of CSR so the full extent of increases or decreases in funding cannot be fully assessed until then). Furthermore despite best intentions to 'mainstream' grants for ministerial priorities within a single formula with past experience it is expected that in future years ministerial priorities will continue and result in specific grants being added onto allocations made through a single formula. Also there is no guarantee that within the estimated timescale to implement fully the single formula, as many as 7 years, that there will be no further reviews or reorganisations of education funding that will further complicate the situation. In respect of additional grants they need to be targeted in a way that truly reflects the needs of the less deprived overall but with pockets of high deprivation as well as the lower funded authorities focusing on amount per pupil or per school.

Page 23, para 49

3 Should we move the pupil number count used for Dedicated Schools Grant allocations from January back to the preceding autumn?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

A move of the pupil count from January to the preceding Autumn would remove the pressure from schools and LEAs to collect this key information that has such a direct impact on schools funding. It is important however that one count is undertaken in October and not in September which tends to be a very busy time for all aspects of administration in schools in particular primary schools. By undertaking the count in the Autumn certainty over budgets will be known earlier that will derive significant benefits to schools. However proposals elsewhere in the consultation document on early years funding may have an impact that at this stage is less clear.

Page 26, para 61

4 In the long term, which method of counting under 5s would you prefer: headcount or provision based?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Headcount	<input type="checkbox"/> Provision based
---	--

Comments:

By moving to a head count of under 5's would greatly simplify the current arrangements of counting pupil numbers in this area. Provision based reduces the risk of costs increasing and generating an incentive to operate empty places.

Page 28, para 71

5 Which method of transferring funding for academies should we use: the current method or the recoupment method?

☒ Current

☐ Recoupment

Comments:

The current methodology is straightforward and simple to understand. A change does not offer significant improvement.

Page 28, para 72

6 Should pupils at academies for whom individually assigned SEN resources are allocated, be included on form 8B?

☒ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

If authorities continue to have the financial responsibility for pupils in academies who have individually assigned SEN resources allocated the Local Authority should be receiving grant for these pupils to offset some of the cost.

Page 31, para 81

7 Should we consider using geographical based indicators such as Acorn and Mosaic in the distribution of DSG?

☒ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

Over the next budget cycle financial stability and predictability is seen as one of the key requisites in Swindon for its schools. This is particularly so in light of the many other changes which are taking place. For that reason retaining current indicators of AEN offers the stability that is sought at an authority level even though it does disadvantage low funded authorities. The key for low funded authorities such as Swindon is to target those pockets of deprivation that are masked by the overall level for the authority by increased per pupil or per schools allocations. Using geographical indicators such as Acorn and Mosaic will identify those areas of deprivation that are presently masked by broader measures of deprivation.

Page 31, para 81

8 Are there other deprivation indicators that we could consider?

Comments:

Page 32, para 84

9 Should we seek to target funding at pockets of deprivation in less deprived authorities?

☒ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

The make up of some local authorities can hide the real social economic problems that are present in some wards that in turn have a significant impact on the educational outcomes within certain schools. Deprivation data available at postcode level offers a real opportunity to direct additional funding at those local authorities with such pockets of deprivation that would otherwise be missed. This may go some way to addressing the present unfairness that results in low funded authorities such as Swindon.

Page 32, para 84

10 If so, which method of distribution should we use?

☒ Per pupil grant

☐ Threshold based

Comments:

With post code data now available at ward level it is possible to target specific pockets of deprivation at per pupil levels into specific schools. Such funding should be in addition to existing levels of funding for deprivation distributed through the DSG. An additional grant per pupil for the lowest funded authorities would be welcome.

Page 33, para 87

11 Would a grant for exceptional circumstances be a helpful addition to the flexibility of the system?

☒ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

The creation of a small exceptional circumstances grant would be a helpful addition to the flexibility of the system. However this grant should not be created using a 'top slice' of existing Education resources.

### CHAPTER 3: SCHOOL FUNDING FROM 2008-09

Page 38, para 99

12 How would you prefer the Central Expenditure Limit to be set: by the current method; or through the simpler comparison between cash increases in Dedicated Schools Grant and ISB?

☒ Current method

☐ Cash comparison

Comments:

The current methodology for the Central Expenditure Limit does provide the necessary information for School Forums to have an informed discussion. A further debate should be held on whether there is any merit in retaining the CEL at all.

Page 41, para 113

13 Do you agree that we should remove the asymmetry from the Minimum Funding Guarantee methodology?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

The removal of the asymmetry on the Minimum Funding Guarantee to enable greater flexibility for School Forums to target funding at local priorities is supported on the basis that any funding released for an authority through this change remains in the authority and that there is no 'top slicing' or removal of resources by the Department from authorities current DSG allocations.

Page 42, para 116

14 Do you agree that we should allow authorities to agree with their schools changes to the MFG methodology which affect up to 50% of their schools, as opposed to the current 20% limit?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Any increases to the decision making powers of School Forums is welcomed and supported.

*NOTE: At present the option to make changes to the MFG that affect 20% of schools is used in Swindon (for new schools only).*

Page 43, para 116

15 Are there other changes to the decision making process on MFG variations that you would like to see considered – such as requiring there to be a majority of both primary and secondary school representatives in favour of a proposal?

Comments:

The suggestion requiring a majority of both primary and secondary school representatives in favour of a proposal is supported.

Page 44, para 122

16 Should we continue with the 1% headroom between the MFG and DSG minimum increase or should we reduce the margin?

☒ 1% headroom

☐ Reduce margin

Comments:

A reduced margin in the headroom will mean reduced flexibility for School Forums to use DSG resources to target local priorities. Effectively the result of this proposal is that authorities will need to use a higher proportion of resources in meeting the MFG. This removes further local decision making from what little remains. There is a risk that as more of the increase in DSG will be required to meet the MFG there will be insufficient new resources to meet other pressures within the education budget.

