



Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011 (consultation version 28.2.2008)

Swindon has published a new Community Strategy *A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008 – 2030* and a new Local Area Agreement. We want to use this opportunity to publish a new Children & Young People's Plan. It has enabled us to review and refresh our existing priorities for children and young people so that ***all children and young people have the best start in life*** and do well.

In relation to children and young people, we have seen population changes. There has been an 11% increase in the birth rate for Swindon in 2007. We have many more families continuing to arrive from minority ethnic communities (Asia in particular) and Europe and there are more children with dual heritage in our schools. There are now 91 languages spoken in schools.

Economically Swindon is thriving with many major UK companies choosing Swindon as their head office, high average earnings and a high rate of new company start-ups. Significant challenges remain as the aspirations and educational attainment of young people is variable and high levels of health inequalities remain in the areas of disadvantage. The population is forecast to rise from 186,600 to 250,000 by 2030. More investment is needed to ensure community cohesion is maintained and that all residents can share the benefit of an economically successful Borough.

These new opportunities and challenges mean that we need to work with partners to address our key priorities outlined in the new Children & Young People's Plan. These have been developed through analysis of what is working well, and what still needs to be done, including the results of surveys of 2,000 children and young people, participation conferences with children, young people and parents and workshops with professionals (see www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan).

The full Children & Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011 will be published with a detailed action plan in June 2008. This will also include full financial information as well as sections on the further implementation of Every Child and Youth Matters through multi agency teams, work force development, and performance management and governance arrangements. These sections have not been included in this summary but are available on request from 10th March 2008.

Please use the attached questionnaire to comment on the draft Children & Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011 and return comments by 28th March 2008 to:

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Best Wishes
Hilary Pitts, Group Director Children

1. Vision

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.

Council's community leadership role is articulated in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 *A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008 - 2030*, Swindon 2010 Promises, Swindon Corporate Plan and Swindon's Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011. . The Children's Services vision and priorities reflect the overall vision of the Council.

2. Priorities

Local Area Agreement priority 1

- Halt the year on year rise in obesity in children aged 11 (NI56)
- Reduce all age mortality across Swindon (NI120)

Local Area Agreement Priority 2

- Reduce the referral rate to social care 410 per 10,000 and increase referrals going to initial assessment to 60% by 2011 (NI68).

Local Area Agreement Priority 3

- Improve achievement of all children and young people, particularly at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 to above that of similar authorities
- Narrow the gap for children who are vulnerable so that no more than 30% achieve less than their peers at Key Stages 4 (16 national indicators).

Local Area Agreement Priority 4

- Reduce teenage conception rates to 24 per 1,000 (NI112).

Local Area Agreement Priority 5

- Increase young people's involvement in positive activities with a recorded outcome to 75% by 2011 (NI 110).

Local Area Agreement Priority 6

- Reduce the percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 not in education training or employment to 5% by 2011 (NI117).

Multi Agency Teams

In 2008 services for all children and young people and those with additional needs will be delivered through five multi agency teams:

- North
- Central North
- Central South
- South
- Integrated Services for disabled children and young people

Children's social care services for children in need and those in need of protection will be loc-located with the geographically based teams. There will be a specialist service for children and young people in care.

The following priorities have been identified for each area

Priorities for North Area

- Reducing the percentage of young men aged 16 - 18 who are not in education, training or employment;
- Improving educational achievement for children aged 7 (Key Stage 1) and 11 years (Key Stage 2);

Priorities for Central North

- Reducing the percentage of children living in poverty;
- Improving the percentage of young people with five good GCSE (grade A* – C);
- Improving breastfeeding rates;
- Improve school attendance of girls at secondary school.

Priorities for Central South

- Ensure services and schools address the needs of children with an increasing number and range of languages and the number of children with English as an additional language;
- Increase educational achievement of all children and children and young people in care;

- Reduce number of young people aged 16 – 18 not in education, training or employment;
- Reduce teenage conception rates for young women under 18 years old.

