

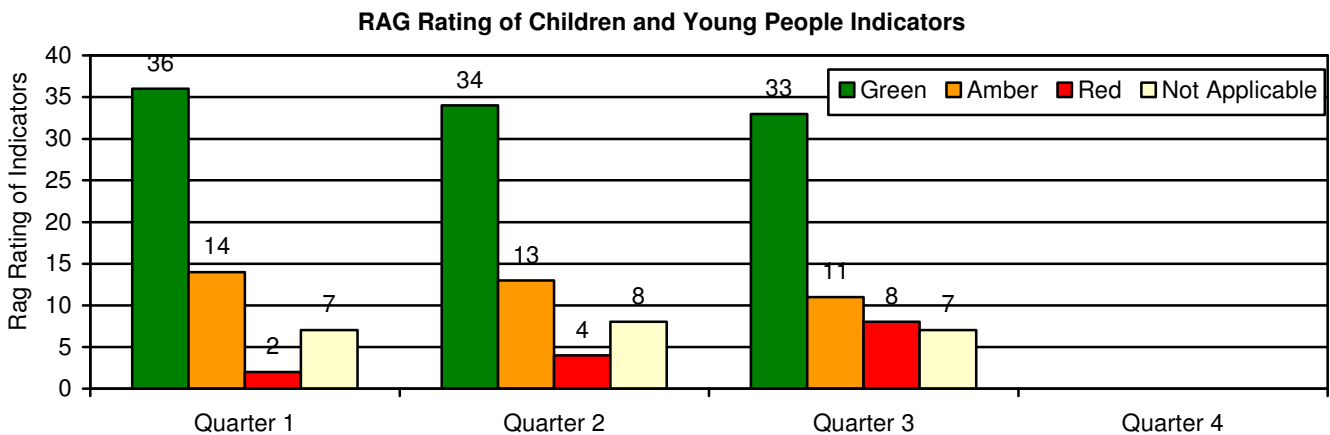


Children and Young Peoples Plan - Quarter Three Highlight Performance Report
(1st October – 31st December 2008)

This report provides information on the overall performance of those indicators considered to be key in improving services for Children’s and Young People in Staffordshire as reflected in the Thematic Improvement Plan.

Delivery against the priorities included within the Children and Young Peoples Plan continues to progress well. Of the 59 Children and Young People Plan indicators, 55.9% have a risk assessment of green; 18.6% have a risk assessment of amber (these indicators although currently not on track, are being closely monitored, with robust plans in place to ensure performance is improved and maintained), 13.6% has a risk assessment of red and 11.9% have been classified as not applicable as there is no current target information available for these indicators.

There has been an increase this quarter in the number of indicators risk assessed as red (from four in quarter two to eight in quarter three), this is partly due to increased focus on whether what is being delivered is in line with agreed plans/strategy’s and internal quality assurance of the information presented. These indicators will be closely monitored through the Children and Young Peoples Planning and Performance Group (this is the children and young peoples thematic partnership performance management group), as they form part of the Children and Young Peoples Plan to ensure that there are robust plans/actions in place to bring performance back on track.



Of those indicators that have been risk assessed as green within the quarter three performance report, two of these 33 indicators have been highlighted as strong greens, this is where performance of the indicator has well exceeded the target for 2008/09. These indicators have shown excellent progress in delivery and performance, demonstrating an outcome focused approach to planning, collaboration and delivery to improve services for Children and Young People in Staffordshire. These indicators are as follows:

NI 111: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17: Local performance information for this indicator recorded by Staffordshire Youth Offending Service, shows a 66% reduction in the number of first time entrants compared to the same period last year (quarter three 2007/08 to quarter three 2008/09). The current projected outturn is 388 against the target of 1471 (lower outturn is positive for this indicator). This performance is as a result of improved joint working between Staffordshire Police, Youth Offending Service and Staffordshire County Council, enabling programmes to be

appropriate to the needs of young people, increasing preventative work with partners and targeted in the right areas of the County aimed at preventing young people entering youth justice system.

