

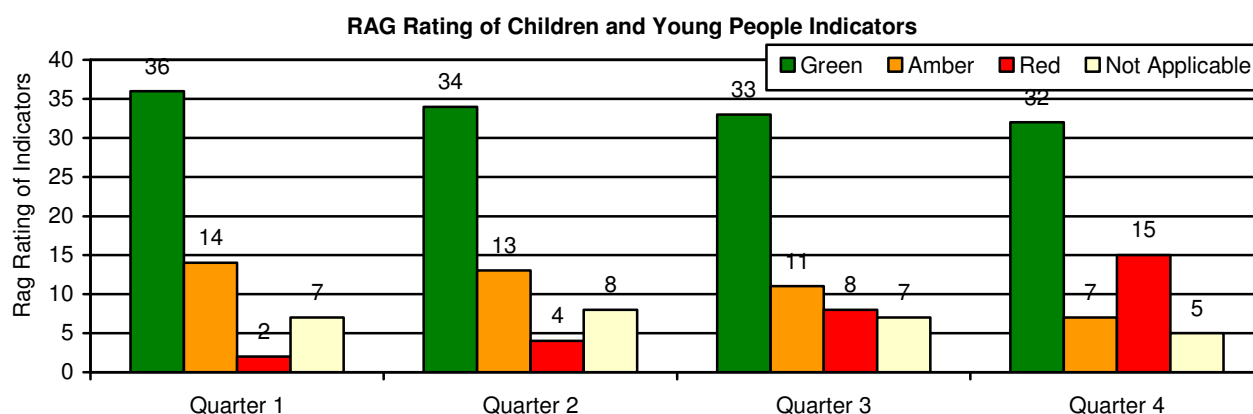


Children and Young People's Plan Highlight Report

Quarter Four (1st January 2009 – 31st March 2009)/ 2008/09 Outturn

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 continues to progress well. Of the 59 Children and Young People Plan indicators, 54.2% have a risk assessment of green; 11.9% 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), 25.4% has a risk assessment of red and 8.5% have been classified as not applicable as there is no current target information available for these indicators. **(these RAG ratings are based on both projected and actual outturn).**



Of the 59 Children and Young Peoples Plan indicators, **31(52.5%) have a final outturn figure available** at the end of the year, 25(39.0%)¹ are still reporting a projected outturn as no final figure is yet available, these will be confirmed throughout 2009, the remaining 5(8.5%)² indicators will not have an outturn figure as they are not due to start until 2009/2010.

Of these 31 indicators (those with a final outturn figure), 20 (64.5%) have been rated as green, 11 (35.5%) as red.

Of the 31 indicators with a final outturn, of the 20 that have been rated as green by the system, four of these have been highlighted as strong greens, this is where performance of the indicator has well exceeded the target for 2008/09 (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:

¹ Performance information being reported at the end of May / June for vulnerable children indicators, for those working within an academic year these will be reported by Autumn term of 2009.

² For the three indicators that will not have an outturn, this is because they do not officially start being reported on until 2009/2010, however because services were being delivered or developed to support the indicator from 2009/2010 it was felt appropriate to report this activity.

CYP 2.1.1 NI 48 - Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: The performance of this indicator has improved greatly on the previous outturn, performance is measure as the percentage change in a three year rolling average of child killed or seriously injured casualties calendar year on year, in other words the higher the percentage (change) the more positive the outcome, the greater the reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured, the percentage reduction has gone from 9.2% in 2007/08 to 21.3% in 2008/09. This reduction is mirrored in the excellent performance of the proxy measure used to support this indicator, for 2008/09, performance was 17 against a target of 31, lower outturn being positive. This performance improvement can be partly attributed to an increase in the number of awareness raising activities that SCC Road Safety team have undertaken, and increase increased partnership working with partners across the county including Primary Care Trusts, District Council and Schools.

CYP 3.5.2 - CCT6: 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: 98300. It should be noted that the annual target for this indicator has had to be revised from 84,537 to 60,499. 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.

CYP 4.3.1 - NI 111: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17: National performance information for this indicator, shows a 66% reduction in the number of first time entrants compared to the same period last year. The final outturn for 2008/09 is 463 against a target of 899 (lower outturn is positive for this indicator)(Figure being First Time Entrants aged 10 -17 years old per 100 000 of the overall local 10 – 17 year old population). 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. 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. These young people would not have had the opportunity to engage in preventative programmes before the Community Resolution scheme was introduced.

