



NOTICE OF MEETING

**Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Wednesday 16 September 2009, 7.30 pm
Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House, Bracknell**

To: CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Councillor Mrs Birch (Chairman), Councillor Ms Whitbread (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Mrs Beadsley, Dudley, Kensall, Mrs McCracken, Osborne, Mrs Ryder and Simonds

Church Representatives (Voting in respect of Education matters only)

Mr G S Anderson and 1 vacancy

Parent Governor Representatives (Voting in respect of Education matters only)

Dr P Josephs-Franks and 1 vacancy

Teachers' Representatives (Non-Voting)

Miss V Richardson and 1 vacancy

Social Care Representatives (Non-Voting)

1 Vacancy

cc: Substitute Members of the Panel

Councillors Beadsley, Edger, Mrs Fleming, Harrison, Leake, Mrs Shillcock and Virgo

ALISON SANDERS
Director of Corporate Services

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Published: 8 September 2009

**Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Wednesday 16 September 2009, 7.30 pm
Council Chamber, Fourth Floor, Easthampstead House,
Bracknell**

AGENDA

Page No

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute members.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 10 June 2009.

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3. ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

To note the report containing information requested by Members at the last meeting of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel which has previously been circulated by e-mail.

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4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interest and the nature of that interest, including the existence and nature of the party whip, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

5. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Any other items which, pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman decides are urgent.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

To consider the latest trends, priorities and pressures in terms of departmental performance as reported in the Performance Monitoring Reports for the first quarter of 2009/10 relating to Children's Services and Learning.

Please bring the previously circulated Performance Monitoring Report to the meeting. Copies are available on request and attached to this agenda if viewed online.

BRACKNELL FOREST PARTNERSHIP

7. REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST THEME PARTNERSHIP

To discuss with the Chairman and Lead Officer of the Children's Trust Theme Partnership its governance, performance management, financial management and related issues, with reference to the questionnaire sent in advance of the meeting. 13 - 90

8. NOMINATION FOR PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

To nominate a member of the Panel to join the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group being established to review the Bracknell Forest Partnership and its Themed Partnerships. 91 - 92

OVERVIEW AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

9. 'GROW OUR OWN' PROJECT

To receive a verbal update further to the receipt of an overview of the project at the last meeting of the former Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

10. WORKING GROUP UPDATE

To receive an update in respect of the 14- 19 Years Education Provision Working Group. 93 - 94

11. EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SERVICES IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS IN BRACKNELL FOREST

To receive the Executive response to the above review. 95 - 114

12. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2009/10 MUNICIPAL YEAR

a) To note the agreed work programme for the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel for 2009/10. 115 - 120

b) To consider the establishment of a working group to review the Council's plans and performance with regard to safeguarding children.

13. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

To note the quarterly progress report of the Assistant Chief Executive. 121 - 134

HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

14. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

To consider forthcoming items on the Executive Forward Plan relating to Children's Services and Learning. 135 - 138

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be held on 16 December 2009

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
10 JUNE 2009
7.30 - 9.32 PM**



Present:

Councillors Mrs Beadsley, Mrs Birch (Chairman), Dudley, Mrs Fleming, Kensall, Mrs McCracken, Osborne, Simonds and Ms Whitbread (Vice-Chairman)

Also Present:

Councillors

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Ryder

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Birch be elected Chairman of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

COUNCILLOR MRS BIRCH IN THE CHAIR

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Ms Whitbread be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

3. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members

The Panel noted the attendance of the following Substitute Member:

Councillor Mrs Fleming for Councillor Mrs Ryder.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Panel noted the minutes of the former Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 25 March 2009.

Matters Arising:

Minute 57: Performance Monitoring Report

Janet Hughes, Connexions Manager, gave a presentation on the work being undertaken to reduce the number of young people aged between 16 and 19 years old, in Bracknell Forest who were not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Under the terms of the Local Area Agreement, the Council had agreed with central government that the number of young people in Bracknell Forest who were NEET would in 2008/09 be reduced to 5.0%. On 31 January 2009, the percentage of young

people in Bracknell Forest classified as NEET stood at 6.9%, with the highest concentration living in the Old Bracknell ward. Compared to the five other Berkshire unitary authorities: Bracknell Forest had the second highest proportion of young people classified as being NEET (Reading had the highest proportion) and the lowest proportion of young people in a learning position.

The most recent annual survey of year 11 school leavers had found that: 90.7% were in education, 0.5% (equivalent to 6 young people) were in training, 5.8% (65 young people) were in short term placements or training programmes and 4.8% (or 54 young people) were classified as being NEET.

Connexions ran a range of programmes locally to assist this group back into education, employment or training including: making regular contact with individuals to offer advice and support, encouraging participation in voluntary activities, providing opportunities to participate in accredited health and safety training, Rapid English courses to improve literacy and numeracy skills, activity days and the LEAP Project, a ten week programme which provided young people with the opportunity to take part in team building activities, develop social skills, art projects and work placements. Connexions had also liaised with education providers and Capita when delays in the payment of the Educational Maintenance Allowance had been brought to its attention.

The Panel thanked Janet Hughes for her comprehensive presentation.

5. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest relating to any items on the agenda, nor any indications that members would be participating whilst under the party whip.

6. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

7. Performance Monitoring Report

The Director of Social Care and Learning presented the Performance Monitoring Report (PMR) for the fourth quarter of 2008/09 for the Social Care and Learning Department.

The PMR provided the final performance outturns for the year 2008/09. It was reported that data for a number of performance indicators was missing because the data was either collected once a year through an annual survey or the Council were dependant on other organisations to provide data. Technical definitions for a number of indicators had not yet been agreed by Central Government and the Council was awaiting information as to what would be measured.

The PMR covered the whole Social Care and Learning Department and work was taking place to split future PMRs into two; one specific for Adult Social Care and one specific to Children's Services and Learning which would make future scrutiny more straightforward.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Work was taking place with partner organisations to resolve issues over outstanding data.

- A number of the performance indicators were set by Central Government and data had to be collected for these indicators even if they were not considered to be particularly relevant to the area.
- The composition of staff at College Hall Pupil Referral Unit had been changed to bring in a wider range of expertise. College Hall currently had only one vacancy which had been caused by the promotion of one of the teachers to the position of Deputy Head.
- Recent activities to recruit additional short break foster carers had been successful and new applicants were now being assessed.
- The demand for foster placements for adolescents and children with complex needs exceeded the number of placements available and children continued to be placed outside the Borough and this was impacting on resources.
- The implementation of the Vetting and Barring Scheme had been delayed until July 2010. The situation was being monitored by the Department and Criminal Records Bureau checks were still being carried out.
- Resource issues meant that the appointment of a member of staff to manage the external placement contracts of looked after children was not progressing as quickly as had been hoped.
- Details of primary school admissions for September 2009 would be circulated to the Panel.

8. **Statutory Annual Report for Children's Social Care Complaints 2008/09**

The Panel considered the statutory annual report of the Complaints Manager Children's Social Care. The report provided information about the complaints received from children and young people (or their representatives) during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 and details of key learning points for the Department that had been identified as a result of the complaints.

Over the course of the reported period, the Social Care and Learning Department had received 17 complaints and 29 expressed compliments relating to children's social care services, an improvement on 2007/08 when 29 complaints were received. Of the 17 complaints received in 2008/09:

- 13 were dealt with at Stage 1
- 3 were dealt with at Stage 2
- 1 was made to the Local Government Ombudsman

Of the 17 complaints received 7 Stage 1 complaints were upheld and 2 Stage 1 complaints were partially upheld. All other complaints were not upheld.

Arsing from Member's questions and comments the following points were noted:

- When a complaint was received every effort was made to attempt to resolve it at the lowest level possible.
- A complaint could contain a number of concerns, each of which would be investigated fully consequently some parts of the complaint could be upheld while other parts were not. This would result in a complaint receiving a final classification of 'Partially upheld'.
- At the end of every Stage 3 complaint a meeting was held with key officers to discuss any learning points arising as a result of the complaint.
- When dealing with complaints officers worked to statutory deadlines. If there were delays in responding then complainants would be kept fully informed.

- In the case of one Stage 3 complaint that took 64 working days to resolve there would have been significant amounts of communication between the Complainant and the Council in the intervening time period.
- The Complaints Manager would seek guidance from other professionals when assessing a minor's emotional and intellectual capacity to comment about a complaint made on their behalf.
- It was expected that mediation would be the first method used to resolve any complaint received.
- One of the Complaints Manager's key roles was to ensure that the attention of all officers was drawn to key learning points from complaints.
- Compliments received by the Complaints Manager would be passed on to the relevant officers.
- Workshops were being arranged to inform Members of the Children's Social Care complaints process.

9. Adoption Service Inspection Report and Action Plan 2009

The Panel received a report detailing the results of the OFSTED inspection of the Bracknell Forest Adoption Service and the action plan that had been developed in response to the inspection.

The inspection was a planned three yearly inspection and was carried out between 9 and 12 March. This was the second inspection of this highly regulated area and the results had shown an improvement over the first inspection. This inspection had been based around the five outcomes for children set out in the Children's Act 2004 and the National Minimum Standards for Adoption; the quality of the management of the team had also been inspected. The Adoption Service had received an overall inspection rating of Satisfactory with individual inspection outcomes being classified as follows:

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Helping Children achieve well and enjoy what they do	Outstanding
Helping children make a positive contribution	Outstanding
Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe	Satisfactory
Organisation	Satisfactory
Achieving economic well-being	Not judged
Helping children to be healthy	Not judged

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Children with plans for adoption were drawn from amongst the Council's Looked After Children.
- When matching children with potential adopters efforts were made ensure that the culture of the child and the adopter matched however, it was preferred that children were adopted by someone who could meet the child's needs appropriately.
- Administrative staff had received child protection training in the past however this had not be recorded on staff training records and it had not been possible to evidence this to the inspection team. A training programme had now been developed and all training attended was now logged.

- The Family Placement Team was subject to three yearly Criminal Records Bureau checks and these were all up to date.
- The Family Placement Team was a small team that had in the past been affected by long term sickness however the team was now back up to full strength. A new Team Manager had been appointed and had taken up their post on 1 June 2009.
- Action 1.1 Confirm the components of a model, high quality assessment and Action 1.2 Arrange audit of all Family Placement Assessments to inform further training and practice requirements had been included in the Action Plan at the request of the Director of Social Care and Learning. Both actions had been completed.

The Panel thanked officers for all their work and congratulated them on achieving outstanding scores in two inspection categories.

10. **Report of the Departmental Review of Transport Policy**

Chris Taylor, Head of Property and Admissions, gave a presentation on the Education Transport Policy.

The Education Transport Policy was a statutory policy that sets out the Council's arrangements for providing assistance to children and young people to attend school or their place of education. Approximately 950 children in Bracknell Forest benefited from the service. The cost of the service in 2008/09 was £1.8million.

Transport assistance was provided to all pupils of compulsory school age who were in full time education at mainstream schools in the following circumstances:

- Pupils aged under eight who attend the nearest qualifying school, i.e. their designated area school, and live more than two miles from school.
- Pupils aged eight and under sixteen and attend the nearest qualifying school, i.e. their designated area school, and live more than three miles from school.
- Children from low income families, i.e. those families where there was an entitlement to receive free school meals or who were in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, and who lived more than two miles from their nearest qualifying school.
- Young people over the age of sixteen if they came from a low income family and were in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance. Funding for this cohort was provided through a grant from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The age guidelines were proscribed by the Education Act and the vast majority of children in Bracknell Forest did not qualify for transport because they lived too close to the school they attended.

There was no automatic entitlement to transport for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Any transport for this cohort had to be requested by the Special Educational Needs Team with each request being dealt with on its own individual merits.

The transport provision was managed by the Council's Integrated Transport Unit and consisted mainly of taxi and minibus provision procured from external suppliers. All transport contracts were reviewed every three years.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Distance was measured from the pupil's home address to the designated school by the nearest available walking route.
- If a child was granted assistance with transport following an Education Transport Appeal hearing then it did not necessarily follow that other children in the same family would receive help. Separate appeals had to be submitted for each child.
- LSC funding was in place for 2009/10. Once the LSC had been wound up, their funding would transfer to the local authority which would then make decisions on how it was utilised.
- The Policy set out the requirements placed on drivers and escorts in terms of training and Criminal Records Bureau checks.
- Work experience placements were not normally covered however any applications received were dealt with on individual merits.
- If transport providers were changed then the changeover period was managed to ensure as little disruption as possible.
- The Panel indicated an interest in Home to School Transport provision from a safeguarding point of view.

The Panel thanked Chris Taylor for his informative presentation.

11. Update on Working Group

The Panel received a report setting out the progress achieved to date by the Working Group of the Panel reviewing 14-19 years education provision in Bracknell Forest.

It was noted that due to the volume of information that the Working Group had accumulated, it was expected that a report would be brought to the Panel for comment in the autumn.

12. Work Programme for the 2009/10 Municipal Year

The Panel considered a report containing the indicative work programme for the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel for 2009/10.

It was noted that the indicative work programme would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission for approval on 16 July 2009 prior to its submission to the Corporate Management Team and Executive.

The Panel agreed its indicative work programme for 2009/10, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, for recommendation to the Overview and scrutiny Commission for adoption.

13. Overview and Scrutiny Quarterly Progress Report

The Panel noted a report outlining the activities of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Commission over the past quarter.

14. Executive Forward Plan

The panel noted the items on the Executive Forward Plan relating to children's social care and learning.

I015685 Use of Section 106 Funds to Support Grow Our Own Project

The approval date for this decision had been deferred. Clarification would be given on which development schemes the S106 monies that it was proposed to use to support the Grow Our Own project originated from and the conditions placed on the funding.

I016914 Overview and Scrutiny Report: A Review of Children's Centres and Extended Services in and Around Schools in Bracknell Forest

Councillor Mrs Birch's presentation of the report of the Review of Children's Centres and Extended Services at the Executive Briefing had been well received.

It was noted that this had been the first time that a Working Group Lead Member had presented a review report to the Executive. It was considered to be a positive step forward that would help raise the profile of overview and scrutiny and add value to the work that all the Overview and Scrutiny Panels carried out.

CHAIRMAN

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

ACTIONS FROM THE LAST PANEL MEETING Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents information requested by Members at the last meeting of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel which has previously been circulated by e-mail.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the attached information.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Information in respect of primary admissions 2009/10, Connexions – LEAP Project and funding to support the 'Grow Our Own' Project requested by Members at the last meeting of the Panel is attached. This information was current when provided by officers in June / July 2009.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283
e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Andrea Carr – 01344 352122
e-mail: andrea.carr@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Primary Admissions 2009/10

Once again, Bracknell Forest schools have proved very popular and there is great demand for places in all of the schools. All applications received by the closing date have been processed and the majority of parents have accepted their offer of a place. However 16 parents have failed to accept or decline these offers and 2 reminders have now been sent to these parents; the option remains for these places to now be withdrawn. We will continue to try and ascertain what the position is within these families.

In addition we received 55 applications after the closing date of 20 January 2009. All of these have been processed and places have been offered.

The current position is that all schools except College Town are fully allocated and all schools except College Town and Great Hollands have waiting lists.

Applications will continue to come into the School Admissions Team, where children have moved into the area or where parents have forgotten to apply. To date there are 22 of these who live in the designated area of the following schools.

Late Applications not yet processed		
DA	Sibling	No. of Applications
Holly Spring	1	5
Meadow Vale		2
Wildridings	1	4
Wooden Hill		1
Broadmoor		1
Binfield	1	1
Owlsmoor	1	1
College Town		1
Fox Hill	1	2
Great Hollands	1	2
Windsor & Maidenhead resident		1
Wokingham resident		1
Total		22

The position will continue to change over the coming weeks as family circumstances change. The school admissions team will continue to monitor the situation closely.

We have received 50 appeals and these will be heard during June and July 2009 and they cover a number of schools across the Borough. For the first time in a number of years, we are seeing appeals for both Crown Wood and The Pines.

Connexions – LEAP Project

A Member of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel asked how many young people from Holly House and Rainforest Walk are taking part in the LEAP Project – a ten week programme operated by Connexions which provides young people with the opportunity to take part in team building activities, develop social skills, pursue art projects and receive work placements. The object of the programme is to assist young people into education, employment or training.

All the young people at Holly House and Rainforest Walk were contacted about the opportunity and the following numbers are taking part:

- Three young people were submitted to the programme from Rainforest Walk and two commenced the programme.
- Two young people were submitted to the programme from Holly House and both started it.

Funding to Support the 'Grow Our Own' Project

At the last meeting of the Panel, clarification was sought as to the origin of S106 monies proposed to be utilised to support the 'Grow Our Own' project and the conditions placed on its use.

Planning application no. 08/00188 for retail development at the Peel Centre, Skimped Hill Lane -

'Towards the costs of providing, expanding or improving employment and training skills levels within 10km' - £39,600.

Planning application no. 07/00825 for employment buildings at former Thales site, Western Road, Bracknell –

'Towards the costs of providing, expanding or improving employment training facilities and training skills levels within 10km' - £179,270.

The 'Grow Our Own' project is based at the Open Learning Centre and therefore meets the 'within 10km' criterion.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST THEME PARTNERSHIP Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the agreed approach to the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) of the Bracknell Forest Partnership (BFP), the Chairman and Lead Officer of each of the BFP theme Partnerships has been invited to meet the O&S Commission or relevant O&S Panel to discuss the Partnership's governance, performance management, financial management, and related issues, with reference to a questionnaire completed in advance of the meeting. The Children's Trust is one of the BFP theme partnerships within the purview of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel discusses with the Chairman and Lead Officer of The Children's Trust, Councillor Dr Barnard and Mr Martin Gocke respectively, the Partnership's governance, performance management, financial management, and related issues, with reference to the attached completed questionnaire.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The approach to O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership has been endorsed by the O&S Commission and Panels, also the BFP Board, and implementation has commenced. The agreed approach includes a structured programme of information gathering and initial analysis of the BFP's affairs. This work has been apportioned as follows:

O&S Commission – BFP's Board and the Town Centre Partnership, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and the Economic and Skills Development Partnership.

Environment, Culture and Communities O&S Panel - the Strategic Housing Partnership, the Cultural Partnership, the Transport Partnership, and the Climate Change Partnership.

Children's Services and Learning O&S Panel - the Children's Trust, and the Early Years, Child Care and Play Partnership.

Adult Social Care O&S Panel - the Health and Social Care Partnership.

- 3.2 The information gathering comprises initially asking the Chairmen and Lead officers for the ten Theme Partnerships to complete a questionnaire, and then for the responses to the questionnaire to inform individual meetings by the Commission/Panel concerned with the Chairmen and Lead officers for each of the Theme Partnerships, individually. These will form part of the public meetings of the Commission and Panels throughout 2009/10. The structured series of meetings with the Chairmen and lead officers of the Theme Partnerships will contribute to relationship building.
- 3.3 The purpose of the questionnaire to be sent in advance of the meetings is to gather all the basic information on the work and organisation of each Theme partnership, to make best use of members' time at the ensuing meetings.