Priorities for South

- Identify and address the needs of an increasing number of children from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities and eastern Europe ensuring links between services, schools and families;
- Improve educational achievement for young people with five good GCSEs and increase the number of young people entering work based learning and further education.

3. Participation of children, young people and families

This plan has been developed with the participation of children, young people, parents and carers throughout conferences, workshops, meetings and surveys in 2007.

- Tell Us Survey completed by 1,198 children and young people on line during May 2007. This survey was part of a national survey conducted by Ofsted with children in year 6 (11 year olds), 8 (13 year olds) and 10 (15 year olds). Swindon's sample was significantly higher than most other local authorities giving confidence in the judgements made by young people;
- Two conferences with 40 – 50 young people at each event in February and November 2007, where young people completed activities on specific priorities in workshops and shared the results with professionals. The workshops focused on addressing bullying, better sex, relationship and drug education and task groups have been established with young people to develop actions on reducing bullying and improved sex & relationship and substance misuse education;
- A survey of 800 young people through the Connexions service focusing on issues young people raise in their local areas and where and how young people would like to seek help and support;
- A survey of 440 pre-school children and those using after school care about the activities children would like more of;
- Discussions with the Youth Forum representing the views of young people on issues that matter to them;
- Parents of disabled children are members of the Disabled Children's Partnership Board and have advised on developing a Direct Payment Scheme. Participation by parents has led to the development of resource centres on the sites of mainstream schools

4. Be Healthy – A healthy, caring and supportive community

Our Goal: Improve the health and well-being of children and young people and provide better care for all

What is going well?

- Physical health of children is good, 95% of children immunised at age 2 and 85% of children immunised aged 5 against Mumps, Measles and Rubella and 78% of mothers breastfeeding at birth;
- Schools actively promote the health of children and young people with 73% of schools having achieved the healthy schools status;
- Health of children in care is good with 90% having a health assessment
- 57 young people accessing substance misuse treatment in December 2007 up from 40 in April 07;
- 86% of children have access to hot school lunch against target of 73% for 2007
- At Robert le Kyng Children's Centre, there has been a 100% reduction in the level of depression in mothers following the introduction of a post natal depression group;

Services for disabled children are good and are now co-located at the Saltway centre including the Child development centre. As requested by parents, they can access a holistic integrated service and their children can now be assessed in a familiar environment.

What do children and young people and their parents say?

- Based on a local survey of 1,100 children and young people most young people say they are very or quite healthy;
- Young people at the conferences said that they wanted good health and sexual health and relationships and drugs education. In particular young people want sex and relationship and drugs education delivered by qualified and confident staff other than teachers. The majority of young people are aware of health risks. The Tell Us survey found that the majority of young people (78%) said they had never smoked (73% nationally, Tell Us Survey).

Where do we need to improve?

Reduce all age mortality and thereby infant mortality because:

- In the past smoking in pregnancy has been higher in Swindon (17%) than the national average (16%) contributing towards the higher than average percentage of infant mortality rates.

Halt the year on year rise in obesity among children because

- Obesity in children and young people is rising nationally and is affecting their long-term health. Swindon Primary Care Trust (PCT) reception year children obesity rate was 10.5% compared to 10% nationally and 18% in year 6 compared to 17.3% nationally. We know that breastfeeding is important in improving the physical health of babies and promotes a healthy lifestyle and reducing the risk of obesity. Breastfeeding at birth has been good with an increase from 72% in 2005/06 to 78% (September 2007). However, breastfeeding reduces significantly at eight weeks, particularly in areas of disadvantage. School food provision is an important factor in ensuring that children and young people eat healthily while at school. This includes breakfast clubs, school lunch, vending, and break time provision.

Promote children's mental health and build resilience because

- Children with good emotional and social skills, high levels of confidence and resilience are more likely to achieve their full potential. A large number of children and young people require specialist mental health services each year. In the first six months of 2007/08 there were 752 referrals to the Primary Mental Health service compared to 1,188 for the whole of 2006/07.