Page 45, para 126

17 Do you agree that the assessment of cost pressures feeding into the MFG should take account of efficiency savings, and thus lead to a lower level of MFG?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☒ Strongly disagree



Comments:

Since the introduction of the MFG many school budgets have been maintained at a level to deliver high class education to young people in Swindon despite the fact that Swindon is a low funded authority. This level of spending has been built up over the four years the MFG has been operating. Any proposals to reflect cost pressures within the MFG by factoring in efficiency savings should be implemented over a similar period to enable schools caught with spending levels at the present level a suitable timescale to restructure. Furthermore when considering savings on non-pay elements of budgets it is **critical that local circumstances are taken into consideration**. The consultation document implies that non-pay makes up to 10% of primary school budgets and 20% of secondary school budgets. **For low funded authorities such as Swindon salary costs in schools tend to be a higher percentage of total budget than those in better funded authorities. Specifically in Swindon non-pay on secondary school budgets is only 11% so opportunity for efficiencies in this area are much reduced compared to the national position**. Indeed if broad assumptions taken at the national level were to be applied to authorities in a similar position to Swindon the result will be staffing cuts in schools to achieve efficiency targets.

Page 45, para 126

18 Should we go further than this, and reduce the MFG to below average cost pressures in the second and subsequent years of the CSR?

☐

Strongly agree

☐

Agree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Disagree

X

Strongly disagree

Comments:

The introduction of the MFG in 2004/5 provided schools with guarantees over levels of funding. Schools based their medium term financial plans on those levels of guaranteed funding and delivered services accordingly. If levels of future funding were not guaranteed to continue at the same level and were instead to be reduced below average cost pressures schools would need to plan for cuts over the next period of medium term financial planning. In Swindon where there are presently no schools in special measures it is anticipated there will be a decline in achievement and standards and a return of schools into the special measures category if planned spending levels were reduced below average cost pressures. This would be a particular issue for authorities such as Swindon that are already poorly funded.

Page 48, para 135

19 Would a levy on balances and extra guidance be effective in reducing the current level of excessive balances?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☒ Strongly disagree

Comments:

The current arrangements are working well within Swindon. The arrangements in Swindon are robust and have seen a general decline in balances held to a level of less than 6% of the schools budget. No further advantage is anticipated by the introduction of extra guidance or levies on balances. It is anticipated that any changes will simply increase the administrative burden. The recent introduction of FMISS needs to be assessed before further changes are brought about.

Page 49, para 139

20 Should we amend the Schools Forum regulations so that other members of school senior management teams, including Bursars, can be elected as schools members?

☒ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

School bursars have a vital role to play in the financial management in schools and across the wider education budget. The proposal to include school bursars is warmly welcomed. In Swindon we have a history of school bursars attending the Schools Forum in an advisory capacity so this proposal is a natural progression. However consideration should be given to the number of bursar representatives compared to head teacher representatives. If bursars are simply included in the same category as head teachers a situation could arise where bursars made up all school representation on Schools Forum.

Page 49, para 142

21 Do you agree that all local authorities should have non-schools members from the early years sector and 14-19 partnerships?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Members of the early years sector and 14-19 partnerships both have vital roles to play in the strategic management and decision making process of the education budget. The proposal to include the early years sector and the 14-19 partnership is welcome. In Swindon an early years representative is already a full member of the Schools Forum and the LSC (a member of the 14-19 partnership) is an observer member in an advisory role.

Page 49, para 142

22 Should we raise the current maximum proportion of non-schools members above 20%?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

The structure of the Swindon school forum currently meets the requirements to have a minimum of 80% representation from schools. Proposals to widen the membership whilst welcome would create pressure to increase representation from schools. Therefore the proposal to reduce the minimum representation from schools is welcomed. It is felt 75% instead of 80% is workable.

#### CHAPTER 4: FUNDING FOR SPECIALISED DIPLOMAS AT 14-16

Page 54, para 157

23 Do you agree that funding for specialised diplomas for 14-16 year olds should be through a specific formula grant?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
--	--------------------------------	---

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

As with all new Government initiatives the correct level of funding is essential to help secure success. By funding specialised diplomas for 14-16 year olds through a specific grant will help to ensure sufficient resources are targeted to each local authority area that is providing the diplomas as long as the grant reflects fully the additional cost of delivering the diplomas.

Page 57, para 170

24 Are the three models for distributing funding for specialised diplomas at 14-16 to the front line the right range of options?

Comments:

The three options fit with all other education expenditure in that they are the three options available; retain, delegate in part or delegate in full. However depending upon the level of the central expenditure limit (CEL) some authorities may find that in reality the first two options are not possible without the further complication of securing agreement from school forum that CEL can be exceeded if the local preference is to retain or delegate in part.

Page 57, para 170

25 Do you agree that we should leave the choice of which option to local discretion?

☒ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

This proposal is welcome if all three options remain options and that there are no constraints inadvertently brought about through the Central Expenditure Limit mechanism.

Page 60, para 176

26 Do you agree that the LSC funding methodology should be used as the basis of setting the cost of partnership provision to schools, with local discretion to reflect the varying costs of provision and funding levels received by schools?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

The current LSC methodology that funds the course content (diploma) instead of the pupil is the way to move forward together with discretion for the local 14-19 partnership to vary costs as appropriate. The nature of the diplomas that have already passed through the first gateway process will vary in cost of delivery so this flexibility is essential.

## CHAPTER 5: EARLY YEARS FUNDING

Page 68, para 207

27 Do you agree that local authorities should introduce a standardised method for calculating the unit of funding for early years provision in maintained and PVI settings for the coming CSR period?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

A standardised method of calculating the unit of funding for early years would be an essential component of a system of funding that is open, fair and transparent. It would also reflect the different costs incurred by different forms of provision.