Background Papers

Agenda and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 1 April 2009

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont – 01344 352283

e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Questionnaire for completion by the Chairman and Lead Officer of BFP's Board and each of the 10 BFP Theme Partnerships

Notes – clerks for BFP's Board and the Theme Partnerships will be asked to complete the basic information before passing this to the lead officer.

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A: Name of Partnership: Children's Trust	Comments
Chairman's name and contact details:	Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard Gareth.barnard@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
Lead Officer's name and contact details:	Lesley Heale Director Social Care and Learning Lesley.heale@bracknell-forest.gov.uk Martin Gocke [from 1 September 2009] Martin.gocke@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
B: Partnership details	Comments
1. Please attach the terms of reference for the partnership. If it is not in the TOR, please outline the agreed aims, key objectives and key functions	Please see attached governance document, which contains recently revised terms of reference.
2. Please provide a few examples of the partnership's major achievements	Please see attached Children and Young People's Plan Review Document, this details progress made in the last year against the key priorities for the CYP Trust through the leadership of the Partnership
3. Where do you think the partnership currently is in terms of its stage of development? E.g. early formation, delivering shared outcomes, or fully developed?	Partnership has been established as a Trust from 1 April 2008 and is delivering shared outcomes through the Children and Young People's Plan priorities.

4. Please describe any major obstacles towards the partnership's success	There is a significant national driver to ensure that the Children's Trust is responsible for developing pooled budgets and more effective joint commissioning, and performance monitoring to improve outcomes for children and young people. A key area of development will be around commissioning / joint commissioning and securing the engagement / cooperation of partners in ensuring we meet the identified priorities and improve outcomes. New legislation is expected in the Autumn which places the Children's Trust on a statutory footing.
Membership 5. If not in the TOR, please list the current members of the partnership and the organisations they represent	See attached
6. If not in the TOR, please describe the arrangements for appointing members to the partnership	Core membership is prescribed by Guidance from the DCSF
Minutes 7. Please provide minutes of meetings in the last year	Attached

C: Governance arrangements	Comments
1. Please provide any recent self-assessment of governance arrangements for the Partnership, or describe any plans to do so.	See attached Governance Document
2. How are decisions made? Is there a scheme of delegation that makes clear who can take decisions?	
3. How are decisions recorded?	In the minutes of the meetings.

4. Who makes sure decisions are acted upon?	Lead Member and Director of Children's Services have joint accountability to ensure priorities are identified and that the Children's Trust delivers on its decisions.
5. Please describe how the partnership is held to account, and by whom	See attached Governance Document
6. Risk management - Has the Partnership itself carried out a formal risk assessment of the Partnership? If yes, please provide details	This has not yet been undertaken

D: Performance management	Comments
1. Please describe the arrangements for setting output/outcome targets, and give details of the partnership's targets for 2008/09	Priorities are identified in the Children and Young People's Plan which are linked to LAA targets, National Indicators and other plans and strategies.
2. Please describe the arrangements for monitoring and reporting progress against targets	This has been undertaken mainly on an annual basis, through the review of the Children and Young People's Plan. However areas of concern are brought to the attention of the Children's Trusts for discussion and resolution where possible. New inspection processes through the APA and JAR have strengthened this also.
3. How does the partnership agree action on targets that are not likely to be met?	See above
4. How do you demonstrate publicly that the partnership adds value?	
5. How does the public know that the partnership achieves value for money?	
6. Does the Partnership contribute accounts of success to the BFP's communications group?	Not to the Communications Group directly, however a number of successes have been reported directly to the BFP

E: Financial Management	Comments
1. How is the partnership funded? (on the basis of the last financial year)	The partnership itself is not directly funded. There are a range of funding routes through key initiatives which contribute to the “whole” delivery of the Children’s Trust
2. Who decides on how to spend the money?	Main spending is via Commissioning Task Groups of the Children’s Trust, which have delegated responsibilities covering key areas of national strategy and policy.
3. Can the money be reallocated? If so, who can authorise this?	Money is identified by Government for particular purpose / initiatives that impact on the wellbeing and outcomes for children and young people. The Children’s Trust Executive could authorise re-allocation, but only within the boundaries of the approach to commissioning [see attached Joint Commissioning framework], and in response to identified needs and priorities.
4. What are the financial reporting arrangements?	The Children’s Trust itself does not hold the funding; this is allocated via various grants and core funding and is monitored in line with Council and partner processes.

F: Serving the Public (For response just by BFP’s Board)	Comments
1. Does the partnership have a communications policy? If so, please provide this	
2. How does this partnership achieve accessibility for the public? (for example, are meetings open to the public?)	
3. Is there a complaints and suggestions process the public can use?	

G: Overview and Scrutiny of the Partnership	Comments
1. Does the partnership have any views on how O&S can assist in its development and achievement of objectives?	
2. Does the partnership have any suggestions for O&S reviews to be considered for the partnership O&S programme?	This may be determined through ongoing links to the BF Partnership performance monitoring and reporting, identifying and highlighting areas where outcomes are not as good as they could be, for example young people not in employment, education or training.

If there are any queries on the completion of this questionnaire, please contact Richard Beaumont, Head of Overview and Scrutiny, Bracknell Forest Council on 01344 352283 or Richard.Beaumont@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk



Children and Young People's Trust

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose and Vision of the CYP Trust• Membership roles and responsibilities• Terms and conditions
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terms of Reference: Children and Young People's Trust Board Children and Young People's Trust Executive.
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involvement of children and young people• Working arrangements between the CYP Trust Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.
Annex 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terms of Reference Commissioning Task Groups and Transformational Groups

Introduction

This document sets out the structure and governance arrangements for the Children and Young People's Trust Board and describes the linked arrangements to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people and their prospects for the future.

The document has been designed to meet the new requirements set out in the Government's proposals for statutory Children's Trusts and aims to clarify the functions of the board and provide the context for enhanced working arrangements. It needs to be read in conjunction with the Joint Commissioning Framework document.

Legislative Framework

Arrangements for Children's Trusts are set out in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004. It describes the duty to co-operate for all those organisations in the statutory sector. The Government intends to issue statutory guidance by 2010 to make collaborative arrangements mandatory and extend this requirement to a wider membership.

Structure

The structure chart demonstrates the context and working arrangements of the Children and Young People's Board.

The Children and Young People's Trust is one of ten themed partnerships within the Bracknell Forest Partnership Board (BFPB). The Partnership brings together the different parts of the public sector as well as private, business, community and voluntary sectors. It is responsible for the sustainable community's strategy and for the local area agreement process and monitoring. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by all partners <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bfp-memorandum-of-agreement.pdf> and relates to the BFPB, as the operational body that will own and manage all the elements of the board including the themed partnerships.

- **The Children and Young People's Trust** is responsible for developing, publishing and monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan. It is responsible for providing the overarching vision, policies and strategies. It represents the voice of children, young people and families at partnership level and will ensure that outcomes for children and young people and families remain at the centre of partnership working and delivery. It has membership at a senior level and includes young people amongst its

members. The board is supported through the attendance of a number of other officers from relevant organisations. The board is chaired by the Executive Member for Children's Services.

- The **Children and Young People's Trust Executive** is responsible for undertaking and achieving the priorities identified by the board as agreed through the Children and Young People's Plan. It steers the flow of business through the Board. This includes taking responsibility for commissioning of services and for performance monitoring the activities of the Board as key mechanisms supporting the Trust.
- **Commissioning Task Groups** report directly to the executive group and represent significant building blocks of the board and operate to strengthen partnership working. Each group has a key role to play in delivering its work programme by:
 - Providing detailed analysis
 - Ensuring effective planning
 - Taking action to commission and procure services
 - Monitor and review their work programme

These groups may change or have a short life to reflect the business of the Trust.

- **Transformational Groups – Workforce Reform group and the CYP Shared Processes group** represent the processes to support multi-agency working between strategy and operational delivery. These groups will inform the strategic development of integrated frontline delivery and integrated processes and thereby support the work of the Trust. The Children and Young People's Trust has adopted "Hear by Right" as a strategic approach to ensuring the ongoing involvement and engagement of children and young people. This work will be taken forward under the **Engaging Children and Young People Group**.
- **Other Themed Partnerships** – those that deal with children and young people have links to the Children and Young People's Board, we have

particularly named the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership as a formal working relationship because of the vulnerable group of children it represents.

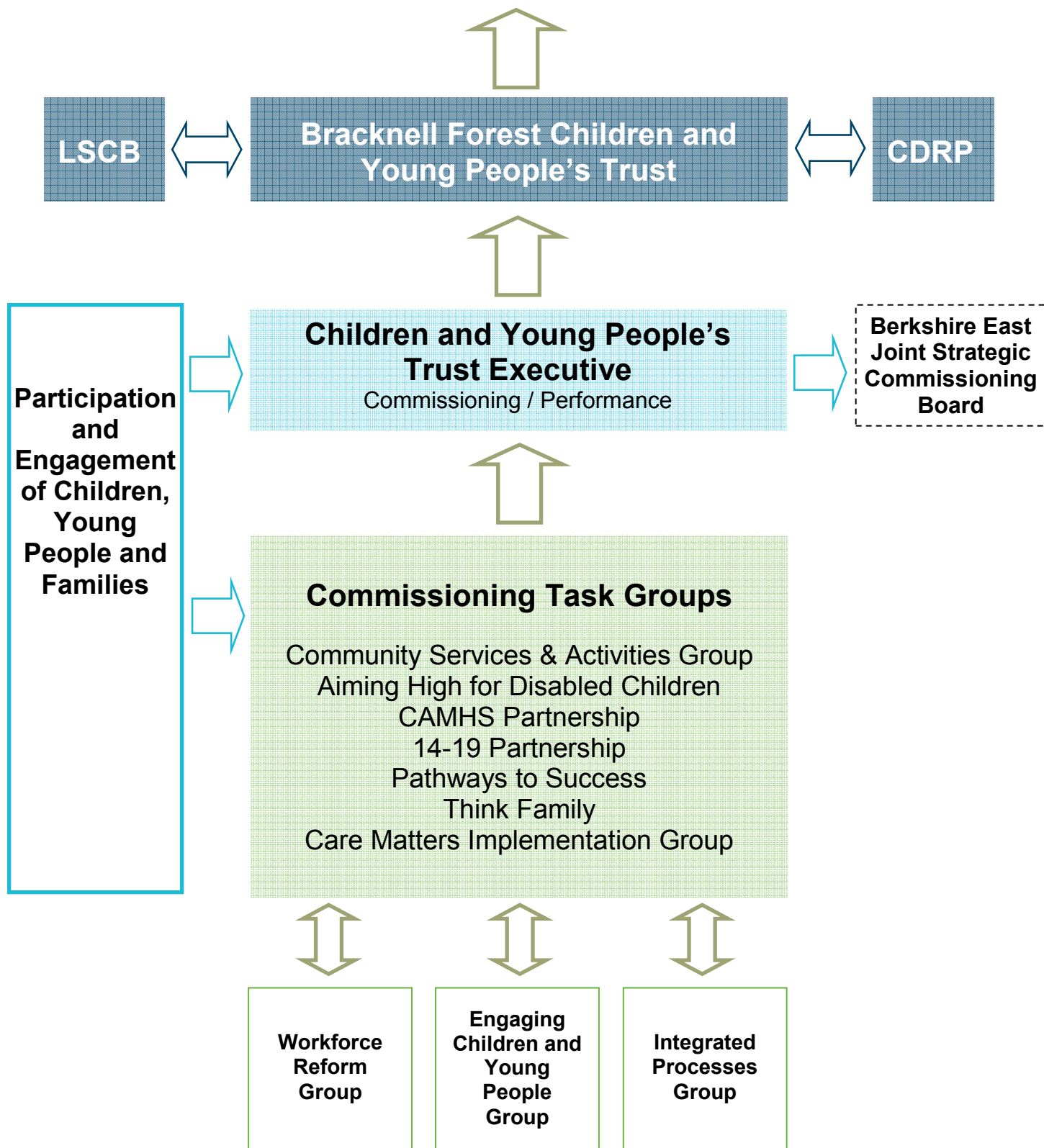
- **Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Children Board** – The work of the Local Safeguarding Board contributes to the wider goals of the Trust to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people but has a particular focus on the Stay Safe outcome. It is a statutory board under section 13 of the Children Act 2004 and a formal consultee on the review of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- The **Berkshire East Joint Strategic Commissioning Board** [JSCB] is a voluntary partnership between the PCT Chief Executive, PCT Directors (Locality: Public Health: Finance: Commissioning); Unitary Authority Executive Directors with Adult Social Care responsibilities; Unitary Authority Directors with Children's Services responsibilities who work with the common aim of improving services and outcomes for the population served.

The Berkshire East JSCB has within its terms of reference the following tasks:

- To jointly commission, monitor and evaluate health and social care services for children, older people, people with Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities and Mental Health issues, Aids/HIV and Drug and Alcohol misuse;
- To work collectively and in an innovative way to achieve relevant Government targets/expectations for health and social care and to deliver the intentions outlined in *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say and Every Child Matters*.

Terms of reference for the commissioning task groups and the transformational groups can be found as annex 1.

Bracknell Forest Partnership



Purpose and Vision of the Children and Young People's Trust

The purpose of the Children and Young People's Trust is to hold a collective understanding of the needs, development and wellbeing of children and young people. To work together to promote high quality local arrangements, providing shared resources so that children can thrive, aspire and achieve, thereby contributing to the improved outcomes for children and young people in Bracknell Forest.

Our vision is to secure the appropriate level of support for all children, young people and families, to enable them to lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives so that they can play an active role within the community, and realise their potential through the well coordinated provision of services.

Membership roles and responsibilities

The agencies and organisations represented on the Children and Young People's Trust Board share a commitment under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to co-operate and work together to deliver effective and robust arrangements to improve the well being as defined by the five ECM Outcomes; to improve outcomes; and narrow the gap between different groups of children and young people.

It is also the duty of agencies and organisations represented to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, [as does Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, giving a similar duty to education authorities and governing bodies of maintained schools and further education colleges].

It is each member's responsibility to contribute to steering the strategic direction of the Board and to contribute to the co-ordination of local agencies' arrangements. They have a collective responsibility for the effectiveness of local arrangements and services of all agencies working with children and young people in Bracknell Forest.

All Board members sign up to the governance arrangements share the responsibility for ensuring that the Board's work programme is delivered. Any decisions made by the Board are signed up to by the individual partner agency.

Each Board partner accepts the responsibility to:

- 1) Promote the work of the Board within the Partnership arrangements and put in place for their organisation the appropriate processes to deliver well co-ordinated multi-disciplinary services and monitor the effectiveness of those services.

- 2) Provide a needs assessment that informs the Children and Young People's Plan, and that a regular review of the needs of all children's and young people in the area takes place paying particular attention to the general need of children and those in need of protection.

Terms and conditions

Board members will be senior managers within their organisation with the remit to represent their organisation and commit their organisation to joint working and where appropriate their resource contribution to support the work of the Board.

- Named representatives will normally serve a minimum of three years and are expected to attend the meeting on a regular basis. If on occasions a substitute representative attends the board they will have the appropriate level of authorisation for them to represent their organisation
- The board will be quorate with a minimum of five people present and any decisions made will be binding on all members.
- All partners will be expected to respect any shared information as confidential

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Children and Young People's Trust Board

The Children and Young People's Trust Board is responsible for setting the strategic vision for children, young people and their families, and for developing the Children and Young People's Plan. It acts on behalf of all agencies for setting work programme priorities, approval of plans, policies and strategies. It represents and reflects the voice of children, young people and families at partnership level and ensures that outcomes for children, young people and families remain at the centre of partnership working and delivery.

Its responsibilities are to:

1	Act as the governing board for the Children's Trust Executive and interagency collaborative and strategic arrangements. Agree the governance arrangements and work programme priorities.
2	Ensure the vision and desired outcomes for children and young people in Bracknell Forest is regularly reviewed and implemented
3	Ensure all relevant partners work collaboratively under Section 10 [Duty to Cooperate] of the Children Act 2004 to improve outcomes for children and young people. All partners sign up to the new statutory requirements set out by Government
4	Provide needs assessment that informs the Children and Young People's Plan and agree the priorities for inter-agency children's services development, review, sign off, publish and monitor the Children and Young People's Plan.
5	Engage and consult the community, schools, and front line staff in the review of the Children and Young People's Plan. Through participation in the trust arrangements involve children and young people in the decision making and the design and delivery of services.
6	Facilitate collaboration between agencies to develop a joint commissioning framework, pooling of budgets where appropriate. Including effective use of resources.
7	Monitor the impact of the effectiveness of services and receive reports on the impact, outcomes and improvements for children and young people.
8	Hold the Children's Trust Executive accountable for the planning and delivery

	of strategic goals, and the delivery of the work programme
9	Report to the Bracknell Forest Partnership and liaise with other partnerships, this includes the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, and schools forums
10	Ensure that all service delivery meets the requirements of Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 in relation to safeguarding, and to receive regular scrutiny reports from the LSCB on conformance to safeguarding.
11	To ensure services work collaboratively to support integrated workforce development. Ensure that there is sufficient multi-disciplinary training in place.

Membership Children and Young People's Trust Board

Bracknell Forest Council	
	Lead Member for Children and Young People [Chair]
	Executive Member for Education
	Leader of the Opposition or representative [elected member]
	Director Social Care and Learning
	Chief Officer Children's Social Care
	Chief Officer Access and Inclusion
	Chief Adviser Learning and Achievement
	Youth Offending Service Manager
	Head Teacher Primary School x 2
	Head Teacher Secondary School x 1
	Head Teacher Special School
	Environment and Leisure
NHS Organisations	
	Assistant Director Locality Development NHS Berkshire East [PCT]
	Director of Commissioning NHS Berkshire East [PCT]
	Community Paediatrician Berkshire East Community Health Services
	Assistant Director Children and Young People Berkshire East Community Health Services
Other Community Organisations	
	Members of the Voluntary Sector x 2 [one of whom is Vice Chair]

Director Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action
Young People representatives of Youth Forum x 3
Other Organisations
Chair of LSCB if not the Director
Connexions Manager
Learning and Skills Council
Thames Valley Police
Representative of Bracknell and Wokingham College

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Children and Young People's Trust Executive

The Executive of the Bracknell Forest Children and Young People's Trust is responsible for the production of the governance arrangements and developing a work programme for undertaking and achieving the priorities identified by the Children and Young People's Trust Board as agreed through the Children and Young People's Plan.