**Next Steps on targets and priorities for action 2008 – 2011
(Targets and detail on action to be confirmed)**

Local Area Agreement priority

Reduce all age mortality including infant mortality through

- Implementation of Maternity Matters through 14 children's centres reaching 14,000 children by 2011 so that children have the best start in life and the level of low birth weight babies and rates of infant mortality reduce;
- Delivering a targeted programme for parents-to-be from minority ethnic communities and diverse backgrounds through 11 phase 1 and phase 2 children's centres so that children and families access services at the earliest opportunity by 2010 and thereby promote healthy lifestyles;
- Roll out the learning from Sure Start to the Midwifery and Health Visiting Service in other children's centres to reach more mothers in areas of disadvantage.

Halt the rise in obesity by 2010 (NI55/56), through the:

- Integration of children's services between Swindon PCT and Swindon Borough Council through co-located four multi agency teams including 14 children's centres by 2009/10;
- Development and implementation of the Health Inequalities Plan;
- Development of the Public Health Role and Service Model for Public Health Nurses within multi agency teams to support the health improvement agenda around sexual & relationship education, links with contraceptive services, child obesity, looked after children, smoking cessation and give parents basic health messages in diet and nutrition by 2009;
- Implementation of the School Meals Strategy Action Plan 2008-10 and increase number of pupils taking a school meal that meets Food and Nutritional standards;
- Completion of a common assessment and offer a lead professional from Targeted Youth Support Services and children's centres for 100% of young mothers by 2009 so that they are supported in caring for their child;
- Implementation of evidenced based parenting programmes in all 14 children's centres by 2011 supported by parenting advisers and reaching vulnerable parents to reduce inequalities;
- Implementation of the nationally proposed parent held personal progress record covering early years and transition to primary school so each parent has a holistic record of their child's milestones;
- Implementation of the recommendations of the National Child Health Strategy across 14 children's centres and 5 multi-agency teams by 2011.

Additional Children's Services Priority

Promote emotional health of children (NI50) through:

- Implement Review of Primary Mental Health Service so that children receive appropriate intervention early and reduce the need for specialist services in 2009;
- Implement a Targeted Mental Health in Schools Programme in 2008 in 4 secondary schools and cluster primaries to build resilience and positive behaviour of children in areas of disadvantage. This will contribute to raising aspirations and attainment and ensure access for children from minority ethnic communities and diverse backgrounds;
- Implement a service specification for Specialist Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services and Services for Disabled Children leading to improvement in outcomes.

Local Priorities

Central North and North

- Target mothers- to-be through children's centres so that the percentage of women breast feeding increases and their support needs are addressed, particularly those moving into the northern area.

Central South and South

- Work with schools, agencies and staff in developing culturally competent services so that the needs of a growing population from minority ethnic communities and those from Eastern Europe are addressed.

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines will be detailed in the CYPP Action Plan at:

www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan

5. Stay Safe – A caring and supportive community

Our Goal: Safeguard the young and vulnerable

What is going well?

- The common assessment has been effectively implemented thereby improving the support, planning and co-ordination for vulnerable children and reducing inequality in access to services. 200 children and young people identified in 2007 had a joint plan agreed and a lead professional allocated as a single point of contact so that services are co-ordinated and improve outcomes for each child;
- There is evidence that following an assessment services are put in place and are good in avoiding a repeat referral for social work services from Children & Families. The repeat -referral rate for social work has reduced from 23% in 2006/07 to 22.6% (Nov 2007);
- Outcomes for children on the Child Protection register are good with 100% of reviews completed on time and qualified social work staff allocated;
- Outcomes for children and young people in care are good with 90% of children in stable short term placements and 66% in long term stable placement (56% in April 07).

What do children and young people say

- Three quarters of children say they feel safe in their local area and over 95% feel safe at home and school;
- Young people said they worried most about exams, friendships, being healthy, school-work and bullying (Tell Us Survey). If worried the vast majority of young people talk to their friends (73%), followed by family members (37%) and teachers (17%). Telephone help lines, sports coaches and youth workers accounted for less than 6% each.