A move to a standardised method of funding is likely to result in a change to the funding of the maintained sector. Where those changes result in reductions to a schools budget it is important that local decision making is in place to determine whether there is a need to replace those budget reductions. It must be recognised that there are differences in provision between sectors and that the cost of provision also differs. For example there is a requirement for the maintained sector to employ a qualified teacher and nursery nurse or equivalent for 52 weeks of the year and it is these differences in costs that need to be taken into account.

A move to a standardised method of allocating resources to both the PVI and maintained sectors will need to be introduced on a phased basis to help support those settings that are currently not running at capacity that need to reduce costs or increase take up in instances where funding is not replaced. The timetable proposed elsewhere working towards harmonisation of the funding by April 2010 seems appropriate.

28 How long would it take local authorities to develop, consult on and implement such a standardised method?

Comments:

To give time for consultation and to introduce the change at the same time as the flexible offer initial thoughts are to aim for April 2010 as the best option. Being part way through a school year it may create some complexity but given schools receive funding based on financial years it is felt that this would be achievable. There are risks in this strategy as the economics of such a change may result in some maintained provision becoming unsustainable resulting in closure of service unless local decisions are taken that recognise the need to continue with such provision.

Page 69, para 209

29 Do you agree that local authorities should use the same methods to calculate pupil numbers in maintained and PVI settings for the coming CSR period?

☐ Strongly agree

X Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

A standardised method for counting pupil numbers would be useful in bringing parity between the maintained and PVI sectors, particularly with the advent of the flexible offer in 2010. Parents would then be able to take their funded place at more than one setting. This could mean a child had part of their funding at a maintained nursery and part at a PVI sector setting. Using the same method of counting would make payment calculations more straightforward. Also there are expectations that the overall cost of implementing the more flexible arrangements will cost more than current provision. There will be a need to introduce incentives for providers to deliver more flexible provision and this will cost more to support. Also the cost of provision differs between sectors so the assumption made in paragraph 212 that funding could be freed up in the maintained sector is incorrect and must not be seen as an opportunity for the DfES not to adequately fund increased and more flexible provision.

Page 70, para 213

30 Do you agree that we should retain a single budget calculation point for early years provision in the maintained sector?

☐ Strongly agree

X Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

Comments:

A single budget calculation point on pupil numbers for both PVI and maintained sector provides equal financial stability however there should be three counts of pupil numbers and termly allocations of budget for pupils in both sectors. This should be the outcome timetabled for implementation from April 2010.

Alongside this there will be a need to develop a range of different rates to ensure the success of the flexible provision. Current rates meet basic provision of 12.5 hours per week over 38 weeks. Flexible provision outside the current 38 weeks or provision later in the day will cost more and need incentives for providers to generate this flexible provision. It will not be possible to extend provision using current rates therefore additional funding will be required. This additional funding will need to be on top of current DSG allocations. There must not be any assumption that savings can be achieved by harmonising current funding arrangements.

Page 70, para 213

31 Which of the options at paragraph 211, a-c, or an alternative approach, would improve the alignment of the funding systems for PVI providers and maintained schools and be achievable within funding constraints?

☐ Places

X Termly estimates

☐ Guaranteed Minimum

☐ Other.

Comments:

Option (b) is the preferred option as it would minimise the number of empty funded places. Because of the age at which children are being funded and the single admission point into school, numbers in the private and voluntary sector fluctuate significantly over the three terms. Option (a) would mean that local authorities would have to fund significant numbers of empty places that providers would have no incentive to fill. Option (c) would mean that significant adjustment were needed termly unless the minimum number was set at the highest term in which case large numbers of empty places would still be funded. Additional funding to meet any of the three options will need to be on top of existing DSG allocations.

Page 72, para 220

32 Would moving to a single formula for funding the free entitlement across maintained and PVI providers better enable local authorities to commission flexible provision?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☒ Strongly disagree

Comments:

A single formula would help fair and transparent funding of PVI and maintained sectors but would not help with the commissioning of flexible provision, unless there is the opportunity to use funding as an incentive for settings that are prepared to be flexible through a range of different levels of payments. Providers face the issue of meeting the increase cost of flexible provision. If higher rates to meet the higher costs are not forthcoming greater flexibility will not be forthcoming from the market. Costs associated with longer opening hours whether they open longer daily or open for more weeks will be higher than current provision.

Page 72, para 220

33 If so, over what timescale would it be practical to implement such a formula?

Comments:



April 2010 would be the optimum time, in line with the introduction of the flexible offer.

Page 73, para 223

34 We would welcome views on whether further changes or guidance are needed to develop this wider function of Schools Forums in relation to the Every Child Matters agenda.

Comments:

The earlier proposal to include early years representation on the School Forum is welcome. A further consideration is to include representation relating to looked after children in readiness for the requirement to have Children's Trust in place by 2008.

Page 73, para 224

35 Would separately identifying funding for the early years entitlement help local authorities to ensure that the free entitlement is funded appropriately?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☒ Strongly disagree

Comments:

Local authorities receive funding via the DSG for all aspects of Education provision. Within that cash envelope local priorities are considered and agreed by the School Forum. It is felt that no benefit will be gained by separately identifying spending on early years as opposed to other aspects of the education spending. This proposal is not supported as it is seen as a step back towards centralisation.

## CHAPTER 6: SPECIFIC GRANTS

Page 79, para 245

36 Do you agree that we should merge SSG and SSG (P) from 2008 09?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Reductions in the number of specific grants by merging or mainstreaming are welcome for the associated reduction in administration. However this proposal is supported on the basis that there is cash floor introduced to prevent any individual school losing out in future years compared to the allocation it currently receives for these two grants.