It has two specific roles:

- to ensure the implementation of the Commissioning Framework and monitor its effectiveness, and
- to ensure that the appropriate performance monitoring arrangements are in place and able to provide the appropriate reports and analysis for the Trust Board

Its responsibilities are to:

1	Support and make recommendations to the Children and Young People's Trust Board, provide a work programme and monitor the delivery of the business of the Trust.
2	Take responsibility for the review of the Children and Young People's Plan in line with Government guidance.
3	Take responsibility for the monitoring, evaluating the impact and reporting on the progress of the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan
4	Develop a performance monitoring and reporting process and be responsible for the comprehensive data collection and reporting arrangements for children's services consistent with the national indicator set, LAA targets and national inspection requirements.
5	Lead the development of joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements.
6	Undertake and review on a regular basis an analysis of need to inform local priorities, planning and the review of the Children's and Young People's Plan
7	Review membership and foster and embed ongoing partnership development.
8	Oversee multi-agency Inspection preparation [e.g. APA]

9	Liaise with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and other key Partnership Groups to promote improved outcomes for children and young people.
10	Provide strategic input to plan and manage the agenda for the Children's Trust Board
11	Be responsible for the commissioning task groups and monitoring of the working groups supporting the work of the Trust.

Membership – Children's Trust Executive

Bracknell Forest Council
Lead Member Children and Young People
Director Social Care and Learning [Chair]
Chief Officer Access and Inclusion
Chief Officer Children's Social Care
Chief Adviser Learning and Achievement
Head Teacher x 1
NHS Organisations
Assistant Director Locality Development NHS Berkshire East [PCT]
Director of Commissioning NHS Berkshire East [PCT]
Assistant Director Children and Young People Berkshire East Community Health Services
Other Organisations
Connexions Manager
Voluntary Sector x 1

Involvement of Children and Young People

The strategy for engaging and involving children and young people has been supported by the Trust, and is seen as integral to all that we do. The Youth forum plays a central role in ensuring the voices of young people are represented at meetings, and through the wider networking of groups, views are sought on a regular basis. The Children's and Young People's Plan shows a strong commitment to ensuring the voice of children and young people is heard, and the working groups under the Trust have in place mechanisms for involving children, young people and families.

Working arrangements between the Children and Young People's Trust and the Safeguarding Children's Board

Currently arrangements exist for shared minutes between the two boards. There is a quarterly themed partnership update published which notes developments in the work of the Safeguarding Board, the Trust and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

There is a considerable membership overlap, with statutory agency representatives sitting on both boards. At present the is DCS Chair of the Safeguarding Children's Board and also sits on the Trust and chairs the Trust Executive.

In addition, the Partnership Performance sub group reports to both boards Lord Laming in his report: *The Protection of Children in England; A progress report* has made recommendations to strengthen the relationship between Trust Boards and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards by reporting to Children and Young People's Trusts and providing an annual report. Further Lord Laming states that the Safeguarding Board should provide a robust challenge to the work of the Trust and its partners in order to ensure that systems and quality of services and practice are in place so that children are properly safeguarded.

Revised 'Working Together Guidance' will be published by the end of the year which will set out the requirements for the working arrangements, Both Board will need to be committed to developing the appropriate mechanisms to implement the new guidance.

Terms of reference Commissioning Task Groups

To be inserted when completed

Terms of reference Transformational Groups

To be inserted when completed

Children and Young People's Plan 2006 - 2009 **2009 Review**



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Children and Young People's Plan [CYPP] is an important part of ensuring that *Every Child Matters* is implemented in Bracknell Forest, and is a key mechanism for improved integration and partnership in children's services. Section 17 of the Children Act 2004 provides the statutory basis for the CYPP along with CYPP Regulations, published in 2005 and 2007.

The Plan is central to the work of Children and Young People's [CYP] Trust as it is the defining statement of strategic planning and priorities for children, young people and families in the area.

The first Bracknell Forest Children and Young People's Plan [CYPP] was published in June 2006 as a three year plan, ending in 2009. The Plan was based on a needs analysis which included wide ranging consultation with children and young people, parents and carers, practitioners and partners in the voluntary and community sector.

Much has been achieved in relation to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families in Bracknell Forest since the publication of the first plan. This has been evidenced through Annual Performance Assessment Inspection led by Ofsted, School Inspections, Joint Area Review Inspection in 2007, PCT Inspection, and in what children, young people and their families tell us.

In spite of this, we are not complacent, and acknowledge that there are improvements that can and should still be made.

Legislative proposals are currently being developed nationally to establish statutory Children's Trust Boards and to ensure the CYPP is developed and owned by all Children's Trust partners. It is anticipated this new legislation will be in place by November 2009.

All areas will need to develop a new CYPP for publication by April 2011. The format of the new CYPP will be significantly different to the current format, with a strong emphasis on identifying the use of resources, performance management and the use of joint/pooled budgets.

Current CYPP regulations do not define the duration of the plan. Local authorities can review and roll forward an existing plan, particularly in circumstances where any new plan would have a limited life span before being substantially re-written to meet new requirements.

The Bracknell Forest CYP Trust has agreed to roll forward the current plan, with a view to publishing a new plan on 1 April 2011. We believe that the way in which we have reviewed the plan each year and taken into account our progress against outcomes, that the priorities we have identified remain so, and in line with good practice they will continue to be reviewed and revised according to identified local need, and feedback.

This review has been undertaken by the Bracknell Forest Children and Young People's Trust which represents the organisations that work together in Bracknell Forest to improve the lives of children, young people and their families

2. BRACKNELL FOREST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST [CYP Trust]

Arrangements for Children's Trusts are set out in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 which describes the duty to co-operate for all those organisations in the statutory sector.

The purpose of the Children and Young People's Trust is to hold a collective understanding of the needs, development and wellbeing of children and young people, and to work together to promote high quality local arrangements, providing shared resources so that children can thrive, aspire and achieve, thereby contributing to the improved outcomes for children and young people in Bracknell Forest.

Our Vision

“Our vision is to secure the appropriate level of support for all children, young people and families, to enable them to lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives so that they can play an active role within the community, and realise their potential through the well coordinated provision of services”.

The role of the CYP Trust is to turn the vision into a reality:

We will support children, young people and families to:

- **Maintain healthy lifestyles that promote good physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. *[Be Healthy]***
- **Live in a safe, secure and tolerant community where they are protected from harm, abuse, harassment and neglect. *[Stay Safe]***
- **Achieve their full potential, with appropriate opportunities for learning and participation in a range of sporting and cultural activities within the Borough. *[Enjoy and Achieve]***
- **Contribute to their local community, are enabled to have their voices heard and are valued as responsible citizens. *[Make a Positive Contribution]***
- **Are able to grow up in a loving, stable environment. *[Achieve Economic Wellbeing]***

Children and Young People's Plan 2006 – 2009 [Updated June 2009]

The Bracknell Forest CYP Trust was established on 1 April 2008. It is one of the themed partnerships that contribute to the work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership [Local Strategic Partnership] responsible for the development and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement.

The Bracknell Forest Partnership is supported through the work of the CYP Trust in delivering its vision which is an overarching vision for the community.

The CYP Trust works within a framework to deliver improved outcomes to children, young people and families. This includes:

- ❖ **Integrated Front Line Delivery** – providing the mechanisms to enable front line practitioners to work together in a more integrated way, cutting across institutional boundaries and working more effectively as a “team around the child”. Examples of this include the development of Children’s Centres within local communities, and the development of Portman Close supporting the delivery of Integrated Youth Support.
- ❖ **Integrated Processes** – providing the approaches necessary to support the diverse needs of children, young people and families. Examples include the Common Assessment Framework, Information Sharing, Contact Point and other systems to support integrated working.
- ❖ **Integrated Strategy** – securing effective planning and commissioning arrangements to drive improvements and culture change across all services and organisations. Examples include undertaking children and young people’s needs assessment, preparing the CYPP, and developing effective commissioning including developing pooled/joint budgets.
- ❖ **Inter-agency Governance** – providing clear leadership, accountability and providing a strong strategic direction. The Bracknell Forest Partnership, the CYP Trust and its Executive provide this function and will continue to develop this role, which will be strengthened by the forthcoming legislation.
- ❖ **Safeguarding** – ensuring children and young people are safeguarded is a theme that runs throughout all of the work with children, young people and families. CYP Trusts play a central role in bringing together all the services needed to ensure that this happens.
- ❖ **Prevention and Early Intervention** – supporting children, young people and families from an early stage to have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Local partners work together to identify programmes and services that will achieve this goal.

3. FROM VISION TO PRACTICE

In order to deliver the framework set out above a number of working groups have been created with the responsibility for developing and delivering appropriate plans, strategies and in some cases direct services to support the priorities of the Trust. All of the groups have multi-agency membership which includes partners from statutory and third sector agencies and where appropriate children, young people and parent/carers. [Annex 1 shows the structure of the Trust and its groups].

A brief summary of each of these groups is shown below and more detailed information about the progress made in these groups in the last year is shown as annex 2.

Prevention and Early Intervention Group [PEI]

Prevention and early intervention remain key strands of the national Children's Plan: *Building Brighter Futures* [DCSF 2008], and *Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures* the joint strategy for children and young people's health [DCSF and DH 2009] and many of our local plans and strategies including the CYPP.

The PEI Group has taken the lead in working closely with partners in the third sector, and developing preventative services that support the delivery of a number of the priorities in the CYPP.

Prevention and early intervention must remain high on the agenda this year partners will work to continue to embed this into all areas of work across the CYP Trust. There is a particular emphasis on continuing to engage, support and build relationships with partners in the third sector to deliver services that support children and young people. The work of this group will be mainstreamed into other working groups and the CYP Trust will monitor through the CYP Trust Executive.

Child Adolescent Mental Health Services [CAMHS] Partnership

The CAMHS Partnership has overseen the implementation of the strategy *We all Have a Part to Play*. It continues to monitor the delivery of Comprehensive CAMHS in Bracknell Forest, the Integrated Care Pathways for Primary and Secondary aged children, and has contributed to the development of a service specification for Tier 3 CAMHS across Berkshire East, working closely with partner authorities.

The National CAMHS report has been responded to and proposals from this are being incorporated into the local strategy. This is still in draft form but it is planned to have a new updated CAMHS strategy in place for 2009/10.

Parenting Strategy Group

The Parenting Strategy Group has reviewed the delivery of *Strong Foundations*, the multi-agency strategy to support parent/carers in the borough, and has updated the action plan as a result. Parent engagement, effective parenting programmes and new appointments have all supported the successful delivery of parenting support in the borough.

Parenting support will continue to be a core strand of national policy, with a significant emphasis now being placed not just on parenting, but on a "Think Family" approach and work will continue to develop and deliver these initiatives.

Some key tasks in the coming year will include identifying referral routes/pathways to accessing parenting support and advice, further development of the provision of good information to parent/carers and families, monitoring and evaluating current programmes, developing and implementing "Think Family" approach, and seeking greater engagement and involvement of parent/carers in service planning and delivery.

Shared Processes Group

The Shared Processes Group has continued to steer the ongoing development and implementation of the strands of work that support integrated working on the front line.

These include the Common Assessment Framework, now fully embedded in the borough, developing an Information Sharing Protocol and associated materials, preparation for the implementation of Contact Point, and the Section 12 Childcare Act Duty to provide a comprehensive Family Information Service.

Work will continue on all the strands that support integrated working which includes developing a coordinated training programme, developing the role of "lead professional" and working on further development of new and developing ICT initiatives to support integrated working.

Community Activities and Services Group

This newly formed group has developed out of the original Extended Services and Children's Centre Group; it has a wider focus encompassing Extended Services, Children's Centres and Integrated Youth Support.

Representatives from all three areas meet on a monthly basis to ensure progress remains on target, and then a wider network meeting of multi-agency partners meets three times per year to ensure all partners with an interest in Community Activities and Services are engaged in ongoing discussion, planning, consultation and networking.

Aiming High for Disabled Children Working Group

This group has lead responsibility for developing and implementing the *Aiming High for Disabled Children* initiative, and was formed in June 2008. The group has strengthened and developed positive local partnership working.

The Aiming High for Disabled Children [AHDC] Strategy was developed for Bracknell Forest incorporating the views of parent/carers, over 70 disabled children and young people, and practitioners; this strategy was approved by the DCSF and work is now underway to progress the actions.

Care Matters Steering Group

The key aim of this group is to act as the strategic planning group to ensure the implementation of "*Care Matters Time to Deliver for Children in Care*" published by the

DCSF in 2008, it sets out a framework to ensure that the opportunities for children in care are maximised and outcomes are improved.

The group has identified strengths and gaps in the service for Looked After Children and vulnerable children on the edge of care and is working to meet these in a variety of ways. A range of services to support young people who may be at risk of coming in to care, are now co-located at Portman Close.

A recent audit undertaken by the group identified further areas for development to ensure Care Matters is implemented to support all our looked after children and young people.

Workforce Strategy Group

The Workforce Strategy Group has continued to support the delivery of the key priority areas these are the recruitment of staff, retention of staff, promoting integrated working, strengthening leadership and management and safeguarding. The group has revised its membership to include a wider range of the workforce, and has established a system of highlight reporting to ensure information is shared on progress being made across the range of agencies/services.

The publication of the Children's 2020 Workforce Strategy [Children's Workforce Development Council] has clarified a definition of the core workforce and the wider workforce, and provided a clearer framework on which to base future work. Therefore the workforce strategy is currently being revised to ensure it supports the development of a workforce that is fit for purpose.

Engaging Children and Young People

There are many positive examples of the engagement of children and young people across service planning and delivery.

Engagement has taken the form of direct consultations, questionnaires and evaluations, young people being involved in interview processes, and some through young people's attendance at meetings and participation in staff interviews. A number of events have been organised for young people to participate in including a "Hear by Right Conference".

This is not an area of work that will ever be concluded. There is a recognition that we must at all times consider and actively seek the views of children, young people and their families and demonstrate this within our plans, strategies and ongoing direct work on a day to day basis.

14 –19 Partnership

The 14 – 19 Partnership has specific aims which include; developing a strategy for planning and funding local provision, identifying the needs of learners and developing a varied curriculum, and ensuring submissions are made for inclusion in regional and national initiatives.

Major changes are taking place in the way that education is being provided for young people aged 14 – 19 and work will continue through the partnership to ensure that they have the best opportunities available to succeed in education and ongoing career development. Some of the forthcoming tasks include; reviewing the provision for young people not in employment or education [NEET], developing Diploma implementation plans, and reviewing the 14 – 19 plans in light of the 16 – 19 funding transfer due to take place in 2010.

Pathways to Success Group

The Pathways to Success Group has a role in promoting the economic well-being of young people and coordinates activity to increase levels of engagement by particularly vulnerable young people in education and training, and preparing for employment and leaving school.

The group has a focus on many of the wider issues that impact on the economic wellbeing of young people. Work will continue through this group to address the wider needs of young people, including the monitoring of teenage pregnancy and housing issues. The group will focus on developing models for Integrated Youth Support across Bracknell Forest.

Local Safeguarding Children Board [LSCB]

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board is a statutory board that has responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding is inherent in all our work with children, young people and families, and that safeguarding is seen as "Everybody's Business".

The work programme for the LSCB has been intensive with examples including; a safeguarding toolkit being developed and launched in February 2009, a Section 11 Audit of safeguarding practice, ongoing joint working with colleagues across Berkshire, an LSCB Conference aimed at training and raising awareness, developing and implementing a safeguarding training programme.

Following events nationally the local authority, police and health services have reviewed their child safeguarding arrangements with regard to staffing, child protection practice, workforce development, policy and procedure, management and governance. These action plans have been reviewed by the LSCB Executive. There is now further work to do in response to the Laming Report and the government action plan.

Further work for the LSCB will be required when the new version of "Working Together" is published later this year.

The LSCB will be required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements locally, and will be working more closely aligned to the Children and Young People's Trust

4. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2008 [APA]

The APA is part of the integrated inspection framework for children's services which began in 2005. Ofsted is required under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to undertake a review of each council's services and to award a performance rating for them. The APA discharges these duties.

The aim of the APA is to assess the Council's contributions to improving outcomes for children and young people. It has a focus on the contribution made by the Council through its education and social care functions. It has regard to other services that have an impact on children and young people such as health, police and voluntary services.

The letter from the 2008 APA identifies a judgement on a four point scale on each of the five outcomes for children and young people as; inadequate (1), adequate (2), good (3) or excellent/outstanding (4).

The judgement on each of the five outcomes from the 2008 APA is:

- Be healthy [3] - **good**
- Stay safe [3] - **good**
- Enjoying and achieving [3] - **good**
- Make a positive contribution [4] - **excellent**
- Achieving economic wellbeing [3] - **good**

In addition to each of the five outcomes a grade is awarded based on three areas for judgement which for the 2008 APA are as follows:

- The Council's children's services and the specific contributions they make to improve outcomes for children and young people [3]
- The contribution services make to improving the five outcomes for children and young people [3]
- The Council's capacity to improve these services [3]

The overall grade has remained largely consistent with the 2007 APA; the main changes being the grade on be healthy was reduced from a 4 [excellent] to a 3 [good] and the positive contribution grade was increased from a 3 [good] to a 4 [excellent]. The inspectors noted many sustained and continuing improvements including strong leadership and good outcomes for children and young people.

The recommendations made as a result of the APA are being incorporated into future planning and some will be identified as new priorities at the end of this document.

The way in which such Inspections take place is changing from this year with a new style of Inspection being introduced called Comprehensive Area Assessment, which brings together a number of Inspectorates under one framework to determine how well people are being served by local public services. The APA process as we have known it will be changing and we will focus on our preparation for this new process alongside all our partners.

5. WHAT HAS CHANGED IN BRACKNELL FOREST?

Population

Bracknell Forest remains a growth area with several new major housing developments; however this has slowed recently due to the impact of the economic downturn. There are approximately 30,000 children and young people in Bracknell Forest which represents 27% of the total population, with around 15,000 pupils on roll in Bracknell Forest maintained schools.

Ethnicity

The percentage of residents from minority ethnic groups is increasing steadily. School Census data, collected annually suggests that the proportion of school pupils from the BME population is growing, from 4% in 2001, 11.6% in 2006 to 13.9% in January 2008.

The presence of the Gurkha regiment at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst has led to a significant Nepali community being established in the south of the Borough. Increasingly members of this community are settling in the Borough with their extended families.

The School Census 2008 also showed that the number of different languages identified in school aged children totalled 70 [including English]. The borough average of English as an Additional Language [EAL] for the school population is 7.5%. It is important to note that whilst a significant number of languages are spoken they are in very small numbers, presenting more of a challenge when looking at the distribution of support and resources.