Where do we need to improve?

Reduce bullying among children and young people because

- Children and young people said they continue to be concerned about bullying at school during the consultation events with up to 50 young people in February and November 2007. There is a need to extend the effective local programmes across more schools. Those children who participated in Go Zone and Rainbow groups run by the Children's Fund in schools felt more confident in dealing with bullying.

Reduce the rate of referrals to specialist social care and improve the assessment process to ensure that referrals and assessments are at appropriate levels because

- increased early intervention through use of the common assessment and work on thresholds with schools and agencies has led to a reduction in the referral rate for social work (442 per 1,000 children) but is still above the rate of similar authorities (411 per 10,000). Of those children referred, the percentage of children who receive an initial assessment improved but there has been a reduction in the completion of assessments on time from 68% in 2006/07 to 56% (Nov 2007).
- We want to continue to improve early intervention and strengthening family stability so that the number of looked after children reduces
- The number of children in care has reduced to 235 following the success of Family Group Conferences but the number remains above those of similar authorities. The Swindon 2010 Promise is to reduce the children in care to 220.

Review child protection registrations because

- There has been an increase in children registered on the Child Protection Register in the first six months of 2007/8 leading to an overall rise from 90 children in March 2007 to 110 in January 2008. Child protection processes and each case was reviewed to ensure consistency and safety of children and the level of registrations has been similar in the second six months

Next Steps on priorities for action 2008 – 2011 (Targets and detail on action to be confirmed)

Local Area Agreement Priority

Reduce the referral rate to social care (410 as 442 currently projected for 07/08) per 10,000) and increase referrals going to initial assessment to 60% by 2011 (NI68) by:

- Continuing improvements in the Referral & Assessment team to undertake timely and good quality initial assessments thereby reducing the number of inappropriate child protection (Section 47) investigations;
- Co-location of the Referral & Assessment Team with four-multi agency teams so that a seamless service between targeted and specialist services is established;
- Implementation of four multi agency teams delivering holistic targeted services for vulnerable children, undertaking common assessments and lead professional role so that the number of children referred to specialist services reduces and children receive services at the earliest opportunity;

- Implement Parenting Support Strategy across all agencies with additional Parenting Support advisers in 12 school clusters and expert parenting advisers so that vulnerable children are identified early and the number of referrals to social care reduce to 411 per 10,000;
- Re-commissioning of 14 targeted family support services in line with the Parenting Support Strategy with a requirement on all service providers to undertake common assessment, lead professional role and delivery of individual parenting support in the home in 2009 to achieve family stability;
- Deliver a targeted programme for 20 children and mothers who have experienced domestic violence in 2008 rising to 50 children and parents in 2010 building improvements in resilience in children and increase capacity of the parent.

Additional Children's Services Priority

Reduce bullying among children and young people:

- Establish a group of children and young people who establish what actions needs to be taken in schools to reduce bullying;
- Increase the number of schools who achieve the Anti Bullying Accreditation Standard to 30 by 2011.

Reduce the number of looked after children to 220 by 2010 by:

- Implementing Adolescent Support Project to reduce the number of young people becoming looked after;
- Implement targeted mental health support in 4 secondary school clusters (reaching 20 schools) strengthening resilience of children and parenting capacity of parents and thereby promoting family stability by 2011;
- Ensure the Targeted Mental Health Programmes reaches children from minority ethnic communities by developing the programme in partnership with parents and carers.

Reduce the number of children placed with independent providers outside Swindon to 33 by 2010:

- Complete Gateway and tendering process for a regional residential procurement with service providers established, to achieve better outcomes for children and young people by 2009;
- Increase provision of short term breaks for disabled children and young people by 2011.

Local Priorities

The North

- Work with young people through Integrated Youth Services in developing ways of reducing bullying, as it was the issue young people were concerned about.

Central North and Central South

- Work with schools and multi agency teams in identifying vulnerable children earlier and address their needs and reduce the referrals to children's social care and the number of children on the Child Protection Register.