Page 79, para 245

37 In taking forward changes to the distribution of SDG over the period 2008-11, which method of transition would you prefer: (a) a cash (0%) floor; (b) a floor below 0%, to be set by DfES?

<input type="checkbox"/> Cash (0%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Below 0% DfES
------------------------------------	--

Comments:

Currently SDG is allocated to schools using a variety of cost drivers some of which are historical and are not pupil driven eg small schools, new schools, excellence clusters. To replace this method of allocation with a per pupil allocation will result in large changes in individual allocations to schools meaning there will be winners and losers. A 0% cash floor will clearly restrict the schools that are expected to be losers however this will mean such large adjustments to the calculations on a school by school basis. There is a recognition that there has to be a rebalancing but this needs to be phased over a period of several years to ease the impact on schools that lose out.

Page 79, para 247

38 Should we make payments of specific grants to academies from the Department rather than through local authorities from 2008-09?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Comments:

Any proposal that reduces bureaucracy for authorities and the department are

welcome.

39 Do you have any other comments about the consultation?

Comments:

40 Please let us have your views on responding to this consultation. For instance did you have any difficulty understanding any of the questions and did you think we had the right number or type of questions?

Comments:

Some of the questions have been a little ambiguous and have led to further questions being raised. In these cases clarification has been sought via the email address listed for that purpose in paragraph 252. It was necessary to chase up responses by further email and by telephone. Responses were finally received by the required time.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply X**

Here at the Department for Education and Skills we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

X Yes

☐ No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation-guidance/content/introduction/index.asp>

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 1 June 2007

Send by post to: Consultation Unit, Area 1a, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn Cheshire WA7 2GJ

Send by e-mail to: [schoolfunding.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:schoolfunding.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

## School Meals

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

**Author:** Group Director Children

**Parish / Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose**

A Secondary School Representative wishes to advise the Schools Forum on a Free School Meals issue.

### **Recommendation**

That the Schools Forum consider the matters raised by the Secondary School Representative and seek the advice of the Local Authority.

### **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 The reasons for this Report are contained in Appendix A which has been prepared by a Secondary School Representative of the Schools Forum.

### **2. Detail**

- 2.1 The detail of this Report is contained in Appendix A which has been prepared by a Secondary School Representative of the Schools Forum.
- 2.2 Advice is being sought by the Local Authority on the matters raised in the Report. The relevant information will be presented at the meeting of the Schools Forum.

### **Alternative Options**

- The Schools Forum may recommend that the Local Authority reviews its Free School Meals data procedures

### **Risk Management**

#### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

An amendment to Free School Meals data procedures may increase or decrease funding to schools based on free school meals eligibility.

#### *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

None

#### *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

Promise 45 "We will make sure that schools will be at the heart of each community"

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

## School Meals

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

### Consultees

- The Schools Forum

### Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix A – report prepared by a Secondary School Representative

## **School's Forum Meeting**

### **Agenda Item: Free School Meals**

**Presented by: Steve Flavin, Headteacher of Churchfields School**

#### **Introduction**

The Government and Local Authorities have used Free School Meals as an indicator of social deprivation for a number of years.

The percentage of students in any school, who take free school meals, has a significant impact on:

- (a) Funding into schools;
- (b) Relative performance of students in examinations at all key stages.

Increasingly, alternative and additional indicators of social deprivation are being used. However, the free school meals indicator is still a primary trigger for funding as a result of the PLASC (School Census Return) in January.

#### **Concern**

As the Headteacher of Churchfields School I have three issues which are shared by colleagues, locally and regionally:

- (a) That the gap between take-up and eligibility distorts the free school meals triggers for all schools;
- (b) That the process which currently exists is bureaucratic and unnecessary;
- (c) The free school meals application process disadvantages the very people for whom the free school meals provision exists.

The Local Authority issued guidance to all Headteachers (primary, secondary and special) which reinforced rather than significantly improved the bureaucracy surrounding the free school meals issue.

The data which proves eligibility is already held by the Benefits Office and therefore a simple transfer of this data into the Local Authority, by post code, would eliminate any need for anyone to have to make a separate application. The Children's Services' circular shows clearly why the most disadvantaged parents are not able to take advantage of this important provision. Namely, that they are unwilling to declare publicly how poor they are and the stigma attached to claiming free school meals. The Local Authority paper fails to recognise other significant factors. These include:

- (a) The low literacy of a significant minority of parents who are on low incomes;
- (b) The significant increase in parents who are not users of English, either as a spoken or written medium.

Once again, the electronic transfer of data from one department to another would eliminate any need for application. The result would be that there would be no difference between eligibility and take up. Take up would be 100%. This would have significant financial

benefits to all schools of all types in Swindon and would increase standards of attainment as reported locally and nationally.

The Local Authority paper presents some steps in the right direction. The most significant of these is the automatic renewal of students who are currently entitled to free school meals without the need to reapply.

The new application process, I would argue, is unnecessary and flawed for the following reasons:

1. The criteria for eligibility for free school meals, and the data required, already exists. There is simply no reason why needy families would need to duplicate the information which already exists.
2. The Local Authority paper grossly assumes:
  - (a) That such families are computer literate and have access to online facilities. These are the very families whose income is more likely to prevent them from having such access.
  - (b) Requires parents to complete an application form through the school with a note that eligibility can be checked with the Benefits Services.

My argument is that if the Benefit Services already know that the families are eligible, why is there a need for an application process?

3. The Local Authority paper also states that the Benefits Services can immediately inform Children's Services when the benefits stops therefore making those families who were entitled to free school meals ineligible.

Once again, my argument is simple: if the data on these families is known and can be shared, why do those families need to go through the nonsense of making an application?

The paper circulated says that the proposed new process will "reduce the workload for parents, school administrators and local authority staff." I disagree.