Deprivation

Bracknell Forest is generally affluent [ranked 320 out of 354] on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation [2007] where 1 is the most deprived and 354 is the least deprived, Bracknell Forest is therefore seen as an area that does not experience the problems associated with deprivation.

However there are significant pockets of deprivation in the Borough which are not always apparent from the headline statistics. For instance, of the 126 wards comprising Berkshire, eight Bracknell Forest wards are in the top 50 most deprived.

The proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals is relatively low at 6%. However in nine wards this figure is substantially above average and recent data indicates a rising trend.

6. NEEDS ANALYSIS

Needs analysis supports the ongoing work of the Bracknell Forest Children and Young People's Trust, bringing together data and information to inform the business of the Children and Young People's Trust, including the Joint Commissioning Framework and the Children and Young People's Plan.

We have reviewed the original needs analysis completed in 2005, and this revised needs analysis and the accompanying data supplement, provide an overview of Bracknell Forest including a break down of a range of data to ward level, enabling a more detailed picture to emerge in relation to the needs across the borough and how these can differ when looking at individual geographical areas.

The needs analysis overall shows a positive picture of Bracknell Forest as a thriving, prosperous community, and this is largely an accurate picture. In ensuring that our children, young people and families have the best possible opportunities there is a need to look below this positive picture and address the issues that impact on life chances.

The information presented in the needs analysis and the data supplement largely support the current priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan however there are a number of **recommendations** as a result of this analysis for inclusion in the CYPP.

1. Continue to monitor the trends and outcomes in relation to children and young people's ethnicity, this includes improved use of data and information to inform planning, and address particular areas of need, [for example English as an Additional Language]
2. Work is undertaken to reduce the rising numbers of children who are obese.
3. Address the inequalities in health outcomes across the borough
4. Continue to address the concerns of young people about crime and bullying.
5. Continue to ensure that safeguarding children and young people remains a priority in the work of all agencies.
6. Continue to raise the achievement of pupils at all stages of their school career
7. Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.
8. Address the gap in attainment related to gender.
9. Continue to seek ways to support children and young people to make a positive contribution.
10. Support children, young people and families through the impact of the economic downturn.

The Executive Summary from the needs analysis can be found at Annex 3

7. PROGRESS AGAINST PRIORITIES 2008/09

Our priorities are intended to be inclusive of all children and young people living and growing up in Bracknell Forest, however we do recognise that there are some groups of children and young people who may have additional needs and will benefit from additional support, such as children who are looked after, children with learning difficulties/disabilities and young carers.

Some of these groups are identified in the priorities to ensure that any additional needs are recognised by all partners and that all partners work together to provide support in the most effective way to ensure good outcomes.

This section looks at the progress that has been made in achieving the priorities during 2008/09:

BE HEALTHY

BH 1	All children and young people in Bracknell Forest have improved mental health and emotional wellbeing.
BH 2	Parents and carers make healthy choices for their child during pregnancy and throughout childhood.
BH 3	Children and young people understand the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity.
BH 4	Young people have a good understanding of sexual health and contraception.
BH 5	Children and young people know about the impact of substance and alcohol misuse, and fewer choose to misuse drugs or alcohol
BH 6	Children and young people looked after are healthy.
BH 7	Provision for children and young people with speech and language difficulties is recommissioned and developed across schools.

Key Strengths

- APA 2008 awarded a grade 3 [good] for Be Healthy, and commented on many positive aspects such as multi-agency working in promoting healthy lifestyles, delivering good outcomes in terms of reducing teenage conception, schools participating in the National Healthy School Standard.
- The APA also stated that children and young people have a good access to a wide and effective range of CAMH [Child and Adolescent Mental Health] services. The effectiveness of Child and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS) is performing well, with a score of 15, based on a self-assessment completed by BFC as part of the annual CAMHS Mapping Exercise. The assessment, undertaken by Bracknell Forest CAMHS Partnership, assesses performance in four proxy measures, each judged on a four point scale. Optimal performance is therefore 16.

- The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme has been successfully implemented in all primary schools and the Pupil Referral Service and is being implemented in secondary schools.
- The Bracknell Pyramid Scheme which is managed by East Berkshire MIND was established to help children in primary schools build self esteem and resilience. The scheme receives funding from Extended Services and from the Prevention and Early Intervention grant [formerly Children's Fund]. In the year April 2008 to March 2009 the scheme expanded its service to 9 primary schools. 712 children in years 3 and 4 were screened using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire [SDQ]. Through this screening 28% [196] children had their needs discussed by a multi-agency panel and 19% [135] children were selected for Pyramid Clubs. A small number of the remaining 61 children [1.25] were signposted to other agencies for support and the remaining 7% were already receiving support.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles through extended services through specific activities and healthy eating, some examples of this include drug and alcohol information sessions, cycling trips, and cookery clubs. A successful food awareness day and physical activity day took place in June 08 and there is a planned Health Month in June which will encompass Food Awareness week in June 09
- 8 teachers participating in the PSHE accredited CPD programme. In total 24 teachers have achieved the accredited course.
- 33/38 schools have achieved National Healthy Schools Status.
- In 2007/ 08 89% of 5 – 16 year olds participated in 2 hours of PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum. This is a 6% increase on the previous year. Workshops have been presented to schools on the government's five hour offer and the new PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP).
- There is a robust and effective system for ensuring an initial health assessment is done on time. For those children looked after for more than a year in September 2008, 91% had a health assessment/dental check.
- A specialist mental health worker funded by the CAMHS grant has been appointed within CAMHS to work with Looked After Children, Youth Offending Service, children on the "edge of care" and to support foster carers.
- From April 08 a Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire has been completed by the carers of Looked After Children aged between 4-17 years in order to measure their mental health needs.
- The proportion of mothers smoking at the time of delivery has fallen in Bracknell Forest and was 12% in 2006 compared to just over 16% in 2005. This however is higher than Slough at 10% and Windsor and Maidenhead at 8% in 2006.
- The proportion of mothers breastfeeding has steadily increased over the period of 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06, and has remained higher than the national average

although breast feeding rates have fallen to as low as 50% in Great Hollands North, Bullbrook and Old Bracknell

- Overall Bracknell Forest has made good progress in relation to its teenage pregnancy figures and has the highest reduction in conceptions amongst 15 – 17 year olds in comparison to our statistical neighbours and the England average. 2007 data shows that the change rate from the base year in number of conceptions amongst 15 – 17 year olds is -51.9%
- Chlamydia screening rates are among the lowest in South Central area at 2.4% against a national target of 17.5% and a locally enhanced service has been proposed through GPs to improve rates. In addition proposals to establish three additional sexual health clinics have been funded centrally through the Strategic Health Authority allocation and a clinic in Maidenhead opened in March 2009.
- The highest percentage of young people using tier 2/3 substance misuse treatment services in 2007/08 were aged 16 [44%] followed by 15 and 17 year olds [24% each]. Five young people aged 14 or under were seen by tier 2/3 young people's treatment services in 2007/08
- Bracknell Forest had a higher percentage of young people in tier 2/3 substance misuse treatment services per 100,000 head of population [under 18] than the South East average.
- During 2007/08 19 young people were admitted to hospital related to alcohol, which is lower than the South East average. Seven young people were admitted to hospital related to drugs, which is lower than the South East average.
- The Berks East [PCT] Community Health Services have worked with the Bracknell Forest Council and Headteachers to agree a new service for mainstream primary and secondary schools. As a result, in September 2008, a new service, based at The Pines, was initiated. This service is one which provides a rolling programme of school based interventions, which serve to train and support school staff, and to provide group and individual support for children as needed. The service has developed and strengthened the role of the Speech and Language Assistant as a key provider. Joint working with health and education staff is also proving to be of real benefit.

Areas for Development:

- Focus on areas for development highlighted in the APA 2008 on the assessment waiting times for physiotherapy and occupational therapy services for children with learning difficulties/disabilities. This is being addressed and work will continue through this year.
- Further promotion of healthy lifestyles through extended services through specific activities and healthy eating e.g. Health Month in June 2009

- Support teachers in the submission of their Personal Social Health Education, [PSHE] portfolios and recruit teachers/non teachers onto professional development course.
- Support to those schools who have not achieved NHSS status, and to support schools to reach NHSS enhancement
- The Annual PE and Sports Survey in Schools for 2008/09 currently being undertaken with official results due in October. This will inform future plans and strategies to increase the involvement of young people to achieve active and healthy lifestyles.
- Review the range of mental health work being provided within Children's Social Care to ensure it meets identified need.
- Further work to gain agreement of the CAMHS specification with the Berkshire East PCT and the other East Berkshire Unitary Authorities.
- Care leavers have a low record of engaging with health assessments, and further work is to be undertaken to consider more effective ways of engaging them. There is less consistency in achieving review health assessments for LAC placed out of area. The Care Matters Implementation Group will focus on these areas for development in the coming year.

STAY SAFE

SS 1	Children and young people are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school.
SS 2	Children and young people feel safe from bullying and choose not to bully others.
SS 3	Children and young people looked after have security and stability.
SS 4	Children and young people are safeguarded in an ICT environment.
SS 5	Children and Young People will be safeguarded through effective practice in implementing and monitoring thresholds and access to services.

Key Strengths:

- APA 2008 awarded a grade 3 [good] for Stay Safe, with many strengths identified including achieving a consistent understanding of the threshold for accessing safeguarding services, good performance in completing initial assessments, and core assessments, good safeguarding standards in the short term respite care unit [Larchwood], good performance on child protection plans and looked after children reviews.
- The LSCB have recently approved the Thames Valley wide joint Children's Services/Thames Valley Police protocol for responding to instances of missing

children and will monitor the effectiveness of services through the new national indicator N71 return.

- The Anti-Bullying Strategy, 'Safer Together, Safer Wherever' was circulated to stakeholders and launched 17 November 2008. The strategy is approved by the LSCB and is reported on to the LSCB by the Anti-Bullying Group, which is an LSCB sub group. The strategy is designed to determine the direction of Anti-Bullying Work in Bracknell Forest for the next two years. Many areas outlined in the Anti-Bullying Strategy Action Plan have now been completed. Drama and workshops on anti-bullying in schools and other agencies has increased along with the awareness and understanding of bullying and the impact on children and young people.
- A "Safe to Learn" a peer mentoring scheme managed by East Berkshire MIND to support young people who may be bullied through peer support has been successfully implemented in secondary schools in the borough. One secondary school Easthampstead Park won the "Diana anti-bullying award" for their scheme with all students involved receiving an individual award.
- The Early Intervention Project works with children and young people aged 8 – 14 who are experiencing difficulties and may be at risk of offending. During the year 08/09 47 [an increase of 8% on 2007/08] children and young people were referred to the project and were supported through one to one interventions and support, with other services agencies often involved in the support.
- The E-safety sub group of the LSCB was established in January 2009. The group has developed an action plan which is focussed on local awareness raising and training, based on the up to date guidance from BECTA.
- Between April 08 and March 09, 91% of statutory looked after children reviews were held within the timescales and 98% of looked after children participated in their reviews.
- All short break reviews were held within timescales. 95% of Permanence plans were completed.
- Eleven out of 82 looked after children had three placements or more in the previous year. The ages of these children ranged from 12-17 years reflecting the high percentage of older children in the BFC LAC population than nationally and thus at a higher risk of unplanned moves.
- Joint arrangement with Wokingham and Reading to commission foster placements through Independent Fostering Agencies has provided more placements within 20 miles
- The number of children placed with in-house foster carers increased from 28 to 35 during this year.
- The number placed in independent foster placements decreased from 22 in April 08 to 14 on 31 March 09.

- During 2008/09 the LSCB published and widely distributed safeguarding cue cards to professionals and adults in contact with children and young people, and also to children and young people themselves, to provide guidance on how to seek help and support when a safeguarding issue arises.
- Access to Services policy was approved by the Shared Processes Group and then by the LSCB on 26 September following on from consultation with partners, in accordance with JAR Action Plan requirements. A risk needs matrix was developed which has been widely distributed and is used in Common Assessment Framework Training to enable practitioners to make more effective decisions regarding referrals to Children's Social Care.
- Judgement of 'outstanding' for the short break care unit in both unannounced inspections during 2008-09; good judgement of the private fostering service in first Ofsted inspection in March 2009

Areas for Development

- Multi-agency training as part of the LSCB training programme being developed and offered from autumn term 2009.
- New Anti-Bullying Strategy due 2011
- Responding to the outcomes of the Lord Laming review following the death of Baby Peter, and the Government's response, including the new "Working Together" Guidance due to be published later this year.
- Improve quality and consistency of assessments in adoption service as part of the action plan following the second inspection in March 2009, which judged the service as satisfactory with some outstanding aspects.

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

EA 1	Raise the attainment of pupils in the Early Years and Foundation Stage, including the relative performance of boys.
EA 2	Raise the attainment of pupils in Primary Schools, including the relative performance of boys
EA 3	Raise the attainment of pupils in Secondary Schools, including improving the relative performance of boys
EA 4	Ensure that children and young people with SEN/Disabilities enjoy and achieve through better coordinated support.
EA 5	Increase enjoyment through play and leisure opportunities for all children and young people.
EA 6	Make available sufficient, suitable and accessible school places to support

	demographic changes and the needs of learners.
EA 7	Support pupils with English as an additional language.
EA 8	Sustain support for Looked After Children and extend to 19 years [including care leavers]

Key Strengths:

- APA 2008 awarded a grade 3 [good] for Enjoy and Achieve, with positive comments made about children at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage exceeding threshold targets in personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy, pupils achievement in mathematics at the end of Key Stage 1, the strong trend in improvement at Key Stage 3 in mathematics, science and boys' attainment in English. Also noted was the overall attainment and attendance of looked after children.
- In the Early Years and Foundation Stage [EYFS] results have improved slightly in personal and social education and in communication and language. The percentage with 78 points or more overall increased to 75% and is now above national levels. The performance of the weakest 20% improved narrowing the gap between these children and the rest.
- The percentage of girls achieving an overall good level of achievement - those children who achieve a score of 6 or more across the seven scales/across Personal Social Education [PSE] and Communication Language and Literacy [CLL] and 78 points or more improved by 1%.
- At age 11 the key indicator of Level 4+ in English and mathematics has improved and is above both the national and regional averages.
- At Key Stage 4 the key indicator of 5+A*-C including English and mathematics has improved and is now in line with the regional average. The gap between the performance of girls and boys on this indicator was reduced from 13% in 2007 to 11% in 2008.
- All parents who applied on time for a school place for their child have been offered one. Of these 91% of secondary school applicants were offered a place at one of their preferred schools and 94% of primary school applicants. Additional capacity will be created for September 2010 at Garth Hill, Edgbarrow, Ranelagh and Wildridings. Projects are underway to ascertain the feasibility to create further capacity at Crown Wood, Meadow Vale, Ascot Heath, Holly Spring and Sandy Lane.
- Further out of school activities for children and young people through extended services e.g. 'Summer of Fun' in Sandhurst, summer activities programme in Crowthorne, and 'Stay and Play' activities at schools.
- The Play Strategy has received approval and funding through a Big Lottery bid. A Play Ranger has already been recruited and plans underway to recruit more Play

Rangers, this work goes alongside plans to improve and develop the parks and play spaces in the borough.

- The Play Access Scheme funded by the Prevention and Early Intervention grant [formerly Children's Fund] enabled 99 children and young people from 65 families to access play schemes during the 2008/09 period, with a total of 910 places offered. Places are offered to children and young people who for some reasons may not be able to access play opportunities due to financial or other difficult circumstances.
- Established working groups of SENCOs and support service staff are responding to the local authority annual audit of SEN provision and reports. Developments are piloted within schools and shared with Headteachers. Current initiatives; developing teachers' skills and confidence in P level moderation, provision management and self evaluation.
- Translation of the "Welcome to Bracknell Forest" guide into Nepali, Hungarian and Urdu. Training delivered on EAL and cultural diversity in three secondary and six primary schools.
- Development of an "Induction and Support pack for admitting pupils with English as an additional language to schools.
- Well established 'Rights Respecting Schools' programme in schools across the borough.
- The integration of SEN and Disabled Children's Team has enabled closer working across social care and education in relation to children with disabilities. Larchwood Short Break Unit and Kennel Lane School have worked closely to ensure continuity of approach to disabled children within their care.
- The Aiming High for Disabled Children strategy has provided a clear and co-ordinated approach to providing short breaks and activities for 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- At the end of March 09 six out of 13 looked after children who had finished school at 16 achieved at least 1 GCSE, out of these two achieved 5 passes at grades A* to C [not including English and Maths]
- The numbers of children looked after for 12 months+ participating in out of school hours learning (at 31st Mar 08) was 79% (equates to 48 out of 61 children).
- A part time Connexions worker for looked after children and Care Leavers has been appointed to work with over 16s LAC and Care Leavers
- An award ceremony was held in October 2008 for looked after children to celebrate attainment and positive attitudes to learning, it is intended this is now an annual event.
- The managed move policy has meant that no looked after children have been permanently excluded.

Areas for Development:

- Visits to schools and settings and external inspection of provision have highlighted the need for additional staff training in the Early Years Foundation Stage, especially in the areas of communication, language and literacy.
- Further work with parents to enable them to support their children in learning.
- Address the gaps in performance in relation to gender and ethnicity at all key stages.
- Address the gap between the performance of those from the most deprived households and others particularly in Key Stage 4.
- Implementation of new scheme to provide subsidy to improve access to activities for children and young people living in economically disadvantaged families.
- Cross branch development and dissemination of the National Strategy Inclusion Development Programme.
- Meet the requirement of the Care Matters Implementation for each school to have a Designated Teacher for looked after children by September 2009, and the Virtual Head Teacher for looked after children/role to be developed to meet all requirements.

MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

PC 1	Children and young people engage in positive community and voluntary activities.
PC 2	Children and young people have a range of choices of things to do and places to go.
PC 3	Children and young people participate in decision making and in supporting the community.
PC 4	Enable all children and young people to access wider community activities before and after school hours and in school holidays.

Key Strengths:

- APA 2008 awarded a grade 4 (excellent) for Positive Contribution with comments made that children and young people, including those with learning difficulties/ disabilities and those who are looked after are closely involved in strategic decision making, and that 98% of looked after children participated in their reviews and subsequent care planning. There was also a significant reduction in the number of young people who offend or re-offend, and young people being actively engaged in recruitment.