South

- Implement Targeted Mental Health in Schools project in developing culturally competent services so that the needs of a growing population from minority ethnic communities and those from Eastern Europe are addressed.

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Actions at

www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan

6. Enjoy and Achieve – A place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages

Our Goal: Raise the educational achievement of all children. Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers

What is going well?

- We have implemented the School Improvement Partner arrangements ahead of time and our process has been rated good by the National Strategies. The Quality and Standards Directorate carries a rigorous challenge and support programme across all school to ensure improving standards. Results are good in primary schools with Key Stage 1 and 2 results above national average and in line with similar authorities;
- Progress of establishing children's centres for children under 5 is good. The implementation of a substantial training programme by the Early Years Team has ensured significant progress in the implementation of the new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and progress of children at Foundation Stage is good;
- The secondary strategy team works intensively with targeted secondary subject departments. At Key Stage 3 results improved significantly in 2007, so that English and science are in line with the national average;
- Targeted intervention and support by the local authority has improved results in schools through a range of initiatives such as such as the Intensifying Support Programme, The number of schools, where children were doing less well in both English and maths, reduced from six schools in 2006 to two schools in 2007 demonstrating the success of LA initiatives such as work with boys on reading and writing;
- The number of schools in special measures in the borough has reduced to zero as a result of LA Task Group activity;
- The diversity and ethnic minority achievement team are working to ensure BME pupils make progress in their schooling so that now children from minority ethnic communities achieve well at Key Stage 4;
- School attendance is good with less than 7.3% of young people in secondary schools missing half days of education;
- Good support is in place supporting the process of developing a statement of educational needs. 100% of statements were issued within 18 weeks and this performance is in the top 25% nationally;
- Significant numbers of children and young people visit museums every year. By November 2007 8,072 visits had taken place.

What do children and young people say?

- 60% of children and young people said they enjoyed school always/most of the time in the Tell Us Survey, a similar picture to the nationally;
- Nearly half (47%) of children and young people said they need a little more/better things to do;
- 430 pre-school (aged 3 – 4), and 215 out of school (aged 5 – 11) children took part in the survey to find out their preferred activities. Pre-school girls like painting while boys prefer playing on bikes and scooters. Pre-school boys like reading less than girls. Out of school children want to play outside, watch TV and play computer games, and do activities like cooking, art and sport.

Where do we need to improve?

We want to improve achievement of young people at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 because:

- Results at Key Stage 3 have improved but are below the national average in maths. At Key Stage 4 results are less satisfactory. At secondary level, the Borough average is still below the national average. There was a national improvement of 2.8% in students achieving 5+A*-C GCSE to 62%, but in Swindon the percentage rose just 0.8% to 54.3%. For the first time in three years Swindon has failed to close the gap with the national average. Children in Swindon do not progress as well from Key Stage 2 (11 years) to Key Stage 4 (GCSE).

We want to narrow the gap for children who are vulnerable and don't do as well as their peers because:

- Significant numbers of primary aged children have continued to arrive over the past two years from Europe and Asia (the Indian subcontinent). At Key Stage 1 and 2 results for Indian children in writing rise slowly as pupils have English as an additional language. Progress is also slower for children from 'white other' background, which includes children from Eastern Europe;
- Educational attainment of children in care at Key Stage 3 was low as the cohort included 50% with special educational needs. The percentage of young people in care with 5+GCSE A* - C is 11%, in line with similar authorities but below the Swindon average. Numbers are too small for statistical analysis but too few children match the Borough average at all levels;
- Young people living in areas of disadvantage and attending secondary school have a lower level of achievement than other children, particularly children living in Penhill, Gorse Hill & Pinehurst;

- Young carers in Swindon are significantly underachieving at GCSE. Young carers achieved 29.6% 5+ A*-C GCSEs compared to a Swindon average of 54%.