## Schools Block Outturn 2006-07

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

**Author:** Group Director, Children Services

**Parish / Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose**

To advise the Schools Forum of the Schools Block Outturn 2006-2007 including the Individual Schools Budget detail.

### **Recommendation**

The Schools Forum is requested to:

- Note the Schools Block Outturn, being an underspend of £51K;
- Make a recommendation to the Local Authority on the use of the underspend when considering the 2007/08 budget position later on the agenda;
- Make a recommendation to the Local Authority that a detailed review is undertaken of the individual schools balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 that fall above the recommended thresholds for each type of school;
- That the Schools Forum receives a report back on the findings of this review and subsequently makes recommendations to the Local Authority on the use of any "surplus" taking into consideration financial risks within the wider Schools Block.

## **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 It was agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 that the Schools Block Outturn 2006-07 would be presented at its next meeting to inform the Schools Forum and seek its recommendations.
- 1.2 The recommendations of the Schools Forum will be forwarded to Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

## **2. Detail**

2.1 At the Schools Forum meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 it was proposed that schools block balances brought forward from financial year 2006-07 should be considered at the next meeting of the Schools Forum. It was agreed that a report should be prepared by the Local Authority to enable the Schools Forum to make a recommendation on the use of balances brought forward.

2.2 It was brought to the Schools Forum's attention at the above meeting that when making its recommendation it should take into account potential considerations relating to the Schools Block.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Bills on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

## Schools Block Outturn 2006-07

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

- 2.3 Schools Block balances 2006-07 are shown as being in two parts: Individual Schools Budget (ISB) balances on a school-by-school basis; and central schools block budgets.
- 2.4 **Schools Balances** are shown at **Appendix A**. The percentage of its budget allocation that a school may carry forward is determined by the Swindon Scheme of Delegation, and is currently 8% for primary and special schools, and 5% for secondary schools. There is one special school and twelve primary schools carrying forward a balance of greater than 8%, as shown in the Appendix, together with a brief explanation of the circumstances in which this has occurred. There are three schools carrying forward a deficit, one primary and two secondary. A short term loan has been made to the primary school which has been repaid, and no loans were required by the two secondary schools.
- 2.5 In total, the level of net carry forward balances held by schools has increased by £605,377 to £5,298,659. In order to inform the Schools Forum of the appropriateness of this level held by individual schools, the review process that was undertaken in relation to carry forwards 2005-06 will be repeated. This exercise will be completed by end September 2007 and a report will be brought back to the Schools Forum detailing the findings. The review will ensure that there are robust business cases in place to spend surplus balances and also build in proposals on how the Schools Forum may wish to monitor expenditure against these plans together with options for potential claw back should perceived risks (such as falling school rolls) not materialise. As part of this future report, it is proposed to ask the Schools Forum to consider the level of individual school carry forwards in the context of wider financial risks within the Schools Block and potential future cost increases affecting large numbers of schools such as the impact of single status. Elsewhere on the agenda, as part of the 2007/08 Budget report, members of the Schools Forum will note that calls against the 2007/08 contingency fund already exceed the level of contingency built into the 2007/08 budget.
- In the meantime the Schools Forum may wish to consider the position on Headlands School bearing in mind that there will not be an opportunity to claw back any funds once the school has closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.
- 2.6 **Schools Block Retained** Out of a total budget of £11,873k the final year end budget variance is £51k underspend. Appendix B shows the reasons for this variance.
- 2.7 It is recommended to the Schools Forum that for the 2007/08 budget period officers prepare and present a monitoring report relating to the retained element of the schools block to each Forum meeting based on the most up-to-date information. This will highlight to Schools Forum members any budget variances during the financial year in a timely manner, which will allow

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Bills on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

## Schools Block Outturn 2006-07

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

Schools Forum to be made aware and where necessary consider any possible proposal needed to balance the overall dedicated school grant during 2007/08.

2.8 **Potential Considerations** that the Schools Forum is requested to take into account when determining the use of the carry forward amounts referred to above are shown in a subsequent report "Schools Block Budget 2007-08". The Schools Forum may wish to make any recommendation in the light of the information contained in that Report.

### Alternative Options

- **Schools Balances** The Schools Forum may recommend to the Local Authority that schools' carry forward amounts from 2006-07 should be clawed back from the schools concerned. However, this would cause instability and pressure on the schools' budgets, and potentially may result in more schools requesting agreement to set a deficit budget in this current financial year.
- **Potential Considerations** The Schools Forum may recommend to the Local Authority that an alternative funding arrangement for these items is found within the Schools Block.

### Risk Management

#### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

- The budgets and expenditure referred to within this report are all contained within the ring-fenced dedicated schools grant.

#### *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

- None

#### *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

- Promise 45 "We will make sure that schools will be at the heart of each community"

### Consultees

- The Director of Finance, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services are consulted on all reports.
- The Chair of the Schools Forum

### Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix A – School balances 2006-07
- Appendix B – Retained Schools Block Balances 2006-07

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Bills on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank

GROSS ROLLOVER INFORMATION - 2006/2007					NET ROLLOVER INFORMATION - 2006/2007 (LESS CAPITAL & COMMITTED EXPENDITURE)					APPENDIX A					
CAP NO.	PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTOR	GROSS ROLLOVER 2006/2007	GROSS ROLLOVER 2005/2006	CHANGE ON 2005/2006				CAPITAL BALANCE C/F	COMMITTED REVENUE BALANCES (B01)	CFR NET ROLLOVER 2006/2007 (B02)	CFR	INCOME INCL B/F BALANCE NET OF CAPITAL	NET ROLLOVER % OF NET INCOME	SCHOOL ESTIMATED C/F FEB 06	REASON FOR CARRY FORWARD
552	Orchid Vale	-7,516	New School	New School				-7,516	1,189	3,260	-11,965	New School	New School		-2.65%
553	Red Oaks	7,361	New School					7,361	1,223	0	6,138				Closure
714	Salt Way Primary School	77,532	82,273	-4,741						0					
249	Shaw Ridge Primary School	298,266	95,855	202,412						0					22.33% Amalgamation & Future Project
703	Colebrook Infants School	74,892	99,307	-24,415						739					4.54% Future project
222	Moredun Primary School	375,792	18,603	357,189						0					13.94% Amalgamation/federation
210	Ferndale Junior School	126,017	90,423	35,594						0					11.05% Falling Roll & Possible Merger
243	Holy Rood Infants School	92,137	86,805	5,332						287					12.42% EAL Project
555	Bridlewood Primary School	89,929	75,677	14,252						1,487					12.38% Falling roll
209	Even Swindon Infants School	109,516	46,817	62,699						1,171					11.74% Included with overall primary %
213	Gorse Hill Junior School	141,420	95,226	46,194						0					15.41% Various projects SDP
234	Rodbourne Cheney Primary School	144,166	79,947	64,219						54,189					10.85% Federation
565	Southfield Junior School	264,062	58,349	205,714						84,286					10.27% Falling Roll & 4 Classrooms Refurb.
557	Abbey Meads Primary School	129,222	153,145	-23,923						7,313					9.49% Future staffing structure for additional pupils
708	Ruskin Junior School	165,102	159,171	5,932						1,890					9.42% Future project
246	Oliver Tomkins CE Infants	112,600	118,029	-5,428						0					9.00% Future Capital Build Project
214	Gorse Hill Infants School	253,696	68,903	184,792						111,500					8.99% Falling Roll and Children Centre Project
709	Beechcroft Infants School	110,057	85,349	24,708						4,409					8.62% Falling Roll
545	Freshbrook Primary School	83,330	81,990	1,340						1,427					7.89% School reorganisation
211	Ferndale Infants School	51,577	72,600	-21,023						5,863					8.38% 7.15% Falling roll & possible merger
242	Holy Rood Junior School	81,288	99,919	-18,631						472					7.92%
239	King William Street Primary	39,778	18,471	21,307						1,854					7.42%
206	Eldene Primary School	131,944	92,201	39,743						10,889					7.39%
780	Tregoze Primary School	91,942	72,122	19,820						14,532					7.37%
722	Toothill Primary School	68,344	58,281	10,064						7,964					7.22%
556	Catherine Wayte Primary School	91,873	87,671	4,202						3,981					7.66%
216	Lainesmead Primary School	205,169	110,668	94,500						72,741					7.08%
572	Westrop Primary School	54,577	20,898	33,679						5,579					6.98%
755	Brook Field Primary School	137,388	95,293	42,095						13,143					6.88%
561	Haydon Wick Primary School	86,188	192,143	-105,955						4,659					6.81%
712	Windmill Hill School	57,071	46,986	10,085						0					6.07%
231	Pinehurst Junior School	91,237	122,032	-30,795						16,842					6.77%
640	Nythe Primary School	85,194	46,961	38,233						10,255					6.00%
217	Lawn Primary School	88,726	140,824	-52,098						449					6.65%
713	St Catherine's Primary School	56,182	59,674	-3,492						14,988					7.60%
694	South Marston CE Primary School	31,513	432	31,081						6,259					6.37%
554	St Francis Primary School	44,202	58,879	-14,677						2,819					6.32%
232	Pinehurst Infant School	54,404	131,299	-76,895						242					6.20%
560	Greenmeadow Primary School	69,949	55,872	14,077						23,361					6.10%
748	Westlea Primary School	122,315	54,214	68,102						12,192					4.62%
245	Liden Primary School	105,989	94,870	11,118						9,975					6.09%
204	Drove Primary School	175,959	114,072	61,886						67,867					6.05%
772	Wroughton Infant School	56,236	31,689	24,547						16,618					5.94%
227	Oaktree Nursery & Primary School	329,358	160,670	168,688						100,000					5.86%
495	Covingham Park Junior School	62,205	43,832	18,373						11,500					5.84%
498	Covingham Park Infants School	29,741	25,230	4,511						0					5.65%
427	St Andrews CE Primary School	38,223	33,006	5,217						2,573					5.63%
707	Grange Infants School	63,951	151,542	-87,591						2,962					5.54%
203	Robert Le Kyng Primary	69,256	55,926	13,331						272					5.45%
244	St Marys Primary School	50,374	13,896	36,478						0					5.31%
223	Mountford Manor Primary School	74,565	113,981	-39,416						21,840					5.27%
240	Holy Family Primary School	53,457	42,145	11,312						13,557					2.94%
706	Grange Junior School	70,231	43,216	27,016						9,354					5.09%
208	Even Swindon Junior School	173,789	14,522	159,267						61,740					5.00%
771	Wroughton Junior School	49,626	37,306	12,321						49,626					4.61%
574	Northview Primary School	28,014	129,500	-101,487						6,713					4.36%
559	Haydonleigh Primary School	196,106	51,197	144,910						10,043					4.10%
424	Bishopstone CE Primary School	22,431	19,402	3,029						7,397					5.03%
225	Goddard Park Primary School	68,384	68,384	-19,233						0					5.00%

[illegible]