- There have been a wide range of school based events held through Extended Services to engage with children and young people across the borough on a range of issues, an example of this being the “Sandhurst would be better if” schools’ council conference.
- A Junior Citizen day was held in South Bracknell facilitated by Extended Services where around 280 children from year 6 attended a range of safety workshops from police, anti-social behaviour, internet safety, trading standards, ambulance, first aid and road safety. This was a very positive event and much enjoyed by the children and adults involved.
- Various other school-based events provided through extended services including family learning days, library based activities, summer fun activities, inter-generational activities and stay and play sessions.
- Children who are looked after are given free access to Bracknell Forest sports and leisure facilities along with the foster carers and family.
- The Tell Us survey has given the local authority area a rating in excess of 80% in relation to making a positive contribution
- The design and format of the Xpresionz website is being revisited to enable a wider representation of positive activities available for young people.
- The Youth Service have been leading on this area of developing places to go and things to do for young people. A pilot project has been established in Great Hollands, bridging the gap for young people between school and the community.
- An additional permanent youth centre establishment is being considered for Great Hollands and further meeting points are planned for elsewhere in South Bracknell.
- The Youth Forum have pioneered and led the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF) process. The Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) has been targeting young people who have been excluded from accessing activities in school holidays by offering subsidised entry and transport. It has also been focussed on the voluntary youth sector groups to widen their appeal to young people.
- Members of the Youth Forum have designed and led a Borough-wide consultation event for young people, based on the Hear by Right framework. They presented the findings to the Children & Young People’s Trust and also to elected Members at a full Council meeting.
- The format for youth engagement and the election process for the member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) is being developed to include even more young people from a wider and more diverse background.

Areas for Development:

- Implementation of new scheme to provide subsidy to improve access to activities for children and young people living in economically disadvantaged families.
- Plan and deliver extended services in response to ongoing involvement and engagement of the Area Steering groups.
- Development of a new joint post of a “Vulnerable Children’s Worker” between Children’s Social Care and the Integrated Youth Support programme.
- The Youth Service has identified an objective within its Business Plan to offer more positive activities on Friday and Saturday evenings. This mirrors the national move to provide more opportunities for young people during weekends.
- Develop a more widely identified ‘offer’ of things to do and places to go for young people.
- Continue to reduce ratio of offending by looked after children, compared to offending by children not looked after [this was 6.4 in 2008/09 compared to 2.9 in 2007/08].

ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELLBEING

EW 1	Children and young people take part in accredited award schemes.
EW 2	Raise participation and achievement of young people post 16.
EW 3	Young people aged 14 to 19 have access to a range of quality educational opportunities.
EW 4	Parent/Carers are supported in their role to enable children and young people to achieve the five outcomes.
EW 5	Develop effective support for young carers.

Key Strengths:

- APA 2008 awarded a grade 3 [good] for Economic Wellbeing with comments made that there was good assessment of learning needs of young people aged 14 – 19 , and young people receive good advice and support on education, employment and training, and that all care leavers are allocated a personal adviser and are provided with good emotional, practical and financial support.
- Accredited two day Health & Safety courses delivered at Portman Close & Connexions Centre. Eighteen young people attended the Health & Safety Course. Sixteen young people passed and gained accreditation. This is through the British Safety Council.

- September Guarantee (16 year olds) successfully implemented (2008) – participation at 16 remains high.
- September Guarantee (17 year olds) being implemented (2009) – target to increase participation at 17.
- Increased applications for post-16 provision in September 2009 reported by providers.
- Area prospectus in place.
- External audit of Information Advice and Guidance [IAG] provision undertaken.
- Ranelagh School accredited to offer International Baccalaureate.
- Successful application to Diploma Gateway – new qualifications to be introduced in 2010.
- Bracknell & Wokingham College continue to offer Increased Flexibility and Young Apprenticeship provision.
- Continued improvement in GCSE (and equivalent) results at age 16.
- Parenting support has increased significantly in the borough with a range of programmes being offered across all levels of need, examples include Solihull delivered through Children's Centres in partnership with a Health Visitor, Pyramid for Parents being delivered across schools in the borough, Webster Stratton delivered through the Behaviour Support Service, and a Parenting Programme offered through the Youth Offending service.
- A Parenting Commissioner has been identified for the borough who will champion and steer the development of Parenting support, aided by a Parenting Coordinator. In addition through additional grant funding "Parenting Experts" have been recruited to deliver evidence informed programmes.
- Publication of 'Strong Foundations' strategy in 2008 , and subsequent review of action plan took place early in 2009, with a view to updating information and refocus the priorities for the ongoing development of parenting support.
- A Parenting Teenagers Handbook was developed and published; this complements the "Safe Parenting Handbook" already available.
- Development of the Family Support Adviser (FSA) role through the Extended Services programme, 21 advisers are now in post meeting the need in 29 schools.
- Young Carers Project managed by Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action worked with 34 children and young people aged between 5 to 18 during the year 2008 /09, providing a range of support including a weekly club split into a younger age band [5 – 12] and an older age band [12 – 18], some holiday activity and individual support.

- A small group has been developing a multi-agency strategy to support young carers, this work has engaged the Young Carers Steering Group, and directly engaged young carers themselves. It is anticipated this work will be completed in the summer 2009.
- The Youth Service offers a range of accredited learning opportunities which lead on to achievement in award schemes. These range from a local Berkshire wide scheme to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Areas for Development:

- Rapid English Programme to be delivered at the Connexions Centre from June 09.
- Further work on 16-19 Funding Transfer arrangements in 2010.
- Further improvement required in results at age 18/19.
- Common Application Process to be developed to allow young people to apply on line for Post 16 learning to be fully in place by 2011.
- Curriculum review underway at several schools to ensure appropriate range of opportunities to meet the needs of all young people (identified as development need in some school inspection reports)
- Continue planning for the raising on the participation age to 17 in 2013.
- Develop commissioning plan as part of the 16-19 Funding Transfer arrangements.
- Further map parenting support services, and work with partners to develop appropriate pathways for parenting support.
- Agree final Young Carers Strategy and begin work to implement actions.

WORKING TOGETHER

- WT 1** Better targeting of services towards the identified needs of children and young People.
- WT 2** Children and young people will be safeguarded.
- WT 3** Partners work together to improve outcomes for young people aged 14 to 19 including those who have additional needs.
- WT 4** Systems established to support integration of work across Children's Services and the sharing of information between professionals.
- WT 5** All practitioners working with children and young people are appropriately trained, qualified and are able to access professional development opportunities to support their role.

WT 6 Increase access to and take up of a wide range of services in one place, including education, health and social care and specialist services.

WT 7 Implementation of the Children's Trust

Working together is a key principle informing the way in which the CYP Trust and its associated work streams will ensure improved outcomes for children and young people and their families.

The APA 2008 awarded a grade 3 [good] for capacity to improve, it commented on the fact that there had been incremental improvement in all areas identified in the JAR and the APA 2007. It noted that there were good plans in place, with most of these being multi-agency in nature, and based on thorough needs analysis.

There are many examples in this document, demonstrating the way in which children and young people and families with additional needs are targeted to receive additional support, e.g. the use of the Common Assessment Framework, Integrated Care Pathways, and Webster Stratton Parenting provision. There are also many examples of support for all children and young people through universal services such as Health Visiting, Schools, etc.

Safeguarding children and young people is everybody's business, and this has been demonstrated as a strength in Bracknell Forest, the APA 2008 awarded a grade 3 [good] and the LSCB has continued to drive the agenda for safeguarding through some very difficult and challenging times, the death of Baby Peter and the consequent review by Lord Laming remind us that safeguarding must remain a high priority and can only be effectively achieved by all agencies working together.

The effectiveness of partnership working is evident in the description of the working groups that report to the CYP Trust, with many achievements noted, including the 14 – 19 Partnership developing plans and moving forward against a fast changing policy background, ICT developments have included the implementation of the Integrated Children's System in Children's Social Care, Information Sharing Protocols, and the ongoing development of Contact Point.

Workforce development continues, with multi-agency training supporting a number of key work areas such as safeguarding, common assessment, mental health and substance misuse. There is recognition that across professional groups we share many skills and competencies, and through the development of facilities to accommodate a number of agencies under one roof, such as Children's Centres, and Portman Close, this is becoming more embedded and being seen as the "norm" rather than the exception.

8. NEW PRIORITIES 2009 - 2011

In our original CYPP we had 25 priorities for improving the lives of children, young people and families in Bracknell Forest. They were identified as a result of extensive consultation and a thorough needs analysis.

As a result of the APA 2008, refreshment of the needs analysis and the work of the CYP Trust and consultation with partners and stakeholders, we have revised our list of priorities and added new ones where this is appropriate and evidence based, and either removed or reworded some of the existing priorities to ensure they were measurable, and able to demonstrate improved outcomes for children, young people and families.

The table attached below shows our strategic priorities as agreed by the CYP Trust for the coming year and shows where they link into other key plans and strategies across the CYP Trust Partners

Priorities for 2009 - 11

The table below shows the priorities for the CYP Trust for 2009 - 2011. The delivery of the priorities is through a range of plans and strategies which are shown in the table in annex 4.

	BE HEALTHY	LAA Target	National Indicator
BH 1	All children and young people in Bracknell Forest have improved mental health and emotional wellbeing.	✓	50 , 51, 58, 69, 72
BH 2	Parents and carers make healthy choices for their child during pregnancy and throughout childhood.		53, 55, 56, 126, 198
BH 3	Children and young people understand the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity.	✓	52, 55, 56, 57
BH 4	Young people have a good understanding of sexual health and contraception.	✓	112, 113
BH 5	Children and young people know about the impact of substance and alcohol misuse, and fewer choose to misuse drugs or alcohol		115
BH 6	Children and young people looked after are healthy.		58
BH 7	Reduce the waiting times for children with learning difficulties/disabilities for physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.		54

	STAY SAFE	LAA Target	National Indicators
SS 1	Children and young people are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school, and fear of crime is reduced.	✓	111, 19, 43, 45, 46
SS2	Children and young people feel safe from bullying and choose not to bully others.	✓	69
SS3	Children and young people looked after have security and stability.		61, 62, 63, 99, 100, 101, 147,
SS 4	Children and young people will be safeguarded through effective safeguarding practice by practitioners in all agencies.	✓	59, 60, 61, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71
SS 5	Parent/Carers are supported in their role to enable children and young people to achieve the five outcomes.		161, 162, 163, 164, 165

	ENJOY AND ACHIEVE	LAA Target	National Indicators
EA 1	Raise the attainment of all pupils at the Early Years and Foundation Stage, and in primary and secondary schools.	✓	72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, 108, 114.
EA 2	Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.	✓	92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 106,
EA 3	Ensure that children and young people with SEN/Disabilities enjoy and achieve through better coordinated support.		54, 103, 104, 105
EA 4	Increase enjoyment through play and leisure opportunities for all children and young people.		88, 110, 199
EA 5	Make available sufficient, suitable and accessible school places to support demographic changes and the needs of learners.		
EA 6	Monitor trends and outcomes in relation to pupils from BME [Black and Minority Ethnic] groups, in order to target and provide additional support where required.	✓	107, 108
EA 7	Sustain support for education of LAC and extend to 19 years (including care leavers)	✓	99, 100, 101, 147, 148

	POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION	LAA Target	National Indicators
PC 1	Children and young people engage in positive community and voluntary activities, take part in accredited award schemes, and have a range of choices of things to do and places to go.		88, 110
PC 2	Children and young people participate in decision making and in supporting the community.		88, 109
PC 3	Enable all children and young people to access wider community activities before and after school hours and in school holidays.		88, 109, 110

	ECONOMIC WELLBEING	LAA Target	National Indicators
EW 1	Raise participation and achievement of young people post 16.	✓	79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 90, 91, 106, 117
EW 2	Young people aged 14 to 19 have access to a range of quality educational opportunities.	✓	45, 79, 80, 81, 82, 86, 90, 91, 106, 117
EW 3	Develop effective Support for Young carers	✓	135,
EW 4	Support children, young people and families through the impact of the economic downturn.		116, 118,

NEXT STEPS

This review has shown that considerable progress has been made in addressing the priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan 2006 - 2009.

The Annual Performance Assessment from 2008 has re-enforced the fact that services in Bracknell Forest work well together and consistently provide a good service for children, young people and families.

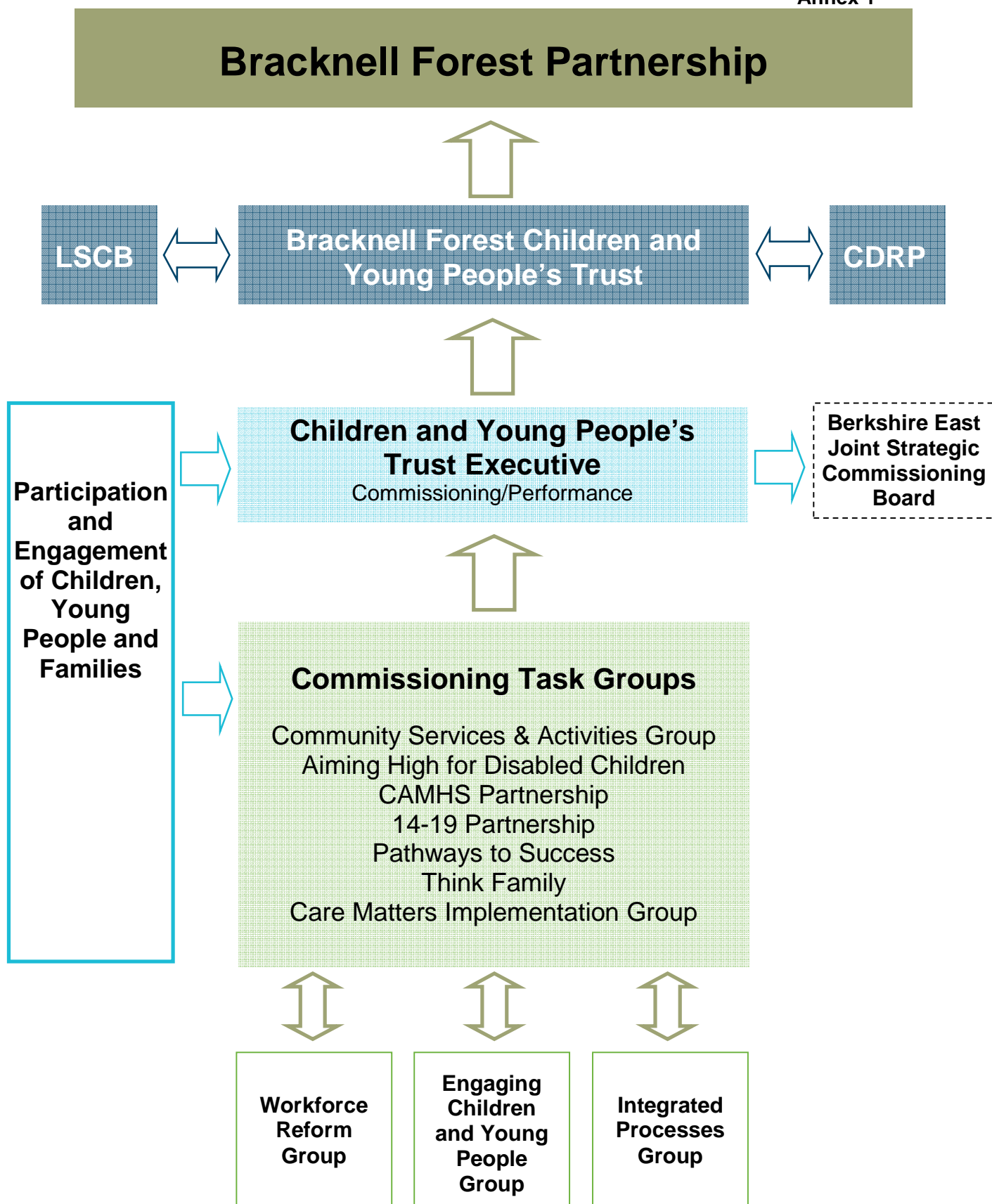
There are many challenges in the year ahead for all the partners in the CYP Trust to ensure that this positive progress is maintained and that we continue to work together to achieve our vision. This must be achieved in a climate of increasing economic pressures, and greater accountability to the children, young people and families who use our services.

New legislation on Children's Trusts, and the role of the Trust in developing a new Children and Young People's Plan by 2011 will be central to our work programme in the coming 18 months.

We have identified areas of development throughout this plan. These will be addressed through the working groups, through identified plans and strategies, and monitored through the Children and Young People's Trust arrangements.

Strengthened joint commissioning arrangements, performance management and governance for the Trust will provide a clear framework for ensuring that we are able to meet the challenges ahead.

Our success will be measured on whether we can deliver a Children's Trust in action, that is; integrating services at the point of delivery, supported by a shared understanding and processes, with a clear and jointly agreed plan that is owned by all partners and reflective of the needs of children, young people and families in Bracknell Forest.



PROGRESS MADE BY WORKING GROUPS

Prevention and Early Intervention Group [PEI]

Prevention and early intervention remain key strands of the national Children's Plan: *Building Brighter Futures* [DCSF 2008], and *Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures* the joint strategy for children and young people's health [DCSF and DH 2009] and many of our local plans and strategies including the CYPP.

The PEI Group has taken the lead in, working closely with partners in the third sector, and developing preventative services that support the delivery of a number of the priorities in the CYPP.

Prevention and early intervention must remain high on the agenda this year partners will work to continue to embed this into all areas of work across the CYP Trust. There is a particular emphasis on continuing to engage, support and build relationships with partners in the third sector to deliver services that support children and young people. The work of this group will be mainstreamed into other working groups and the CYP Trust will monitor through the CYP Trust Executive.

Key achievements in the last year include further expansion of services directly supporting children and young people. At least 70% of the funded services are provided by third sector organisations. Some examples of these are:

- **Pyramid for Children** offers support for children in primary schools through building their self esteem and resilience. Three key stages form the programme. Firstly a screening stage where all Year 3 pupils are assessed, secondly a selection of young people from this screening are targeted to receive support through a Pyramid Club, run after school for a ten week period, and thirdly signposting on to further support should this be required.
- **Pyramid for Parents** offers a complimentary programme of support for parents, which enables parents to be more effective in their role through building their basic skills and knowledge to promote and support their Childs emotional health and well being. This programme has been well received by parents and now forms a significant strand of the Parenting Strategy "Strong Foundations"
- **'Safe to Learn' peer mentoring** supports the delivery of the Anti-Bullying Strategy this was successfully rolled out in Secondary Schools and is now being developed within primary schools.

