



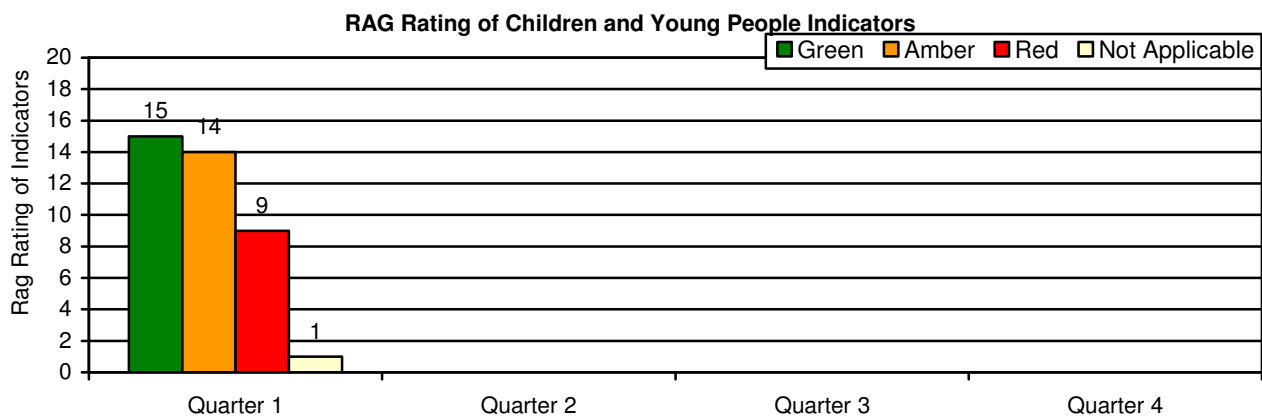
Children and Young Peoples Plan 2009-2010

Highlight Report - Quarter One (1st April 2009 – 30th June 2009)

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 Children and Young People's Plan.

Delivery against the priorities included within the Children and Young Peoples Plan shows a picture of caution with many indicator leads rating indicators as amber/red when assessing how delivery against target is progressing at this early point in the year, it is expected that this will change as we move through the year, with indicator leads having a clearer picture as to whether or not they will meet their targets.

Of the 39 Children and Young People Plan indicators, 38.5% have a risk assessment of green; 35.9% 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), 23.1% has a risk assessment of red and 2.5%¹ have been classified as not applicable as there is no current target information available for these indicators.



Of the 15 that have been rated as green by the system, two of these have been highlighted as strong greens, this is where performance of the indicator has well exceeded the target for 2009/10 or where there has been excellent service maintained (variance from target being greater than 10%). 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 67: Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (The percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed regularly as a percentage of those cases that should have been reviewed during the year): The performance of this indicator has continued to be excellent, and has since the first quarter of 2008/09 maintained a level of 100%. This performance clearly shows that all professionals and agencies involved in

¹ For reasoning as to why there is no target for this indicator please see appendix three commentary report.

reviewing child protection plans, understand the importance of these being conducted within the required timescales, demonstrating excellent partnership working and collaboration to ensure the best outcome for the child or young person. The length of time over which this performance has been maintained shows that this practice is well embedded in the day to day work of both the Vulnerable Children's Division and its partners.

A review is a child protection review conference which should take place where a Child Protection Plan is in place. Attendees should include those most involved with the child and family in the same way as at an initial child protection conference. The purposes of the review are to: Review the safety, health and development of the child against planned outcomes set out in the child protection plan; ensure that the child continues to be safeguarded from harm; and consider whether the child protection plan should continue in place or should be changed.

NI 111: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17: As with last year, the performance of this indicator continues to be excellent, the numbers of First Time Entrants has reduced to 84 young people this quarter from 102 young people during quarter one 2008/09, a 17.6% decrease. The Community Resolution Initiative is still working well to divert young people away from the Youth Justice System. It should be noted however that performance for this indicator will level off as the initial impact of Community Resolution steady's, however if current performance continues the target will be met.

Improved joint working between Staffordshire Police, Youth Offending Service and Staffordshire County Council has supported this performance, 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. The lives of young people who are being prevented from entering the youth justice system are benefiting from prevention programmes offered to them that ensure they address poor behaviour, lifestyles and any negative influences they may have to prevent any further offending.