## Appendix B

<i>Description</i>	<i>Budget £000's</i>	<i>Outturn £000's</i>	<i>Variance £000's</i>	<i>Details of Budget Variances</i>
<b>Admissions</b>	205	207	2	Overspend on the staffing budget due to vacancy factor not being achieved. All staffing budgets are funded at 97% to take account of turnover of staff, if a budget area is fully staffed throughout the year they will not achieve this factor that has been
<b>Early Years</b>	3,272	3,032	-240	The underspend was due to the actual number of parents using this provision was less than expected.
<b>School Forum</b>	38	37	-0	This budget has been transferred to a balance sheet reserve code and carried forward into 2007/08 to fund that appointment of the interim project accountant
<b>Maternity</b>	259	284	25	Due to the nature of this budget being dependant on school claims, there was considerable returns made from schools during the last few months of the financial year causing the budget to overspend by £25k.
<b>PRU</b>	2,171	2,188	17	Due to the continued increase in demand within the PRU the approved budget at the start of the year was not sufficient to cover the full costs for the year.
<b>SEN &amp; OOB</b>	3,872	3,932	60	Due to these budgets being demand led it becomes difficult to forecast the year end position. To add to this challenge during 2006/07 the PCT withdraw their contribution on pupils that are placed outside of the PCT's area causing this budget to overspend
<b>Trade Union</b>	34	24	-9	Due to the similarities of this budget and the maternity budget, forecasting is dependant on returns from schools.
<b>Exclusion &amp; Supply</b>	0	57	57	The exclusion and supply budgets have overspent by £57k, this was caused due to the additional pressure on the contingency budget relating to the contribution to schools with significant pupil increase and the variation on the NNDR.
<b>SIMS subscription</b>	0	100	100	Due to the contribution from schools being less than the actual spend this has caused an overspend position.
<b>Travellers</b>	47	40	-7	Due to the stability in demand with the travellers community the contingency budget was not needed, therefore, generating an underspend.
<b>Other</b>	1,976	1,921	-54	Minor variations - this also includes the £51k underspend that has been transferred to the reserve code
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,873</b>	<b>11,822</b>	<b>-51</b>	

This page is intentionally left blank



## Schools Block Budget 2007-08

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

**Author:** Group Director, Children Services

**Parish / Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose**

- To confirm the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2007-2008
- To advise the Schools Forum of potential pressures on the Schools Block Budget

### **Recommendation**

The Schools Forum is requested to :

- Note that the final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2007/08 exceeds the agreed Schools Block budget by £200K;
- Recommend to the Local Authority that the balance is added to the contingency fund for 2007/08, bearing in mind that the existing calls on the fund already exceed the original level of contingency allocated as part of the 2007/08 budget;
- Recommend to the Local Authority the proposed use of the Schools Block contingency in the context of the issues set out in Section 2.1 (b);
- Recommend to the Local Authority the proposed reallocation of the proportion of Devolved Formula Capital that is due to PFI schools.

## **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 The final DSG was announced to the Local Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.
- 1.2 The Local Authority must determine how it will deal with potential pressures on the Schools Block budget, taking into account the confirmation of the final DSG compared to the projected DSG.

## **2. Detail**

### **2.1 (a) Dedicated Schools Grant**

The final DSG was announced to the Local Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007, being £103.259m. Appendix A shows the detail of the final DSG calculation and the comparison with the projected DSG calculation made by the Local Authority.

The final DSG takes into account the pupils moving to the Academy in September 2007. The per pupil school budget share for the transferring pupils equates to the DSG per pupil amount received. The amount deducted from the DSG for the transferring pupils therefore does not have an impact on the schools block budget that has been presented to the Schools Forum.

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

## Schools Block Budget 2007-08

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

It is therefore confirmed that the DSG exceeds the agreed Schools Block budget by £200,000. It is proposed that the use of this small surplus is added to the Contingency Budget which is set out below.

### (b) Contingency Budget

At the Schools Forum meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 it was agreed that information would be brought to the following meeting on the potential demands on the contingency budget within the Schools Block. The original contingency budget was £115K but it can be supplemented to £166K by adding the 2006/07 underspend. Furthermore, it is proposed to supplement this amount by adding the surplus DSG described above. This information is set out in the table below. It should be noted that the Admissions Appeals process may not be finalised until July or August, therefore there may be a further pressure on the contingency budget once admissions to schools in September are known.

Reason	Schools affected	Notes	£	Status
4% "trigger" funding – formula	Bridlewood, Orchid Vale, Haydonleigh; funding available to other schools through the formula	It is expected that the three schools mentioned will receive formula "trigger" funding; other schools may be entitled dependent on NOR at next School Census.	21,911	Required – Funding Formula
New Schools funding - formula	Red Oaks, Orchid Vale	Per pupil funding for additional pupils admitted subsequent to budget share being determined. There may be further costs dependent on admissions.	69,195	Required – Funding Formula
"One-off" additional pupils funding – outside formula	Red Oaks, Orchid Vale	Agreed by Schools Forum 28.3.07	22,580	Paid
Orchid Vale set up – outside formula	Orchid Vale	Change of budget available	3,316	Paid. Future claims are not within

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

## Schools Block Budget 2007-08

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

				the Formula
Admission of additional pupils in North Swindon	Haydonleigh (awaiting confirmation), Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte	Schools requested to accept up to 26 additional Year R pupils to ensure sufficient spaces available. These schools had planned staffing reductions to balance budget that will not now take effect. Support to recognise cost to school for balance of financial year using 7/12 M4 grade.	44,427 – to be agreed	Outside the Formula
NNDR (rates) – formula	All new schools	The Valuation Office expect this information to be available Sept 07	Not known	Within ISB
“One-off” loss of pupils funding – outside formula	Bridlewood	Unforeseen loss of 15% pupils at opening of new schools	To be agreed	Outside the formula
SScAMP Database funding	Continuation of SScAMP project for all schools	Support for the purchase of SScAMP which will require further financial support from another source	15,000	Pressure on centrally retained budget
<b>Known total</b>		<b>Potential further costs not known</b>	<b>176,429</b>	
<b>Contingency Budget 07/08 plus proposed carry forward from 2006-07</b>			<b>166,000</b>	
<b>Known Shortfall</b>			<b><u>10,429</u></b>	
<b>Surplus DSG</b>		<b>Support for all further costs</b>	<b>200,000</b>	

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

## Schools Block Budget 2007-08

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

Specifically in regard to 2.1 (b) above, a proposal in respect of the request raised by Bridlewood Primary School and brought to the attention of the Schools Forum at its last meeting is shown at Appendix B.