Young people who have received support [mentees] have commented:

- *"It has helped me lots with confidence building"*
- *"I made some friends in the quiet room"*

- *"I always get bullied and now I can get away from it"*
- *"Helps me get out of trouble"*
- *"It has given me confidence to talk to people about things"*

Young people trained to provide support [mentors] have commented:

- *"There is great satisfaction from knowing you can help other people and I've learnt a lot of responsibility from knowing that younger children are looking up to me"*
- *"I have gained communication skills and learned to listen to their peoples problems attentively"*
- *"I have gained lots of experience in how to deal with difficult issues involving younger pupils and their problems at home and at school. I have learnt to discuss issues openly"*
- **Early Intervention Project** (Youth Offending Service)- designed to address the needs of children aged 8 -13 who have been identified as being at risk of having problems during the transition from primary to secondary school, of becoming socially excluded and at risk of becoming involved in offending at some stage. The project has been evaluated externally and this evaluation has shown its positive impact. It recently expanded with additional funding from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership,
- Preparing strategy for Young Carers - this has included investigating the support and services available to young carers, identifying the key issues for them and the difficulties they experience, It has considered ways in which support can most effectively be provided. A multi-agency strategy to support young carers will be completed in summer 2009.
- Continued development of C&YP Voluntary Sector Forum including administration of Children's Workforce Development Council [CWDC] partnership grant, aimed at building the capacity and participation of the third sector in the development of the workforce.
- A number of funding streams have been successfully combined and allocated to projects following the commissioning cycle identified by the DCSF; this area of work will develop further within the Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Framework.

Child Adolescent Mental Health Services [CAMHS] Partnership

The CAMHS Partnership has overseen the implementation of the strategy "We all Have a Part to Play ".It continues to monitor the delivery of Comprehensive CAMHS in Bracknell Forest, the Integrated Care Pathways for Primary and Secondary aged children, and has contributed to the development of a service specification for Tier 3 CAMHS across Berkshire East, working closely with partner authorities. The National CAMHS report has been responded to and proposals from this are being incorporated

into the local strategy, this is still in draft form but it is planned to have new updated CAMHS strategy in place for 2009/10.

Key achievements include:

- The Partnership has formed closer links with the work of adult services through the inclusion of a representative from the adult Community Mental Health Team.
- Undertaking an annual self assessment based on the delivery of four proxy indicators. Significant progress has been made over time and the score in January was 15 out of a possible 16.
- One of the tasks of the Partnership is to monitor the implementation of a range of services and supports identified in the CAMHS Strategy "*We all Have a Part to Play*", this includes monitoring the two Integrated Care Pathways for 5 – 11 and 11 – 16 and has experimented with a model for young people 16+.
- A service level agreement has been developed with Berkshire Health Care Trust to address identified gaps in Tier 2 services.
- Targeted Mental Health in Schools [TaMHS] project to be funded in 2010/11, proposals have been developed and will be implemented in line with the national programme.
- The Partnership has also contributed to the development of a service specification for Tier 3 CAMHS services across Berkshire East, working closely with partner authorities.
- The National CAMHS report has been responded to and proposals from this are being incorporated into the local strategy, this is still in draft form but it is planned to have new updated CAMHS strategy in place for 2009/10.
- The Partnership will also continue to monitor the various workstreams within the strategy, including the Integrated Care Pathways models.

Parenting Strategy Group

The Parenting Strategy Group has reviewed the delivery of "*Strong Foundations*" the multi-agency strategy to support parent/carers in the borough, and has updated the action plan as a result. Parent engagement, effective parenting programmes and new appointments have all supported the successful delivery of parenting support in the borough.

Parenting support will continue to be a core strand of national policy, with a significant emphasis now being placed not just on parenting, but on a "Think Family" approach and work will continue to develop and deliver these initiatives. Some key tasks in the coming

year will include identifying referral routes/pathways to accessing parenting support and advice, further development of the provision of good information to parent/carers and families, monitoring and evaluating current programmes to ensure they are having an impact and improving outcomes for children, young people and families, developing and implementing "Think Family" approach, and seeking greater engagement and involvement of parent/carers in service planning and delivery.

Key achievements in the last year include:

- Identifying a "Parenting Commissioner" who will champion parenting support across the local authority
- Recruiting additional staff, this includes the appointment of a Parenting Co-ordinator which is crucial to ensuring the smooth delivery of the strategy, and a Principal Parenting Practitioner, responsible for delivering parenting support/parenting programmes using a structured, evidence based approach. Also recruiting Family Support Advisor role within schools.
- Developing a greater understanding of the variety and strength of parenting support available in the Borough and working towards developing clear information in relation to what support is available.
- A review of the Strong Foundations Strategy Action Plan has ensured progress remains on task and new projects and ideas can be incorporated into the strategy.
- Development and publication of a 'Parenting Teenagers Handbook' aimed at providing advice and information to parents of teenagers, this complements the "Safe Parenting Handbook.
- Engagement with the national programme of training to develop the skills and capacity to deliver evidence based programmes locally.
- Continued delivery of various programmes to support parents which include, Pyramid for Parents, Webster Stratton, Solihull Parenting, Triple P [through the Youth Offending Service], a series of one day programmes targeting identified issues such as play, teenagers, behaviour.

Shared Processes Group

The Shared Processes Group has continued to steer the ongoing development and implementation of the strands of work that support integrated working on the front line. These include the Common Assessment Framework now fully embedded in the borough, developing an Information Sharing Protocol and associated materials, preparation for the implementation of Contact Point, and the Section 12 Childcare Act Duty to provide a comprehensive Family Information Service.

Work will continue on all the strands that support integrated working on the front line

which includes developing a coordinated training programme to support integrated working, developing the role of “lead professional” and working on further development of new and developing ICT initiatives to support integrated working.

Key achievements made include:

- The Common Assessment Framework now fully embedded, continues to be well used with over 450 assessments completed to date. A review of the process has recently been undertaken, and new materials developed to support the process will be available for practitioners in the summer, these materials include the development of a risk, needs matrix giving practitioners information to support their judgement and assessments and consider where needs might be most appropriately met, through either universal, targeted, specialist or crisis intervention.
- CAF training is ongoing with four sessions planned in the coming year, targeting up to 80 practitioners from all agencies. E-learning modules on CAF and Information sharing are also available to support training and knowledge development.
- Parent/carers and children are given the opportunity to comment on their assessments, and some of the comments made are shown below.

An Information Sharing Protocol was agreed by the Children and Young People's Trust during 2008, and is supported by the Cross Government Guidance on Information Sharing, an information sharing cue card has been developed as part of the “Safeguarding Toolkit” and the pocket guide on information sharing has been widely distributed.

Contact Point is scheduled to become available in Bracknell Forest towards the end of 2009, and work has been underway to ensure readiness, this includes ensuring data is as accurate as possible, developing protocols to support the process, liaising and communicating with partners, and undertaking initial shielding of records where relevant and appropriate.

The Integrated Children's system [ICS] was implemented during 2008; work continues to roll out further modules, within the DCSF timetable.

The Primary and Secondary ICPs are both well established and good mechanisms are in place for meeting the needs of children and young people through these processes.

Community Activities and Services Group

This group newly formed this year has developed out of the original Extended Services and Children's Centre Group; it has a wider focus encompassing Extended Services, Children's Centres and Integrated Youth Support. Representatives from all three areas meet on a monthly basis to ensure progress remains on target, and then a wider network meeting of multi-agency partners meets three times per year to ensure all partners with an interest in Community Activities and Services are engaged in ongoing discussion, planning, consultation and networking.

Progress on the three key areas is shown below

Progress on the implementation of **Extended Services** is assessed as 'green' – there are plans in place to continue implementation with good progress and evidence of good outcomes.

In March 2009 76% (28) of schools had full or sustainable extended provision.

Some key achievements in the last year include:

- In all areas there have been Area Steering Group (ASG) meetings, with the opportunity taken to refresh the area plan, reviewing existing objectives, suggesting new areas and re-prioritising. There has been good engagement of all partners.
- Nine schools are making good progress towards the Quality in Study Support [QiSS] recognition scheme. Several of the other schools are preparing portfolios at emerged level which will be ready at the beginning of the autumn term. First four schools accredited at 'emerged' level for their Quality in Study Support.
- The development of the Family Support Adviser (FSA) role is progressing well. Twenty one advisers are now in post meeting the need in 29 schools. More are expected to be in post shortly. The Council part funds their salary costs and provides an induction and training programme, networking and support.
- Particular notable initiatives include Inter-generational work, healthy living initiatives, raising self esteem through tug-of-war, participation in Northern Parishes arts festival, and a very 'Summer of Fun' in Sandhurst, which will be repeated this year.
- A Nepali Community Support Worker has been employed who will work 3 days a week offering help and advice to the Nepali community in Sandhurst and the surrounding areas. The worker will be based in The Spot (Sandhurst Youth Centre). This is a jointly funded post and a huge step in helping this large community within the borough.

Work will continue to deliver the full core offer of Extended Services in the coming year, tasks include:

- Implementation of a new scheme to provide a disadvantage subsidy to children living in economically disadvantaged families.
- Work with schools to ensure sustainable Extended Services administration and co-ordination.
- Further development and embedding the role of Family Support Advisers.
- Working with schools separately to help them achieve in all five 'core offer' areas.

- Development of, and consultation on, an updated strategy to support the delivery of Community Activities and Services.

Partnership working remains a strength of **Children's Centres** and an holistic approach across agencies improves outcomes for parents/carers and children e.g. a speech, language and communication programme is being developed by a joint working group of PCT, Symbol [an independent Speech and Language provider], children's centres and early years staff to provide a unified programme of support to parents/carers, children and staff in children's centres and early years settings.

The focus of the work of the centres continues to be that of early intervention and prevention from pre-birth through to school age. Evidence is already emerging that the centres are beginning to have an impact e.g. the Health Visitors are able to refer mothers with low level Post Natal Depression to the centres for support and are thus running fewer PND groups. Parents are also being supported in returning to work through a range of activities e.g. confidence boosting sessions, basic skills courses and easy access to JobCentre Plus information.

Services are also offered to specific groups e.g. Young Parents have a weekly lunch club with their children and also a Youth Club that they can attend on their own. They have also visited Reading University as part of the Aiming Higher scheme in order to raise their aspirations for themselves and their children.

A children's centre action plan has been developed around national and local Key Performance Indicators outlining existing and future activities. The plan is also cross referenced to the Local Area Agreement [LAA] and the Children and Young People's Plan [CYPP].

A broad statistical baseline has been established which is used to target services where most needed. The data will also be used to monitor and evaluate the progress of the centres and changes will be made where required.

Three of the phase two centres have been awarded full core offer status with the remaining three due to achieve full core offer status by February 2010. It was agreed with the DCSF that the proposed three phase three centres should be reduced to two and sites have been identified according to government criteria. These centres are due to be designated by January 2010 at the latest, but activities are already taking place in these areas and once Advisory Boards have been established, designation can be applied for.

Under the umbrella of **Integrated Youth Support** work has been underway to ensure that those services that work with young people are more integrated and focused on delivering the implementation of *Youth Matters [DfES 200?]* and *Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities [DCSF 2008]*.

The staff teams based at Portman Close is made up from a range of agencies and backgrounds including Youth Services, Connexions, Education Welfare, Teenage Pregnancy, Family Adolescent Support Service and Care Leavers Team.

A number of facilitated days were held with all the practitioners from statutory and voluntary agencies working with young people to determine the progress that has been made and consider key actions to support further development. Evidence from this day and monitoring of progress made on implementing Integrated Youth Support showed that the national Targeted Youth Support (TYS) benchmark was achieved.

Work continues to develop Integrated Youth Support and one element of this “Targeted Youth Support”; working with more vulnerable groups is being embedded across the area. Examples of this include the recent appointment of a “street based youth worker” and plans to appoint a “Vulnerable young people’s worker” jointly with Children’s Social Care. Plans for new and refurbished youth centres have been established.

The Xpresionz website originally developed as a way of providing young people with information is being reviewed and updated and within this a plan for ‘places for young people to go’ is to be developed and made available on the website.

Aiming High for Disabled Children Working Group

This group has lead responsibility for developing and implementing the *Aiming High for Disabled Children* initiative, and was formed in June 2008. The group has strengthened and developed positive local partnership working. The Aiming High for Disabled Children [AHDC] Strategy was developed for Bracknell Forest incorporating the views of parent/carers, over 70 disabled children and young people, and practitioners; this strategy was approved by the DCSF and work is now underway to progress the actions.

A Development Manager for AHDC has been appointed, and parent/carers continue to be fully engaged in the process through the Steering Group

A local voluntary organisation, Kerith in the Community [Kerith Parent Group] secured government funding to run an Aiming High for Disabled Children event including training for staff on parent participation.

Having secured funding the implementation of the AHDC strategy is the key focus for the next two years, some additional resource is being provided by the DCSF to improve transitions for children and young people moving into adult services.

When AHDC was announced by the DCSF there were two funding streams to support its development and implementation, one was through the local authority and was “ring fenced” for the purpose of the initiative; the other was through the PCT which was not “ring fenced”. However NHS Berkshire East has prioritised Aiming High in its Operating Plan for 2009 /10 and has committed £68,000 for Aiming High in Bracknell Forest, as well as the Capital committed in the Holyport Manor respite facility.

Care Matters Steering Group

The key aim of this group is to act as the strategic planning group to ensure the implementation of “*Care Matters Time to Deliver for Children in Care*” published by the DCSF in 2008, it sets out a framework to ensure that the opportunities for children in

care are maximised and outcomes are improved.

The group has identified strengths and gaps in the service for looked after children and vulnerable children on the edge of care and is working to meet these in a variety of ways. A range of services to support young people who may be at risk of coming in to care, are now co-located at Portman Close.

A recent audit undertaken by the group identifies further areas for development for the group to address to ensure Care Matters is implemented to support all our looked after children and young people.

The Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel is established, this is chaired by a Councillor and is attended by Council Members, the Executive Member for Children and Young People, Senior Officers and invited guests.

The voice of children and young people looked after is represented through the Children in Care Council, which is jointly chaired by a Councillor, and is attended by children and young people looked after, supported by the Child Participation Officer and Head of Service for looked after children. Key achievements through the Children in Care Council are the development of a newsletter for children and young people looked after called "Say it Loud, Say it Proud", and the development of "The Pledge, which is the Council promise to children and young people looked after about the way in which they will be supported.

The Pledge has been adopted by the full Council, and has also been agreed by the Children and Young People's Trust.

Workforce Strategy Group

The Workforce Strategy Group has continued to support the delivery of the key priority areas which are recruitment of staff, retention of staff, promoting integrated working, leadership and management and safeguarding. The group has revised its membership to include a wider scope of the workforce, and has established a system of highlight reporting to ensure information is shared on progress being made across the range of agencies/services.

The publication of the Children's 2020 Workforce Strategy [Children's Workforce Development Council] has clarified a definition of the core workforce and the wider workforce, and provided a clearer framework on which to base future work. The Workforce strategy is currently being revised to ensure it supports the development of a workforce that is fit for purpose.

Key achievements in the last year across the workforce include:

- Children Centre's enabling the co location of practitioners including Early Years and Child Care, health visitors, parenting practitioners, CAF Co-ordinator and Family outreach workers.
- Co location of speech and language therapists and school nursing service into one

Bracknell Forest location at the Primary Professional Centre.

- Level 1 safeguarding training has been expanded to incorporate more evening and weekend sessions to accommodate events for EYCCP and for the wider workforce.
- Recruitment of designated nurse in the PCT responsible for rolling out safeguarding training.
- Training Programme established across the children's workforce for Anti Bullying, as part of the delivery of the Anti-Bullying Strategy.
- Recruitment and retention of key-workers in social care and teaching improved – including involvement with the Newly Qualified Social Worker Pilot Programme.
- Multi-agency CAF training programme established across the workforce including e-Learning modules on CAF and Information Sharing.
- Full engagement with the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners to ensure staff have access to training on evidence based parenting interventions.
- Through the Children's Workforce Strategy Partnership Programme funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council a workforce Pack developed by Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action for the voluntary sector has been developed, this highlights services, training and support available to the third sector in workforce development.
- Sharing information of the requirements of the Vetting and Barring Scheme across the workforce.
- Engagement with the CWDC funded Youth Workforce Development, with senior managers in Integrated Youth Support and Connexions engaged in the leadership programme currently.
- A Consultant has been commissioned to conduct safeguarding training needs analysis of the workforce across East Berkshire.

The publication of the Children's 2020 Workforce Strategy [Children's Workforce Development Council] has clarified a definition of the core workforce and the wider workforce, and provided a clearer framework on which to base future work, therefore the Workforce strategy is currently being revised to ensure it remains fit for purpose and supports the development of a workforce that is fit for purpose, some tasks in the coming year include:

- Establishing a comprehensive children's workforce induction programme – awaiting further information of this programme from the CWDC.
- Delivering training to practitioners to support the implementation and roll out of ContactPoint.

- Developing a rolling programme of training to support the core skills required for integrated working including, CAF, Information Sharing, Lead Professional and Contact Point.
- Sharing the implications of the Vetting and Barring Scheme across the workforce, ensuring good communication and clear information is available.
- Piloting a workforce qualifications audit tool in the Early Years, Child Care and Play Team in partnership with Windsor & Maidenhead and Reading

Engaging Children and Young People

There are many positive examples of the engagement of children and young people across service planning and delivery.

Engagement has taken the form of direct consultations, questionnaires and evaluations, young people being involved in interview processes, and some through young people's attendance at meetings and participation in staff interviews.

This is not an area of work that will ever be concluded, there is a recognition that we must at all times consider and actively seek the views of children, young people and their families and demonstrate this within our plans, strategies and ongoing direct work on a day to day basis.

Some examples of engagement include:

- Ofsted have carried out an annual 'Tell Us' survey of children and young people across England, seeking their views about their local area, including questions to cover the Every Child Matters five outcomes. The survey is carried out with children in schools Years 6, 8 and 10. The results of this survey now inform some of the national performance indicators, and provide information to support local plans and services, for example the views expressed by children and young people about bullying will be addressed by the Anti-Bullying Strategy Group, views about positive activities will be addressed by the Integrated Youth Support Strategy, views about health and wellbeing will be picked up by a number of sources including Healthy Schools, Teenage Pregnancy and the Drug, Alcohol Action Team.
- Great Hollands Survey where 118 young people between the ages of 11 – 19 took part in a targeted consultation to explore their views of a financial investment in youth facilities in Great Hollands.
- Through the Extended Services and Children's Centre programme children, young people and their families have been asked about what services/support they would like to see being developed and many of the Extended Services activities have been developed as a direct response to this, including sports, art and drama activities.