Next Steps on priorities for action 2008 – 2011 (Targets and detail on action to be confirmed)

Local Area Agreement Priority

Improve achievement of all children and young people, particularly at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 to above that of similar authorities by:

- Disseminate the findings of the successful transfer and transition project and develop a plan to roll out to all secondary schools by 2011 in order to improve progress measures so that the contextual value added scores for all secondary schools are positive for KS2 to KS3.
- Extend the Every Child a Reader programme through part funding individual or clusters of schools to employ and train specialist Reading Recovery teachers
- Implement the Every Child Counts programme (roll out 2010-11)
- Implement the Improving Schools Programme (formerly the Intensifying Support Programme) in primary schools performing below the 65% floor target in English or maths and in under-performing and/or coasting schools
- Through the implementation of the GCSE Additionally Project support secondary schools to increase and target the provision of activities designed to raise aspirations and continue to reduce within school variation to less than a 20% difference in GCSE outcomes between subjects
- Support secondary schools to improve the quality of leadership and management at all levels so that a significant percentage are judged to be good
- Support secondary schools to build on existing strategies and develop further strategies to improve the quality of teaching and learning so that a significant percentage of lessons are judged to be good
- Implement the national diploma programme so that students have the entitlement of access to all 14 diplomas by 2013
- Build three primary schools in Wichelstowe and expand secondary school places to meet demands for school places

Narrow the gap for children who are vulnerable so that no more than 30% achieve less than their peers at Key Stages 4 by:

- Supporting 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, including targeted information sessions for parents at school transition stages;

- 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 KS 2 and 3;
- Building 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 and thereby increase attainment of vulnerable young people at Key Stage 4;
- Maintain personal education plans for all children and young people looked after, targeting Key Stage 3 and 4 and specific work at transition. Implement relevant section of 'Care Matters' so educational attainment increases;
- Work with schools to establish a programme whereby all schools have systems to deliver regular up to date information to parents about their child's academic progress, attendance and behaviour at school;
- Extend the offer of up to 15 hours free early years education and child care to children aged 2 in the phase 1 children's centre areas by 2011;
- Continue the delivery of MOLAG (Monitoring of Low Achieving Groups) data for schools so that children with special educational needs and those who are vulnerable make appropriate academic progress;

Local Priorities

The North and Central South

- Increase educational achievement of all children and children and young people in care and particularly for children aged 7 (Key Stage 1) and 11 years (Key Stage 2) in Central South.

Central North and South

- Improving the percentage of young people with five good GCSE (grade A – C);
- Improve school attendance of girls at secondary school as it is lower than the Borough average in Central North.

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Actions at

www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan

7. Make a Positive Contribution - A place where local people can have real influence and where they feel safe

Our Goal: Increase the number of young people on the critical path to success

What is going well?

- Participation of young people in service development is good with establishment of Youth Forum and regular conferences where professionals and young people come together. Young people in care participate well through reviews and corporate parenting strategy. Young people's participation has shaped the plans for the Youth centre at the railway Museum and the planned Book Bar in the new Library;
- 41 young people trained as grant makers have distributed Youth Opportunities Fund/Youth Bank grants of £333,160.39 to youth projects involving over 8,000 young people;
- The Youth Offending Team is effective in reducing offending with 252 first time offenders in December 2007 below target of 256;
- Opportunities for young people to volunteer have improved and are now satisfactory. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is available in all secondary schools and 1,000 young people are participating;
- Participation in the Youth Service has improved and is now satisfactory with 30% of young people participating in Youth Service activities (10% in 2006). Young people participating e.g. they have reached point 4 on the Youth Involvement Model is currently running at 16% (10% 2006/07) national benchmark 15%;
- There is good support for parents with vulnerable young people and addressing anti social behaviour. Successful partnership working with parents and New College has led to 200 parents voluntarily participating in parenting programmes with a 94.6% of young people not of re-offending;
- The Direct Payment Scheme for disabled young people has been evaluated and launched as a full scheme increasing the number of parents or young people participating from 9 to 12 in October 2007.

What do children and young people say?