Finally, The Schools Forum is advised that in line with Regulation 20 of the School Finance (England) Regulations 2006, the set up costs for Isambard Community School will need to be met from the 2007/08 DSG. Currently there is no provision within the DSG for these costs. The LA is working with the school to quantify the value required for 2007/08 and will work to try and contain this pressure within the overall retained budget of the DSG.

### (c) Devolved Formula Capital

It has come to the attention of the Local Authority that PFI schools should have been provided with Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant for financial year 2007-08. This is a change to the DfES regulations for 2007-08, which now state that PFI schools should received 30% of a DFC entitlement. The DfES allocation for this authority has already been allocated to schools, including a "top-up" amount because the allocation exceeded the grant originally expected. The "top-up" allocation is £167K, and the proposed re-allocation to PFI schools is £94K . It is therefore proposed that the "top-up" element of DFC is re-allocated to allow the intended grant to go to PFI schools, with the balance to form a reduced "top-up" grant for all schools (other than PFI schools). The Schools Forum is requested to recommend this course of action.

### Alternative Options

- The Schools Forum may recommend an alternative to the proposals referred to above. However, the Schools Forum should be aware that any overspend of the contingency budget will need to be met from another area of the Schools Block.
- Any surplus or deficit in the DSG may be carried forward to the following financial year

### **Risk Management**

#### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

The final DSG is required to fund the Schools Block budget. Any increase or decrease in the final amount received compared to the projected DSG may either be dealt with within the Schools Block budget, or carried forward to the next financial year. It may not be used for any purpose outside of the Schools Block. Local Authority funds may be used to support Schools Block expenditure.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

## Schools Block Budget 2007-08

Schools Forum

27 June 2007

---

### *Legal / Human Rights Implications*

The DSG may only be used within the terms of the Schools Finance (England) Regulations 2007

### *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

Promise 45 states "We will make sure that schools will be at the heart of each community"

---

### **Consultees**

- 

### **Background Papers and Appendices**

- Appendix A – Final DSG Calculation
- Appendix B – Proposal regarding Bridlewood Primary School

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lorraine Billis on 01793 465752 or Email [lbillis@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbillis@swindon.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank

# Appendix A - Comparison of Final DSG 2007-08 with previous estimates

2007/08

	Govt. Projection Jan 06	Govt. Projection Nov 06 (incl Academy adjust)	LEA Projection reported to Schools Forum 31.01.07	LEA Projection Jan 07 Pupil Census	Govt. Actual June 07 - includes adjustment for Academy pupils
Pupil Numbers	29,100	28,852	29,398	29,634	28,708
Unit Cost	£'s 3,597	£'s 3,597	£'s 3,597	£'s 3,597	£'s 3,597
Total DSG excluding additional funding below	103,207,499	102,315,470	104,279,372	105,128,238	101,797,374
Additional Funding					
KS3 Personalised Learning DSG 1.8.06	731,000	731,000	731,000	731,000	731,000
Primary Personalised Learning DSG 1.8.06	464,000	464,000	464,000	464,000	464,000
Practical Learning option 14-16 DSG 1.8.06	267,000	267,000	267,000	267,000	267,000
Sub Total	1,462,000	1,462,000	1,462,000	1,462,000	1,462,000
<b>Announced/proposed DSG</b>	104,669,499	103,777,470	105,741,372	106,590,238	103,259,374

Adjustment to DSG for Academy Pupils (7/12 Sept - March)

2,481,930

Comparison to LEA projection reported to Schools Forum 31.01.07

105,741,304

This page is intentionally left blank



**Bridlewood Primary School**

<b>Bridlewood</b>			<b>Expected</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	<b>Jan-06</b>		<b>Jan-07</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Jan-07</b>	<b>Budget</b>
R	56		30		30	
1	30		56		41	
2	46		30		30	
3	16		46		40	
4	11		16		14	
5	16		11		5	
6	9		16		17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>477,084</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>515,072</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>460,174</b>

<b>Red Oaks</b>			<b>Expected</b>	<b>Expected</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	<b>Jan-06</b>		<b>Jan-07</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Jan-07</b>	<b>Budget</b>
R	60				61	
1	20				51	
2	15				48	
3	6				43	
4	12				38	
5	3				25	
6	1				16	
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>282</b>	

It was brought to the attention of the Schools Forum at its last meeting on 28th March 2007 that Bridlewood Primary School had requested whether Paragraph 5.8.4.3 of the Formula applied in their circumstance. The Paragraph states "where a school is undergoing a reduction in pupil numbers involving transfer of pupils to another school (for example where a new school opens..) the school will be funded for a maximum of two financial years on the basis of the places to be offered by the school during the year....The number of places will be agreed by the Director..."

The transfer of pupils was a voluntary transfer by parents and was not requested or anticipated by the Local Authority. It would therefore not have been appropriate to agree to fund a specific number of places prior to the opening of the new school. It is believed therefore that this Paragraph would not apply in this circumstance.

However, the Schools Forum may wish to take into account the following:

15% of pupils transferred to the new schools after decisions had been made to resource an expected increase in NOR

Bridlewood carried forward a surplus balance both in 2005-06 and 2006-07, the agreed purpose being to support a falling NOR

Bridlewood is expected to submit a balanced budget 2007-08 although it is projecting a deficit in future years.

The proposal of the Local Authority is that Bridlewood Primary School is not provided with additional funding at this time, but that there will be a review following the autumn pupil census to determine whether the transfer of pupils is continuing and the projected impact on the school's budget 2007-08.

This page is intentionally left blank