- Children who are looked after have the opportunity to contribute their views to their statutory reviews, and also have the opportunity to participate in the “Children in Care Council”, where they have developed and produce a regular magazine called “Say it loud Say it proud”. A participation worker also supports young people who are looked after, running a regular group to support them in positive activities and expressing their views.
- The Youth Forum meets on a regular basis, supported by a Youth Worker, and have an opportunity to express their views with a range of issues and initiatives. Young people from the Youth Forum examined the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and fed back comments, stating that they agreed with the priorities and felt they were the right ones, they enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the priorities and were able to have good discussion about what lay behind some priorities, for example looking at what supports emotional health and wellbeing. A comment was made that they would like to understand and be clear as to why some priorities were chosen, and this will form work for the future to ensure clear explanations are made.
- There are examples of where young people's views have been sought in the development of various plans and strategies, examples include the Children in Care Council's involvement in developing “The Pledge”, Young Carers involvement in the ongoing development of the Young Carers Strategy, including making a DVD, and the involvement of disabled children and young people in developing the Aiming High Strategy.
- Young people from the Youth Forum also attend the Children and Young People's Trust meetings and contribute to discussions, debates and decisions. On many occasions they have presented information to the CYP Trust on issues such as bullying, the use of the Youth Opportunity Fund, and more recently following an event for young people on participation using “Hear by Right” they presented the outcomes of the event and a recommendation was made and agreed that “Hear by Right” would be the strategic approach to be used for engagement and participation.

14 –19 Partnership

The 14 – 19 Partnership has specific aims which include; developing a strategy for planning and funding local provision, identifying the needs of learners and developing a varied curriculum, and ensuring submissions are made for inclusion in regional and national initiatives.

Major changes are taking place in the way that education is being provided for young people aged 14 – 19 and work will continue through the partnership to ensure that they have the best opportunities available to succeed in education and ongoing career development. Some of the forthcoming tasks include; reviewing the provision for young people not in employment or education [NEET], developing Diploma implementation plans, and reviewing the 14 – 19 plan in light of the 16 – 19 funding transfer due to take place in 2010.

Key achievements in the last year:

- The 14-19 Education Plan has been approved and adopted by the partnership and the Council (July 2008)
- Submission to Diploma Gateway 3 made (November 2008), and approval has been granted to introduce four Diploma lines of learning in 2010 (April 2009). This was positively reviewed by an assessor in June 2009.
- 14-19 Consortium Coordinator appointed (March 2009) leading to planning for Information, Advice and Guidance development and communication and marketing strategy
- Significant amount of work undertaken as part of the 16-19 Funding Transfer process from the Learning and Skills Council to the local authority in 2010.

Pathways to Success Group

The Pathways to Success Group has a role in promoting the economic wellbeing of young people and coordinates activity to increase levels of engagement by young people in education and training, and preparing for employment and leaving school.

The group has a focus on many of the wider issues that impact on the economic wellbeing of young people. Work will continue through this group to address the wider needs of young people, including the monitoring of teenage pregnancy and housing issues. The group will focus on developing models for Integrated Youth Support across Bracknell Forest.

Key achievements in the last year include:

- Continuing to monitor issues facing young people 13-19 across all services- universal and targeted services including
 - young people and benefits on going with Job Centre Plus
 - use of Rapid English programme across YOS, Connexions & NRG
 - identification of key priorities for work in schools
 - monitoring of provision available to young people especially Education 2 Employment [E2E] and level 1.
- Monitoring and responding to the impact of the economic downturn on the employment of young people. Engaging wider partners such as the Bracknell Forest Partnership and the Children and Young People's Trust in considering the issues and actions to reduce the impact.

Local Safeguarding Children Board [LSCB]

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board is a statutory board that has responsibility for

ensuring that safeguarding is inherent in all our work with children, young people and families, and that safeguarding is seen as “Everybody’s Business”.

The work programme for the LSCB has been intensive with examples including; a safeguarding toolkit being developed and launched in February 2009, a Section 11 Audit of safeguarding practice, ongoing joint working with colleagues across Berkshire, an LSCB Conference aimed at training and raising awareness, developing and implementing a safeguarding training programme.

Following the report on the Baby Peter tragedy in Haringey the local authority, police and health services have reviewed their child safeguarding arrangements with regard to staffing, child protection practice, workforce development, policy and procedure, management and governance. These action plans have been reviewed and approved by the LSCB Executive. There is now further work to do in response to the Laming Report and the government action plan.

Further work for the LSCB will be required when the new version of “Working Together” is published later this year.

The LSCB will be required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements locally, and will be more closely aligned to the work of the Children and Young People’s Trust

Examples of achievements include:

Safeguarding Toolkit was launched in February 2009 with 200 organisations attending. The Toolkit identifies every organisation’s responsibilities for safeguarding children/young people, providing tools and exemplar policy and guidance to support organisations to meet their child safeguarding responsibilities.

Working through the Safeguarding Toolkit enables all organisations to complete a full Section 11 self-assessment as part of the Berkshire wide Section 11 Audit.

Self assessments of all LSCB statutory partner agencies now completed for Phase One of the Section 11 Audit, and action plans have been developed across Berkshire. The responsibility for undertaking this work was shared between the six Berkshire LSCBs. Schools are self assessing between March and May 2009 (Phase Two) and the results of those self assessments are being analysed during June and July 2009. The remaining organisations providing services to children will self assess at the end of 2009 (Phase Three). These include early years providers and voluntary and community organisations providing leisure and out of school hours activities for children and young people.

There is now a regular LSCB newsletter which has provided further information on the Safeguarding Toolkit and the Section 11 Audit, and has included articles on E-safety, anti-bullying and child employment.

Safeguarding Cue Cards published and distributed to professionals and adults in contact with children and young people, and also to children and young people themselves, to

provide guidance on how to seek help and support when a safeguarding issue arises.

The Raising Awareness Sub Group has led the development of the 2009 LSCB Annual Conference which was held on 4 June 2009.

Together with the other eight LSCBs in the Thames Valley Region, the Bracknell Forest LSCB has supported the development and approval of a Thames Valley wide protocol for missing children between local authority Children's Services and the Thames Valley Police.

A revised substance misuse protocol to guide multi-agency action in safeguarding children and young people from impact of substance abuse by their parents, carers and other household members has been published on the LSCB website.

The Bracknell Forest LSCB has continued to lead work across Berkshire in collaboration with the LSCBs in all six of the unitary authorities to implement the agreed common dataset for all the key safeguarding agencies, which is being used from 2008/09 to record safeguarding performance across those different services against a range of benchmarking data. It is expected that the first full data reports will be available in September 2009.

Annex 3

NEEDS ANALYSIS 2008/09 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This needs analysis supports the ongoing work of the Bracknell Forest Children and Young People's Trust, bringing together data and information to inform the business of the Children and Young People's Trust, including the Joint Commissioning Framework and the Children and Young People's Plan.

Information in this document and the accompanying data supplement, provide an overview of Bracknell Forest including a break down of a range of data to ward level, enabling a more detailed picture to emerge in relation to the needs across the borough and how these can differ when looking at individual geographical areas.

Bracknell Forest is considered to be a prosperous and healthy area in which to live. This overall image masks the fact that in some parts of Bracknell there are difficulties and challenges for some of our residents that result in a higher level of need, and consequently a higher level of support requirements.

The needs analysis is presented under a range of headings, initially looking at some overview information including population, ethnicity and deprivation. It then looks at data under the headings of the five Every Child Matters Outcomes.

The **overview** information largely reflects a positive picture of Bracknell Forest, but information to note includes:

- The growth rate of the population, and its relatively young age compared to national averages.
- The growth in numbers of young people aged 15- 19
- A small number of wards have above the average number of 0 – 19 year olds in residence. Whilst this is not extreme, it may impact on the services supporting children, young people and families in those areas.
- There has been a steady growth rate in the BME [Black and Minority Ethnic] groups; school Census was 13.9% in January 2008.
- The number of languages spoken in schools high at 70, but the distribution of children and young people speaking these languages is wide.
- The overall rank of deprivation masks significant pockets of deprivation at ward level.

The overall **health** of Bracknell Forest is good; with many positive indicators for children and young people and their families. Information to note includes:

- Childhood obesity is an issue with the data for Year 6 children above the South East average.
- Physical activity rates in Bracknell Forest Children are below the England average
- Ward level data shows significant differences in health outcomes when comparing the most deprived wards and the least deprived wards.
- Rates of teenage pregnancy have improved although this remains a concern in some wards.

Stay Safe covers a broad range of information, including road safety, child protection and children looked after, crime, youth crime and anti-social behaviour, and bullying. Information to note includes:

- The numbers of children who become subject of a Child Protection Plan, or who become looked after varies over the period of a year, mapping the originating addresses of these children shows that the areas from which they originate, are also those areas where there is greater disadvantage and or issues of deprivation.
- Data on child protection at end 2008 shows that there were more boys than girls with a Child Protection Plan, which varies to the national trend which is more equal.
- Bullying is still a concern for young people, as is the fear of crime in and around local areas
- Incidents of domestic abuse have risen, and needs to be monitored to ascertain whether there is a genuine increase in incidents, or whether the rise is due to recording practices.

Enjoy and Achieve shows progress made by children and young people through their educational journey. Enjoyment is difficult to measure but some comments made by children and young people in the "Tell Us" Survey provide an insight into their views. Information to note includes:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage has been successful in narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest.
- At age 11 the key indicator of Level 4+ in English and mathematics has improved and is above both the national and regional averages.
- GCSE results show improvement.
- Ward level data shows a number of wards where the gender difference in GCSE results is more marked.
- Bracknell Forest has a higher rate of permanent exclusions in Secondary Schools than statistical neighbours, and the England average.
- A high % of children and young people said they enjoyed school, but a number of them said they would like more help from family and friends.

Make a Positive Contribution shows the way in which children and young people are provided with support to enable them to contribute effectively to their communities. This is a difficult outcome to measure, and much of the evidence is based on what children and young people actually tell us. Information to note includes:

- The numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time has been consistently lower than [YJB] statistical neighbours.
- Young people are supported in many ways to make a positive contribution, a high % in the "Tell Us" Survey have said they give their views to a school council, and give their time to help a charity.
- Overall performance in the survey showed that 85% of pupils in Bracknell participated in positive activities, which is much higher than the 69.5% national average.

Economic Wellbeing shows the way in which children and young people are supported to overcome socio-economic disadvantage to achieve their full potential. This is an area of particular concern in the current national economic downturn which is being closely monitored for its impact. Information to note includes:

- Bracknell Forest has the highest % of workers in management, professional, secretarial and skilled trade occupations against the South East and Great Britain average.
- The % of working aged people qualified to level 2 has increased in 2006/07, and the % of working aged people qualified to level 4 has increased in 2006/07.
- The IMD for deprivation showing the average rank of income and shows a significant difference between the most deprived ward and the least deprived ward.
- Evidence from Connexions data collection shows that the economic downturn is having a significant impact on the employment opportunities for young people, with the trend in young people Not in Employment, Education or Training [NEET] has risen compared to previous years.

The needs analysis overall shows a positive picture of Bracknell Forest as a thriving, prosperous community, and this is largely an accurate picture. In ensuring that our children, young people and families have the best possible opportunities there is a need to look below this positive picture and address the issues that impact on life chances.

The information presented in this needs analysis and the data supplement largely support the current priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan however there are a number of **recommendations** as a result of this analysis for consideration by the Children and Young People's Trust.

1. Continue to monitor the trends and outcomes in relation to children and young people's ethnicity, this includes improved use of data and information to inform planning, and address particular areas of need, [for example English as an Additional Language]
2. Work is undertaken to reduce the rising numbers of children who are obese.
3. Address the inequalities in health outcomes across the borough
4. Continue to address the concerns of young people about crime and bullying.
5. Continue to ensure that safeguarding children and young people remains a priority in the work of all agencies.
6. Continue to raise the attainment of pupils at all stages of their school career
7. Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.
8. Address the gap in attainment related to gender
9. Continue to seek ways to support children and young people to make a positive contribution.
10. Support children, young people and families through the impact of the economic downturn.

**List showing the linked plans and strategies to support delivery of Priorities in CYPP
[note list is not exhaustive and may be updated periodically to reflect current planning]**

- CAMHS Strategy – We all Have a Part to Play
- Play Strategy
- Care Matters
- Young Carers Strategy [currently in draft]
- Integrated Youth Support
- Local Safeguarding Board Business Plan
- Aiming High for Disabled Children
- Connexions Business Plan
- Youth Services Plan
- Social Care and Learning Service Plan
- Children’s Centre Action Plan
- Young People’s Substance Misuse Plan
- Anti-Bullying Strategy – Safer Together Safer Wherever
- Youth Justice Self Assessment and Improvement Plan
- Parenting Strategy – Strong Foundations
- Primary Strategy
- Secondary Strategy
- Special Education Policy
- 14 – 19 Education Plan
- Community and Activities Services Group Action Plan [Currently in draft]

Additional Information - Web links

<p>Annual Performance Assessment http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-change-for-children/liv-changes-in-the-council/liv-annual-performance-assessment.htm</p>
<p>Corporate Area Assessment http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/CAA/Pages/CAAframework.aspx</p>
<p>Common Assessment Framework http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-change-for-children/learn-common-assessment-framework.htm</p>
<p>Children's Trust Information http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-change-for-children.htm</p>
<p>Parenting Strategy and Parenting Information http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-children-and-families/liv-parenting-support.htm</p>
<p>Extended Services http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/learning/learn-extended-schools.htm</p>
<p>Children's Centres http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/learning/learn-extended-schools/learn-childrens-centres.htm</p>
<p>Adult Learning and Family support http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/learning/learn-adult-learning.htm</p>
<p>Local Safeguarding Children Board http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-children-and-families/liv-local-safeguarding-children-board.htm</p>
<p>Aiming High for Disabled Children http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-children-and-families/liv-services-disabled-children/liv-aiming-high-for-disabled-children.htm</p>
<p>Integrated Youth Support http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/plans-for-integrated-youth-support-services.pdf</p>
<p>Contact Point http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-change-for-children/liv-contactpoint.htm</p>
<p>14 – 19 Education Plan http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/14-19-education-plan-2008-to-2013.pdf</p>

Sustainable Community Strategy http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/your-council/yc-bracknell-forest-partnership/yc-sustainable-community-strategy.htm
Local Area Agreement http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/your-council/yc-bracknell-forest-partnership/yc-local-area-agreement.htm
Children's Mental Health http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-children-and-families/liv-children-mental-health.htm
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-safer-communities/liv-crime-and-disorder-reduction-partnership.htm
Bracknell Forest Partnership http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/yc-bracknell-forest-partnership.htm
Children's Workforce Development Council http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/

FEEDBACK/COMMENTS

We would like to provide you with the opportunity to tell us what you think about the plan. We will be undertaking work to produce a new plan on 1 April 2011.

If you have comments/views about what you think should be in the new plan please tell us.

Send us comments by email to:	childrenfirst@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
Comments in Writing can be posted to:	Sandra Davies Children's Trust Business Manager Seymour House 38 Broadway Bracknell RG12 1AU

If you have any comments or queries about this plan please contact childrenfirst@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Summaries or extracts of this document can be made available in large print, in Braille or on audio cassette. Copies in other languages may also be obtained. Please contact Sandra Davies on 01344 352148 or minicom 01344 352405.



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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

NOMINATION FOR PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GROUP Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to invite Members of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Panel to nominate a member of the Panel to join the Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Group being established to co-ordinate Overview and Scrutiny of the Bracknell Forest Partnership (BFP) and its Themed Partnerships.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel nominates a member of the Panel to join the Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Group.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The approach to O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership has been endorsed by the O&S Commission and Panels, also the BFP Board, and implementation has commenced. An important part of the approach is recognition that effective collaboration with partners will be vital to the success of O&S of the Partnership. Whilst the Council has the statutory lead, we believe that involving partners' representatives is essential if we are to secure the goodwill and cooperation of partners, and to realise the benefit of wider sharing and application of knowledge and different perspectives. The O&SC has therefore approached the Boards or other governing authorities of the partner organisations (excluding Government Office for the South East and the South East England Development Agency) making up the BFP Board (the PCT, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, the Thames Valley Police Authority, Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action, and the Bracknell Regeneration Partnership) to form a non-statutory Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Group for the Partnership. Nominations have been received from partner organisations from amongst their Non-Executive Directors, or equivalent positions of those charged with holding the executive of their organisations to account, and the Partnership O&S Group will be meeting for the first time on 28 September.
- 3.2 In view of the Council's statutory duties relating to the O&S of LSP's, also the Council's O&S duty set out BFP's Governance Protocol, the Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Group will be led by the Chairman of the Council's O&S Commission, and its membership will also include a representative of each of the four O&S Panels. The broad purpose of this group will be to agree and coordinate a constructive programme of O&S of BFP's arrangements and performance, to participate in individual O&S reviews as appropriate, to review BFP's annual report on the progress of the LAA, and to report at

least annually. The exact terms of reference for the group will be determined by the Group.

Background Papers

Agenda and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 1 April 2009

Contact for further information

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORT (Lead Working Group Member)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the Working Group of the Panel reviewing 14-19 years education provision in Bracknell Forest.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That this update report be noted.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Working Group reviewing the development of 14-19 years education provision in Bracknell Forest and giving consideration in particular to the introduction of new Diploma qualifications from September 2010, has now met on nine occasions. During the course of its meetings the Working Group has:
- been briefed in respect of the development of the new 14–19 years education entitlement in Bracknell Forest, including the Diploma 'Gateway' application process, by the Council's 14-19 Advisor;
 - discussed Diploma provision in Reading, one of the first local authorities in the country to introduce the qualification, with Reading Borough Council's 14-19 Advisor;
 - attended a meeting of the Bracknell Forest 14-19 Partnership as observers;
 - met the Head Teacher of Sandhurst School and the Principal & Chief Executive and Deputy Principal for Curriculum of Bracknell and Wokingham College to discuss Diploma provision;
 - received a presentation from the Berkshire Connexions Manager in respect of young people not in education, employment or training;
 - met the Council's Teenage Pregnancy Project Manager to discuss how young mothers may be assisted to access education, employment or training;
 - met a representative of the East Berkshire Education Business Partnership to consider the role of employers in Diploma delivery;
 - discussed issues associated with delivery of the new 14-19 entitlement with the Department for Children, Schools and Families' South East Regional 14-19 Adviser.