CYP 3.5.2: Number of young people aged 16 and under participating in Local Authority organised sports development and active recreation programmes: The performance of this indicator continues to improve, and it is highly anticipated that the performance of this indicator will exceed the annual target based on year to date figures; Target 2008/09: 60499, Performance year to date: 73457. It should be noted that the annual target for this indicator has had to be revised from 84,537 to 60,499 as Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council have recalculated that some of their original baseline figures were actually attributable to indicator CYP 3.5.1 attendances of under 16 year olds at sport and cultural facilities, and therefore were included within the wrong indicator. The 3.5.1 indicator target has been amended to reflect this. This improved performance is due to increased partnership working between District Council and the School and Sports Partnership, which has enabled more varied activities to be on offer, meeting the needs of young people, with many taking place during the school holidays, these holiday activities being very popular with children and young people.

Of those indicators that have been risk assessed as red or amber within the quarter three performance report, the eight that have been assessed as red have been highlighted, as although there are concerns over the current performance of these indicators, measures are being taken to ensure that robust plans with clear accountability and challenge are being put in place, thereby ensuring progress should begin to travel in the correct direction to demonstrate improvement although not necessarily the achievement of the target.

NI 56: Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6: The performance of this indicator has been highlighted as red as provisional data available from National Child Measurement Programme indicators that there has been an increase in both North and South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust in the number of children recorded as obese in year 6. (16.8 to 19% in south Staffordshire and 18.8% to 19.4% in north Staffordshire). This rise in obesity levels may be as a result of the increase in coverage that has occurred across Staffordshire, which would naturally increase the number of children identified as obese. However, despite this apparent increase, there is a robust delivery plan in place that is being progressed and is being delivered on target across the Primary Care Trusts and partners within the Children's Healthy Weight Group. It should be noted that when reviewing this data that it is based on trend only and not the true data set. This true data set will not be available until 2009/2010.

NI 64: Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more: The performance of this indicator has declined consistency on the 2007/2008 outturn, falling from 4.7% to 7.3%, a decline of 2.6% (lower outturn is positive for this indicator), therefore as this point in time there is concern that the target for this indicator will not be achieved, however, activity and delivery of services that support this indicator are on track, practice recognises that children and young people should not require a child protection plan for more than two years as this would indicate a failure to positively address the abuse being experienced by children. Children who have a plan over 15 months are being reviewed by the Team Manager before the two year timescale is reached, to ensure there are proactive plans in place. This should support improvement towards meeting the target for this indicator. When these timescales are being approached these cases receive additional scrutiny from the case worker and their manager, with appropriate action being taken to progress their plan or to de-register them. The development of specialist safeguarding teams has continued to ensure that child protection plans are properly implemented and managed. It is likely that the increased focus in the national press about child protection has caused anxieties amongst professionals who are more likely to be reluctant to take children off a Child Protection Plan.

NI 65: Performance in relation to the percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time: The performance of this indicator has improved on quarter two, from 15% to 12.9%, however it is still being projected that the target will not be achieved at the end of the year. To support the focus on raising awareness of children suffering from or at risk from suffering from neglect, a challenging target was set for 2008/09, following improvements in 2007/08, nationally the performance of this indicator sits with the expected level of between 10 – 15%. There has been an overall increase in the number of children suffering neglect, however, this is not

necessarily seen as a negative, with the increase in the number of professionals being trained in recognising children being at risk of neglect and where safeguarding intervention is necessary, it was expected that in the short term the numbers would rise. Although there may have been increased focus and support going into families, conditions frequently improve to an acceptable level where a child protection plan is no longer required, then when this focus is removed, some families inevitably transgress to previous care standards and re-registration occurs. There is a lag in the impact of the preventative strategy due to considerable lead times required to achieve substantial change with many families where neglect and poor parenting are long-term and often inter-generational problems. The publicity around 'Baby P' has increased the numbers of referrals and contacts to the department.