CYP 5.4.1 - NI 90: Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas: The performance of this indicator is showing as a strong green as, currently working from a starting point of 200 diplomas being taken up by young people, Staffordshire is now delivering 684 diplomas to young people across eight consortia's. (this is 684 young people working towards a diploma). This is an big increase in the numbers taking up diplomas, and shows good coverage across Staffordshire. Staffordshire is on target to delivery its 2009/10 target by the autumn 2010, 36 diploma offers across 8 consortia, thereby increasing the opportunity for young people to access diploma qualifications.

There has been a substantial increase this quarter in the number of indicators risk assessed as red, from eight in quarter three to 15 in quarter four (these are indicators with projected and actual outturn).

Of those indicators that have been assessed as red or amber within the quarter four / end of year performance report, the 15 that have been assessed as red have been highlighted (this includes both those with a final outturn and a projected outturn) 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:

This focus **will not include statutory attainment indicators**³ as no action taken now will impact on these results as they refer to tests taken in the summer of 2008. This refers to the following indicators:

- CYP 3.2.3 NI 93 - Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

³ NI 80, will be included within the highlighted red indicators as it is one of the LAA priority indicators.

- CYP 3.4.2 NI 98 - Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
- CYP 3.24 NI 99 - Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2
- CYP 3.2.5 NI 100 – Looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2
- CYP 3.4.3 NI 101 - Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)

Although Staffordshire may not have achieved its aspirational targets, it has shown sustained improvement across all key stages, performing well against both national and its statistical neighbours. The Department Children Schools and Families have a clear expectation that when setting attainment targets with Local Authorities that they should set targets as expressions of high ambition (set to be very challenging) and destinations rather than targets to be met each year. Also to support the continuing improvement in Staffordshire's attainment results across all key stages, both the School Improvement Divisions, and Looked After Children Service have detailed activities within their Planning for 2009/2010 that will be undertaken continue improvement, working with schools and pupils as part of the Primary and Secondary Strategies, to impact on future attainment results (for example those tests being taken in the Summer of 2009)

Please note that due to national concerns over the validity of key stage 3, from 2009 all key stage 3 indicators will be deleted. The decision to abolish the key stage three SATS was made by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. From Summer 2009 (financial year 2009/10), children will no longer sit Key Stage 3 SATs, therefore as these SATs no longer exist there will be no information to report. All key stage three indicators are being removed from the national indicator set as directed by the Department Children School and Families, therefore these will no longer be monitored/reported on.

The ten red indicators that are being highlighted are as follows:

CYP 1.1.1 NI 112: Under 18 conception rate (LAA priority indicator): current performance of this indicator shows that the target has not been achieved, and there is considerable distance to travel to the target. 2008/09 Target 30.9 per 1000 per 17 years olds; outturn 42.0 per 1000 17 years olds. However, despite this poor performance there are robust activities taking place to improve services in this area, that will ensure a change of direction for 2009/2010. Following National Support Team visit an action plan is being developed to address the gaps and weaknesses identified and recruitment to the post of a full time Teenage pregnancy co coordinator has commenced. A multi-agency visioning event has been held where commitment was given to improving performance through shared ownership of the agenda, this will be managed through an Executive Steering Group.

CYP 1.2.1 NI 56: Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6 (LAA priority indicator): 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 Childrens 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.

CYP 1.7.1 NI 53: Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 - 8 weeks from birth: As with previous quarters, it is not possible to determine how we are performing against this indicator, no confirmed quarterly performance data has been available. As no clear data has been available throughout the year, and only unvalidated proxy data was reported in quarter three, maintaining the baseline level has been given as the projected outturn, 19.3%. Confirmation has been received from south Staffordshire Primary care Trust that data should be available for quarter four/year end after the 28th April, they are currently validating their child health data. The ability to provide both data and commentary relating to activities being delivered to support the improvement of this indicator has been an ongoing concern

since 2007. Like most Primary Care Trusts within the country, South Staffordshire and North Staffordshire Primary Care Trusts are continuing to develop systems for monitoring continuation of breastfeeding. As confirmed data is not available, this data should be published on a quarterly basis however the Department of Health has recognised that as there is no robust data available proxy data can be used.