Of those indicators that have been assessed as red or amber within the quarter one performance report, the nine that have been assessed as red have been highlighted as there are concerns over the current performance of the indicators despite their being plans/actions in place to bring performance back on track. These indicators are as follows:

NI 56: Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6: There are concerns that we will not achieve the target. 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.

This is potentially due to the increase in coverage that has occurred in South Staffordshire 76.9% to 84.7%. This data is within the confidence intervals set at 5% but is determined as a downward trend by the Department of Health and hence has been stated as red. 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.

NI 75: Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths; NI 80: Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19; NI 93: Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Three of education attainment indicators have also been rated as red by the indicator lead, this is due to there being concern that we know at this point in time that we will not achieve the target at the end of the year.

For 2009/2010, the targets that have been agreed by the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF), are very challenging, even more so than in 2008/09, however it should be noted that the direction from the DCSF is that targets set within the local authority should be challenging and expressions of ambition, showing a direction of travel and not a guaranteed destination.

Although the target may not be achieved, it is expected that Staffordshire performance will continue to improve both against its statistical neighbours and the national average at the level of improvement seen over the past several years. This should also be viewed in line with Staffordshire's performance in the National Strategies assessments, where we continue to improve, to good and outstanding. (please see indicator commentary for further information).

The School Improvement Division has robust strategies across both Primary and Secondary to move forward performance, 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. These strategies are continually reviewed to ensure that they are reflective of the needs of both schools and pupils.

NI 99: Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2: NI 100: Looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2: NI 101: Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths):

The performance of these Looked After Children Indicators has over the last year been consistently low in relation to their targets, which at the end of 2008/09 were not been achieved. The target that has been agreed with the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF), is very challenging again this year, and it is not expected that the target will be achieved.

Added to this, is the fact, target setting for this indicator is open to enormous differences between the cohort who are in care when the target is set and the actual cohort on which the attainment is based. For example, for 2010/11 a target of 31% was set in January 2009, for children who would have been in care for at least twelve months on 30th September 2009. The direction of travel indicator is also subject to influence as the results achieved are very specific to a very small cohort where each child has a large impact on overall results.

The concern over not meeting the target should be viewed in line with the recent Ofsted Inspection (June 09), when reporting on how good outcomes are for looked after children in relation to enjoying & achieving, the feedback was that there are excellent and satisfactory activities in Staffordshire, so although the target may not be achieved there are very good systems in place to ensure that looked after children are given the support and assistance they need to attain well.

NI 112: Under 18 conception rate (LAA priority indicator): Current performance shows that although there has been improvement on the baseline, there is still some difference to travel to the 2009/2010 target, the rolling average for this quarter based on 2008 (latest data) is 41.7 (per 1000 17 year olds) Actual no. of conceptions is 153.

Activities have taken place to ensure a change in direction for 2009/10. An Executive Steering Group has been re-established and chaired by Peter Traves, Director of Children Services. Following a National Support Team visit an action plan has been developed to address the gaps and weaknesses identified. A multi-agency visioning event held where commitment was given to improving performance through shared ownership of the agenda. The appointment of the teenage pregnancy co coordinator is also expected to move progress forward. This work will be overseen by a Project Team comprising of representatives of the key agencies/services involved

Proxy Measure Alcohol Consumption Indicator: The % of 11 to 15 years olds that have had an alcoholic drink in the last 7 days: Proxy measure for NI 115 Substance misuse by young people PSA 14 - Young Peoples perception of substance misuse through the Tell Us Survey: This indicator has been highlighted as red as although performance is good there is a lack of clear direction from Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) - alcohol strategy group due to problem with

releasing data from Primary Care Trusts. The lack of identified work-streams has had a knock on effect of disempowering partners including police, Tier 3 and Trading Standards to co-ordinate and develop work effectively. Lack of clear ownership of this target by DAAT, or alcohol strategy group. This needs to be addressed.

Report Author:

Name: Stephanie Heath

Contact: 01785 277398

Email: stephanie.heath@staffordshire.gov.uk