NI 98: Attainment against the statutory indicator Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, Staffordshire results at Key Stage 4 A* to C including English and Maths for 2008/09 have improved significantly and at a faster rate than the national average, however, there remains concern that, provisional data indicates that the milestone target of 30.4%, set for 2008/09 for this indicator, will not be achieved, an outturn of 18.6% is predicted, there has been a drop in performance on the previous year of 5.2%, this indicates that performance is not travelling in the correct direction to maintain the improvements made and to achieve the very challenging 2009/10 DCSF agreed target of 37.0%. However, the school improvement division has developed a robust strategy to move forward performance in relation to this indicator, they are undertaking new measures to support schools through realigning resources according to need, targeted monitoring and tracking of pupils progress, to identify areas of success, areas for early intervention and support. It is important to note that due to national concerns over the validity of key stage 3, from 2009 all key stage 3 indicators will be deleted.

NI 101: Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths): The performance of this indicator has over the year been consistently low in relation to the target of 21.6% with an average performance of 11.3%, and based on its year to date performance it is unlikely that the end of year target will be achieved. However, This provisional information is also only based on 63 out of 89 children, information is being collected on the remaining 26 children, it also should be noted that this cohort of children is small and extremely variable making year on year comparisons difficult. In 2006-07 the authority achieved the highest results in the West Midlands however last years cohort contained a greater of number of children with statements of educational need for which no adjustment is made to allow comparison. However there has been an ongoing improvement over the period in the numbers of children achieving GCSE and those achieving equivalent qualifications currently not included in this indicator. In order to improve individual children's outcomes support to children is provided by Looked After Children's Coordinators and Learning Mentors based on individual Personal Education Plans and tracking systems have been established to target support to children at Key Stage 2 and 4 as well as year 11.

NI 112: Under 18 conception rate (LAA priority indicator): provisional data showed performance against this indicator to be 42.4 per 1000 per 17 years olds, it is not expected that the target will be achieved. There is concern as to whether current service delivery in relation to this indicator is supporting improvement, and that the target will not be met. However, there are areas of strength that will drive the delivery against this indicator forward, these include: the appointment of a full time teenage pregnancy coordinator; the development and implementation of a recovery plan and action plan, including the strategic vision of the executive team led by Peter Traves supported by West Midlands Government Office and National Support Team, this plan also includes accountabilities and ensuring that progress is monitored and challenged.

CYP 3.6.1: Increased number of opportunities available within the community to participate in a variety of recreational, social and health focused activities - Number of schools having Awareness raising sessions delivered: The performance against this indicator has been poor from quarter one, in order to achieve the target a minimum of five schools having awareness sessions delivered would need to have been achieved, the current average delivered is three, and based on current performance to date it is unlikely that the target will be achieved (year to date: nine, against a possible total of 15 schools, variance of 40%). Awareness raising sessions carried out in the north of the county (Newcastle & Staffs Moorlands) are less than expected as schools have been unable to

timetable sessions into the school curriculum. In order to meet the target 11 schools will need to have awareness sessions delivered in quarter four.

CYP 5.5.1: Number of young people in serious housing need: The performance of this indicator relating to the number of young people in serious housing need, continues to decline steadily as in 2007/08 (the decline relates to an increase in the number of young people, lower outturn is positive), quarter three performance 294, against a target of 230. The current projected outturn against target of 294 against 230 (variance of 21.8% from target), indicates some distance to travel, however robust actions are being taken to address the issue. There is concern over the robustness of the data and whether this reflects the true picture in relation to this indicator, as currently only connexions data is represented and that as this data relates to contacts rather than individual young people, there is a degree of multiple counting, there is also concern that once other partners data is assessed, that this could potentially increase the numbers identified.

Report Author:

Name: Stephanie Heath

Contact: 01785 277398

Email: stephanie.heath@staffordshire.gov.uk