- The participation of young people is good and young people have commented on the success of the Youth Forum and conferences held and wanting to be more involved in changing services;

- 57% of young people completing the Tell Us Survey said that their views were listened to at school compared to 52% nationally;
- 800 young people surveyed by Connexions said that they wanted more information through web sites, better premises for youth activities and more opportunities for accredited volunteering.

Where do we need to improve?

Reduce teenage conception rates and improve young people's sexual health because:

- Teenage conception rates are high at 45.7 per 1,000 15 – 17 year olds girls in 2006 (a small rise from 44.1 in 2005). Young people surveyed by Connexions were concerned about sexually transmitted infections.

Increase young people's participation in positive activities because:

- Young people consistently say that they would like a broader range of activities in their area and better access to leisure and youth facilities in their local area.

Reduce permanent exclusions overall and the rate of fixed term exclusions particularly for Black young people and those of dual heritage because:

- There were 23 permanent exclusions between September 2007 and January 2008 compared to 33 in 2006/07. There was also an increase in the number of young people from black and minority ethnic communities with a fixed term exclusion from 125 in 2005/06 to 147 in 2006/07.

Next Steps on priorities for action 2008 – 2011 (Targets and detail on action to be confirmed)

Local Area Agreement priority

Reduce teenage conception rates to 24 per 1,000 (NI112) by:

- Implementation of whole school approach to promoting and delivering good quality sexual health and relationship education in all secondary and primary schools by 2011;
- Targeting vulnerable young people in year 9 in areas of high teenage conception with targeted sex and relationship education by 2009;
- Commission the multi agency teams to deliver targeted sex and relationship advice and information for vulnerable young people identified through the common assessment to prevent conception;

- Ensure training of all lead professionals and youth workers in sexual health and relationship issues so they are able and competent in offering advice and information by 2010;
- Delivery of good quality contraceptive services meeting needs of teenagers and ensuring all teenage parents receive immediate contraceptive services;
- Support to teenage parents through allocation of lead professional ensuring support is in place delivered by Integrated Youth Support Services and children's centres;
- Implement Chlamydia screening programme in areas reaching 1,200 young people a year

Increase young people's involvement in positive activities with a recorded outcome to 75% by 2011 (NI 110) by:

- Develop an entitlement for all young people to participate in positive activities including sport, arts and culture so there is a diverse programme on offer;
- Target groups of young people through detached work who are currently not engaging in positive activities and develop programmes with them to increase their skills and aspirations;
- Continue Youth Banks in all four areas of the multi agency teams, where young people select and monitor projects that achieve improved outcomes;
- Ensure the publication of good quality information about opportunities to participate in a range of activities that reach all young people;
- Improve access to leisure, sport, arts and culture for children in care and disabled young people so all of them have the opportunity to learn new skills and strengthen their resilience and self confidence;
- Develop and deliver training for staff to deliver Aiming High for Young People equipping staff with the skills to promote community cohesions and resilience and self-confidence in young people.

Additional children's services priority

Reducing fixed term and permanent exclusions among young people in secondary schools to 20% below the levels in similar authorities by 2011 by:

- Increase access to support for parents through parenting support advisers and targeted parenting programmes such as 24/7 enabling parents to identify risk taking behaviour early and seek advice by 2009;
- Ensure all young people with three fixed term exclusions have a common assessment in place and lead professional allocated to prevent further exclusions by 2010;

- Analyse the information from 20 common assessments on Black young people and those of dual heritage to identify common factors leading to exclusion by 2009.

Local Priorities

North, Central North and Central South

- Reduce teenage conception rates, particularly in those wards with high rates such as Abbey Meads, Covingham & Nythe, Parks and Penhill and ensure good delivery of sex and relationship education

South

- Address the concerns by 70% of young people surveyed about sexually transmitted infections and bullying

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Actions at

www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan

8. Achieve Economic Well-Being – Swindon, a destination of choice

Our Goal: Increase the number of young people making a successful transition to further education, training and work. Half the number of children living in poverty

What is going well?