CYP 2.3.1 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 negative increase in performance from quarter three to quarter four is to be expected given the current climate (Baby P' crisis and the Laming Report) and with the re-focus on child protection following this. In addition to this, 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%. Targets for 2009/10 onwards will be reviewed and will be set in accordance with current performance and expectations of this indicator. 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 work 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.

CYP 2.3.2 NI 64: Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more: The performance of this indicator has fallen considerable on the 2007/2008 outturn a decline of 3.9% (lower outturn is positive) and a fall of 1.3% on quarter three reported performance. However, the media attention around the issues relating to Baby P has raised anxieties across all professionals working with children. It is therefore not surprising that there is increased reluctance to remove children from a Child Protection Plan where risks have been identified within the family. These cases are routinely monitored by the Independent Chairs (ICCs) and the Heads of Service this does mean that they are closely scrutinised and practice is overseen. However, with the chronic nature of neglect, it is appropriate in a number of these situations that children do remain subject to a Child Protection Plan. Currently this indicator does not count the children until they are actually removed from a Child Protection Plan, therefore the actual number of children currently subject to a Child Protection Plan, for longer than two years, is not accurately reflected by the indicator.

CYP 2.4.1: Improved compliance to child protection standards by all Local Safeguarding Board Partners: The end of year report for this indicator shows that performance has not improved from the 2007/08 baseline (69.0%), this is directly attributable to the failure of all eight district councils to submit section 11 audit returns, this has had an impact on the achievement of this indicator. (the eight district councils represent at least a quarter of the agencies required to submit, because of the small numbers involved any nil returns have a greater impact on performance).

However, it should be **clearly highlighted** that (with the above exception of the eight district councils) all other Staffordshire Safeguarding Child Broads statutory members completed the section 11 audit, which measures compliance with statutory safeguarding standards, and all agencies had increased their levels of compliance since 2007/08. If we exclude the eight district councils, performance has been exceptional for all other agencies, with the majority improving compliance to 80% or more, with a range of agencies now 95% compliant. All statutory members submitted returns and performance from all these agencies has improved since 2007/08.

Effective strategic safeguarding arrangements are at the core of agencies commitment, particularly at a senior level, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, improved compliance by all agencies with a duty to co-operate under s11 of the Children Act 2004 will result in a safer workforce, a better

skilled workforce and greatly enhance and improved senior management commitment to safeguarding. This should have a positive impact upon the delivery of services for children.

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 outreach support sessions offered across in South Staffordshire: Performance of this indicator did not achieve the target. (target 2000, outturn 1856, variance from target 7.2%). In addition to this, there has been a decline in performance of the indicator from quarter two with an average decrease in the number of outreach sessions of 19 over quarters three and four, there is still some distance to travel to the target, (an additional 144 sessions) this would have required an average increase of 36 sessions per quarter to achieve the targets.

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 young carers involved in positive activities across the county: (target 400, outturn 376, variance from target 6.0%). In addition to this, there has been a decline in performance of the indicator from quarter two with an average decrease in the number of outreach sessions of 14.5 over quarters three and four, although there has been some improvement on the baseline of 367, this is only 9 carers engaged in positive activities, this consistent decline could indicate a fall in the number of young carers or that young carers are not engaged in participating in the current positive activities on offer (are we offering the right things).

CYP 5.2.1 NI 80: Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19: The performance of this indicator has not improved on the baseline of 45.0%, in order to achieve the challenging target a 4.0% increase was needed. A step change in attainment at level 3 is required in order to position Staffordshire on a trajectory to achieve the national target of 54.0% by 2011. However, direction of travel is positive and Staffordshire should achieve this target, by 2011. this is supported and monitored through effective collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data to support progress and achievement at level 3. Students are provided with impartial information and guidance at key transition points. There are clear support strategies in place that focus on developing a range of teaching and learning strategies to support student attainment, this is further emphasised in the range of courses that are available to Post 16 students, the range reflects their interest and abilities, encouraging better take up.

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). The outturn against target of 339 against 230 (variance of 47.4% 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, there is also concern that once other partners data is assessed, that this could potentially increase the numbers identified.

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