- Good partnership work and sharing of good practice by the sixth form college and schools with a sixth form has increased the performance of young people at A Levels;
- More vocational education is in place through three new diplomas being developed, which will start in September 2008;
- More young people enter apprenticeships;
- Services for disabled young people are effective and 85% were in education, training or employment in November 2007. Connexions and specialist children's social care services have improved the joint work with care leavers and this has led to good performance for care leavers aged 19 in education, training and employment;
- The quality and provision of child-care in Swindon has been good and increased through children's centres and private providers. Two further nurseries with 87 places opening in March 2008.
- Seven out of school/holiday clubs have opened in the last year providing 200 additional places and pre-schools have created 104 additional places.
- Sure Start Local Programme helped 21 people back into work or training;
- 17% of eligible families took up the childcare element of working tax credit. This is an increase of 1% and is above the national average of 16%.

What do children and young people say?

- UK Youth Parliament elections are due to place and Swindon will have a newly elected UK Youth MP and a Deputy in March 2008;
- 800 young people surveyed by Connexions said they wanted more information, advice and guidance about a range of topics delivered through schools (56%) and youth centres (14%).

Where do we need to improve?

Reduce the percentage of young people not in education training or employment because:

- The current rate has significantly reduced to 6.1% and is now in line with similar authorities but there are still over 400 young people at any one time with no education or training. There is a need to increase young people's skill base so that they are able to compete in an increasingly diverse labour market. Our data shows that the majority of young people who are unemployed live in areas of disadvantage reinforcing inequalities in those areas.

Next Steps on priorities for action 2008 – 2011 (Targets and detail on action to be confirmed)

Local Area Agreement Priority

Reduce the percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 not in education training or employment to 5% by 2011 (NI117) by:

- Continued implementation of the Strategy promoting education, training and employment so more young people have a good skills base including better tracking and financial incentives to learning;
- Implementation of three diplomas in 2008 and one in 2009 across a partnership of schools and colleges increasing the offer of vocational skills based courses for young people;
- Improve completion of Apprenticeships by learners in Swindon (how many and by when?);
- Develop proposals for three new diplomas in humanities, science and languages by 2011 to increase options and skills for young people.

Additional Children's Services priorities

Increase the percentage of young people with level 2 qualifications at the age of 19 to 10% above levels in similar authorities:

- Deliver actions in aim 2 of 14-19 strategy implementation plan (raising aspirations of young people and significantly increase engagement in learning);
- 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);
- Ensure the delivery of good quality delivery of the 14 – 19 offer for young people reaching particularly vulnerable young people and those in areas of disadvantage.

Local Priorities

North, Central South, Central North and South

- Reduce the rate of young people not in education, training or employment, particularly in those wards with high rates such as Abbey Meads, Parks, Penhill and Toothill.

The necessary actions, lead officers and timelines are detailed in CYPP Action Plan Actions at

www.swindon.gov.uk/cypsp/children_youngpeoples_plan

Consultation Questionnaire

Draft Children & Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011

Please use the attached questionnaire to comment on the draft Children & Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011 and return comments by 28th March 2008 to: Michelle Pretorius, Strategy & Commissioning, Swindon borough Council, Sanford House, Sanford Street, Swindon SN1 1QH or email to Michelle Pretorius at mpretorius@swindon.gov.uk

Name	<input type="text"/>
Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>

1. Do you wish to comment on the vision in Section 1?

2. Do you wish to comment on the Local Area Agreement and Local priorities identified in Section 2?

3. Do you wish to comment on the actions identified in Section 3 - Be Healthy?

4. Do you wish to comment on the actions identified in Section 4 – Stay Safe?

5. Do you wish to comment on the actions identified in Section 5 – Enjoy and Achieve?

6. Do you wish to comment on the actions identified in Section 6 – Make a Positive Contribution?

7. Do you wish to comment on the actions identified in Section 7 – Enjoy Economic Well-Being?

8. Do you have additional information about how services have improved outcomes for children, young people and parents that you would wish to add to the Children & Young People's Plan?

Please note that if you are filing this in electronically, the reply boxes will expand to accommodate the text.