- 3.2 The Working Group is currently seeking information by way of a questionnaire from leading local employers to ascertain whether they wish to become involved in the delivery of the new 14-19 entitlement such as offering apprenticeships, work experience to Diploma students or work placements to Diploma graduates.
- 3.3 Members are proposing to visit another secondary school in September before concluding their review and preparing a resulting report with recommendations in the autumn.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

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Andrea Carr – 01344 352122
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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SERVICES IN AND AROUND BRACKNELL FOREST SCHOOLS Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the attached Executive response to the review of Children's Centres and Extended Services in and around Bracknell Forest schools.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the response of the Executive to the review of Children's Centres and Extended Services in and around Bracknell Forest schools.**
- 2.2 **That the attached update on the current position of Extended Services, with particular regard to paragraph 5.12 concerning the number of schools yet to achieve fully extended status and the latest budgetary position including how Area Steering Groups are prioritising matters, be noted.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 When the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, at its meeting held on 16 July 2009, noted the response of the Executive to the review of Extended Services and Children's Centres, reference was made to funding concerns raised in paragraphs 5.7 and 5.11 of the attached Executive response. Although the Executive response had been that Area Steering Group's (ASG's) budgets had been sufficient in recent years to fund local aspirations, a Member expressed the view that aspirations had been limited to fit the funding available and another Member commented that the two groups with which she was involved were limited by staff resources and not funding issues.
- 3.2 The Commission agreed that the Panel be asked to seek an update on the current position of Extended Services with particular regard to paragraph 5.12 concerning the number of schools yet to achieve fully extended status and the latest budgetary position including how ASGs were prioritising matters. An update report is attached.
- 3.3 The Commission referred to the need to continue a dialogue with ASGs, to keep appraised of what they were doing and to ascertain their needs.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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Andrea Carr – 01344 352122

e-mail: andrea.carr@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Doc. Ref

-

GMB/CAM

17 June 2009

Councillor R C Edger OBE
3 Turner Place
College Town
Sandhurst
GU47 OFW

Dear Bob

Overview and Scrutiny Report: A Review of Children's Centres and Extended Services in and around Schools in Bracknell Forest

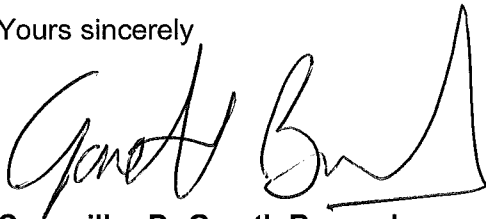
On behalf of Alan Kendall and myself, I am pleased to enclose a copy of the report considered by the Executive on 16 June 2009.

Following discussions, officers set out the response to the sixteen recommendations made in the report by the working group. The Executive have now considered these responses and agreed them.

We are pleased that the report recognised the considerable progress that has been made in these two areas for the benefit of children, young people and families in the Borough.

The Executive has asked that members of the working group are thanked for their thoughtful contribution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Barnard', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard

Enc

cc Councillor Alan Kendall
Lesley Heale, Director of Social Care & Learning
Richard Beaumont, Head of Performance & Scrutiny

TO: EXECUTIVE
16 June 2009

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT: A REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND
EXTENDED SERVICES IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS IN BRACKNELL FOREST**
Director of Social Care and Learning

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 To determine the Executive's response to the recommendations in the report by the Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel's Working Group on *A Review of Children's Centres and Extended Services in Bracknell Forest Schools*.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the responses and recommendations outlined in the supporting information in section 5 of this report are approved.**
- 2.2 **That the members of the working group are thanked for their report.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Working Group has spent considerable time reflecting on all the issues with the support of appropriate officers. As a consequence the report and recommendations are fully informed and merit support.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The report portrays a very positive picture of the way in which the Extended Services and Children's Centres programmes have been developed in Bracknell Forest and recognises the progress that has been made. Both programmes have proved challenging to deliver: in the early days there was some resistance to the concept of extended schools and making the right facilities available for Children's Centres has sometimes been difficult given the limitations of available funding and constraints over where it is possible to build. Both are now well established and there is a high degree of confidence that targets for delivery will be successfully met. Whilst recognising this, the report sets out a number of recommendations for future development. These recommendations along with a considered response are set out in the following paragraphs.
- 5.2 **(a) Working Group Recommendation** *We would encourage the Council to move towards outcome-based performance measures for Extended Schools Services and (needing less advancement on measures) Children's Centres as early as possible, to get fully to the heart of what outcomes are being aimed for, in terms of improving the*

lives and life chances of families and children. The Executive should set a timetable for stating and adopting these performance measures.

This recommendation is agreed in principal.

Extended Services is a provision that covers a variety of services that have the potential to benefit children, young people, their parents and the community. These people may also be in receipt of many other interventions from the Council or its partners. Therefore it is sometimes difficult to determine precisely exact cause and effect and the impact of any one service in isolation. However, outcomes overall are measured through the Children and Young People's Plan, without reference to the individual interventions that children or families may have received. There is a clear timetable associated with this and relevant performance measures are reported in the quarterly Performance Management Report. The majority of extended services work is encouraging and supporting schools and other partners to make provision and so the performance measures that are used measure the outputs in terms of provisions made.

Children's Centres already have in place a set of performance measures. All services are monitored against national and local Key Performance Indicators and the membership of each centre is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is representative of the local community and that vulnerable families are accessing services. Parents who use the enhanced services of Family Outreach Support and parenting programmes also evaluate their own progress against personal targets set at the beginning of the intervention.

All but one of the national KPIs for Children's Centres are targets that are shared with other agencies e.g. the maintenance of breastfeeding rates; the reduction of A & E admissions; the reduction of children living in workless households etc. It is therefore more difficult to evidence the impact that children's centres alone are having on these targets.

In addition to quantitative data, a wide range of qualitative evidence is also collected including case studies; written and verbal feedback from families; the results of consultations etc.

Both programmes, Extended Services and Children's Centres, are the subject of specific external review and the national framework for monitoring effectiveness continues to develop.

- 5.3 **(b) Working Group Recommendation** *The departmental service plan statements and targets need to be less vague, so it is clearer exactly what is to be achieved in each year.*

Agreed. The Social Care and Learning Service Plan, 2009/10 is more precise in terms of both actions and targets for Extended Services and Children's Centres.

- 5.4 **(c) Working Group Recommendation** *The current assessment of Children's Centres by officers, which is on-going, should cover the next 5 years, the optimum disposition of the buildings for each Centre, partnership input, and the long-term funding position.*

This recommendation is agreed in principal. Whilst a five year planning cycle would be optimal, funding is confirmed on a shorter term basis.

The LA is currently reviewing the final disposition of the remaining centres taking into consideration the available capital budget which has to be spent by March 2010. It is unlikely that there will be any further capital allocations and it is therefore essential that the remaining buildings are sited in areas of need and also meet government reach criteria. Planning constraints will also play a major part in these decisions.

Revenue funding is also secure until March 2011 (the end of the last Comprehensive Spending Review). However, once the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill receives Royal Assent (expected towards the end of 2009), children's centres will be given a statutory basis and will receive long term revenue funding on the same basis as schools.

Current partners, both voluntary and statutory, are either commissioned through Service Level Agreements, or work together under Partnership Agreements. It is hoped that it will be possible to award SLAs of 3 years in order to secure the already successful multi-agency working.

- 5.5 **(d) Working Group Recommendation** *Residents in the areas without a single-site Children's Centre building should be surveyed for their views on the accessibility, range and success of the service.*

Agreed. Once the phase three buildings are in place, it is likely that the only area without a central building will be that which encompasses Binfield, Jennett's Park and the new development at Amen Corner. Services will be run from local community buildings and the local communities will be consulted on a regular basis regarding the accessibility and success of the services on offer.

- 5.6 **(e) Working Group Recommendation** *The Council strives to improve the involvement of charities and the voluntary sector with the ESS programme, also voluntary support from the private sector.*

Agreed. Charities, the voluntary sector and volunteer support have been involved in ESS work since its inception, from helping identify needs through to being commissioned to provide services in response to needs. Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action is an active partner. The value of the contributions from the third sector overall has been significant. As the programme moves forward the Council will strive to improve engagement still further.

- 5.7 **(f) Working Group Recommendation** *The Council encourages, where appropriate, ASGs to strengthen their membership and accountability, and review whether they are suitably funded and empowered in practice. This is particularly important as there is uncertainty over their budgets after August 2010.*

The Council is developing its work on community activities and services from engagement through commissioning to evaluation. The ASGs are central to the local accountability that the Council believes is needed for community based work to be effective in delivering outcomes in the period to August 2010 and beyond. A strong membership is key to accountability. The best groups are in this position and new members are being recruited to other groups on an ongoing basis.

In practice, the budgets that ASGs have received have been sufficient in recent years to fund local aspirations. Budget provision will continue until August 2011. Currently there is no guarantee of funding after this time as current Government funding plans only stretch to March 2011. However work is underway on a model of funding that includes area based allocations as a key identified element. The expectation is that

this model would be available to use whatever funding allocations are available after April 2011.

- 5.8 **(g) Working Group Recommendation** *The Council carefully manages the expected transition from central funding to schools-based funding, and maximises contributions from partner organisations such as the PCT.*

Agreed. The pattern of central and school based funding is now into its second year, of three. A model is being developed clearly identifying the key areas of support available to schools which seeks to ensure sustainability.

ESS work has been on a basis of facilitating and supporting schools and partners. Work currently embraces the contributions from partners, including the PCT, to shared objectives. This is an essential element that can be expected to continue in the future.

- 5.9 **(h) Working Group Recommendation** *The partnership with Health Visitors should be developed, specifically so that they are informed of the full range of services at all of the Children's Centre.*

Agreed. The co-location of the Health Visitors at The Oaks and The Rowans in multi-agency rooms also housing the Family Outreach Workers, Parenting Worker and the CAF Co-ordinator, is working extremely well and families receive a more holistic service as a result. Wherever possible, this model of multi-agency working will be supported with the provision of office space in future buildings e.g. The Alders.

The promotion of children's centres through the red book insert and discussion with parents at the first ante-natal visit will be part of the Partnership Agreement with the PCT.

Those Health Visiting teams who are not based on centre sites receive regular updates about the centre services via email and packages of publicity e.g. posters etc. They also receive visits from centre staff who attend the Health Visitors team meetings.

- 5.10 **(i) Working Group Recommendation:** *Focus should be maintained on funding those extended services that are sustainable beyond August 2010.*

Agreed. Funding services that will be sustainable in the long term has always been a priority in advising ASGs on spending priorities. This focus will be maintained. Schools are also fully signed up to this approach.

- 5.11 **(j) Working Group Recommendation:** *The Social Care & Learning and Health O&S Panels be kept informed, via quarterly Performance Management Reports as to the funding position and advised of possible future developments.*

Agreed. The format of the quarterly PMR provides sufficient scope for members of the Panel to see both progress in terms of achieving the external and internal targets that have been set and to be made aware of planned developments. Officers will provide any additional information that the panels require in order to further the sound development of these activities.

- 5.12 **(k) Working Group Recommendation:** *The Council should require the 14 schools – Kennel Lane excepted – yet to achieve 'fully extended' services to publish plans showing how that will be achieved by the end of 2010, with the identified progress*

milestones. Progress reports on this should be included in quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports, which are reviewed by the Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Agreed. By April 2009 28 schools have met the requirements to achieve 'fully extended' services leaving 9 schools (including Kennel Lane) yet to reach the standard. Discussions are underway and plans have been developed in all these schools that should see them though to meet the standard by June 2010. In many cases action is needed in only one, possibly two, of the five areas and schools are aware of what needs to be done and undertaking the required work. Schools have been encouraged to include these developments in their School Development Plans and in many cases have done so. Progress towards achieving the target is reported in the quarterly PMR.

5.13 **(l) Working Group Recommendation:** *More is done to improve the 'reach' of Extended Schools Services to teenagers and hard-to-reach groups.*

Agreed. ESS services are well-established in secondary schools, using the same inclusive approach as in primary schools. Youth Services have been a central partner since the project's inception. However the Council will strive to extend the reach still further and the development of Integrated Youth Support provides good opportunities to do this, for example, some really positive work in Great Hollands has developed partly from Extended Services activities at Easthampstead Park School.

Focusing services on disadvantaged groups is a priority for spending decisions, and will continue to be so. The Council now has funding to address the needs of economically disadvantaged children and young people on a pilot basis in 2009/10 and across the Borough from April 2010, currently for one year.

5.14 **(m) Working Group Recommendation:** *Given that Kennel Lane School serves the whole Borough, all Area Steering Groups should be encouraged to consider how they can best support the inclusion of special needs pupils at Kennel Lane.*

Agreed. All ASGs should give this consideration. Work is underway, coupled with the Aiming High for Disabled Children focus on short breaks, to identify and provide for individual child and young people. It is agreed that this is best driven from the viewpoint, expectations and capabilities of the child at, normally, Kennel Lane School.

5.15 **(n) Working Group Recommendation:** *Schools should be further encouraged to undertake their improvement planning – setting their vision, objectives and actions – in the light of the 'whole child' and the views of all stakeholders.*

Agreed. The Council is encouraging schools to use the NCSL/TDA School Improvement Planning Framework which is a collection of tools that can be used as whole process or individually to enhance one part of a process. Implicit to the approach is the involvement of all stakeholders. Through the involvement of parents, the community and other local stakeholders the needs of the 'whole child' are identified. About one half of schools have attended workshops and there are reports of the effective use of the tools. The LA collects and analyses school improvement plans and provides support where this is required.

5.16 **(o) Working Group Recommendation:** *The Council strives to realise the benefits of partnership work supporting children and families through the Community Activity and Services Partnership.*

Agreed. The 'CASP' is a relatively new partnership that the Council sees as central to moving forward its work on community focused delivery.

- 5.17 **(p) Working Group Recommendation:** *The Council further ensures that local area needs continue to be identified to inform service delivery through enhanced engagement processes such as consultations, questionnaires, focus groups and other methods.*

Agreed. Engagement has been implicit in service delivery from the start of the ESS programme, as the expectation is that all service delivery is rooted in the needs of children, young people and families. Various engagement methods have been used; the best have been used frequently, others have been used only once and alternatives then used. These approaches will continue.

For Children's Centres, local area needs will be regularly assessed through a variety of different indicators such as the birth rate figures, the take up of tax credits and the Foundation Stage Profile.

Children's Centres have Advisory Boards with representative parents/carers and other members of the local community who meet termly to discuss local need.

There is on-going informal consultation with users of the centre and other professionals to ensure that services meet need.

There are also groups run for parents/carers with specific needs e.g. lone parents, young parents, parents of children with SEN/disabilities, fathers, EAL groups etc. which allow for enhanced engagement around the development of services to meet their needs.

Partnership working with the voluntary sector e.g. PLA, PACT, HomeStart, Action for Children etc allows for engagement with the more hard to reach groups of our community.

6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 No legal issues arise from this report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Equalities Impact Assessments have been completed for both Children's Centres and Extended Services.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 There are no strategic risk issues arising from this report.

7 **CONSULTATION**

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Not applicable

Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable

Background Papers

Report by the working group of the Social Care and Learning Scrutiny Panel - 'A Review of Children's Centres and Extended Services in and Around Schools in Bracknell Forest by a Joint Working Group of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel and Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel'.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
16 September 2009

UPDATE: REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS
(Director of Social Care & Learning)

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on progress with the development of extended schools in the light of the comments of the Executive regarding:

- Number of schools yet to achieve fully extended status.
- How ASGs prioritise matters.
- The present budgetary position.
- Funding for Area Steering Group (ASG) aspirations.

The paper also provides details of:

- A new Government funded extended services scheme that has become available since the work of the Scrutiny Review.
- The latest position with respect to the implementation of Children's Centres.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

2.1 To note.

3 REASONS FOR SUGGESTED ACTION

3.1 This paper is to inform the panel of progress.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None considered.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Number of schools yet to achieve fully extended status

5.1 The Council continues to work with schools to support them in achieving fully extended status. This means that they are providing services to an acceptable standard in all five areas of the core offer: childcare, more out of school activities for children, parenting support, swift and easy access to specialist services (for those children who need it) and wider out of school use of school sites and buildings. At the end of July 2009, 32 schools (87%) had reached this position. This percentage exceeds the national target. Officers are confident that all the remaining five schools will reach fully extended status by June 2010, the national expectation.

How ASGs prioritise matters

5.2 As described in the Review, local accountability is achieved through the six Area Steering Groups (ASGs) that contain a mix of school, community and partner representatives. All ASGs have an area plan, reviewed annually, which is based on

local engagement with children, parents, families and the community. The plans describe the local aspirations to be achieved. Specific actions underpin these aspirations. It is through this process that ASGs prioritise their actions and spending decisions. ASGs are supported by a Co-ordinator who is aware of Borough wide work and work in other ASG areas.

The present budgetary position

- 5.3 Funding is Government grant-based in the current three year cycle that finishes in March 2011. The implementation of extended schools has been recognised as a change programme since the outset, and in recent years there has been a structural shift in the funding source from the Area Based Grant to the Standards Fund, where funding has to be devolved to schools directly. Budgets for the development of extended services are summarised in the table below.

	<i>In £K</i>	<i>2008/09</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Standards Fund: Apr - Aug				
'Sustainability' – To be devolved		127	237	334
Area Based Grant: Apr - Mar				
'Start up' - To be devolved in line with LA Strategy. Funding for management and co-ordination comes from this budget. Excludes element for childcare previously included in Surestart budget.		404.3	412.1	169.6
Total for ES		531.3	649.1	503.6

Funding for Area Steering Group (ASG) aspirations

- 5.4 From the outset of the programme ASGs have had budgets delegated to them to fund local priorities. The size of the budget reflects the size of the area covered by the ASG. In 2009/10 financial year the allocations from the 'Start Up' budget are as follows:

Area Steering Group	Number of schools	Budget 2009/10 (£'000)
Great Hollands, Hanworth and Birch Hill	6 incl. Easthampstead Park	15
'South Bracknell' - Easthampstead, Wildridings, Harmans Water, Crown Wood, Forest Park	7 incl. Brakenhale	15
'North Bracknell' - Binfield, Priestwood, Garth, Bullbrook and Warfield	10 incl. Garth Hill, Ranelagh and Kennel Lane	22
Winkfield, Cranbourne and North Ascot	4	4
Sandhurst	7 incl. Sandhurst	15

Crowthorne	3 incl. Edgbarrow	7.5
TOTAL to ASGs		78.5

5.5 It is important to recognise that ASG actions are also supported by:

- £150K of the Council's 'Start Up' budget for extended services funds cross-Borough work from which all schools and communities may benefit. Examples include support to the Family Information Service, the provision of Pyramid clubs for both children and parents, providing a programme of parenting sessions across the Borough, summer activities for pupils with special educational needs, central advice and guidance to schools pursuing Quality in Study Support (QISS) accreditation, support for family learning activities, support to the Youth Service to provide further activities for older children and various after school clubs.
- Partners and the community which support with resources and contributions, both financial and in kind.

5.6 Additionally, school-focused funding through the Standards Fund also supports ASG aspirations.

- It has led to the appointment of school-based Family Support Advisers (FSA), who are proving to be very effective in their work with families and who support fulfilment of ASG actions. All except two schools are expected to have an FSA in post by the autumn.
- It will fund the appointment of school-based Extended Services Assistants from September to assist schools and the local community practically with ongoing work.

5.7 Developments such as those described in 5.4 and 5.5 will have an impact on the budget that is available for ASGs for 2010/11. Allocations to ASGs for this year will be considered by the Schools Forum in the autumn.

5.8 As with all grant-based work, Government funding intentions from April 2011 onwards are not known. However, it needs to be recognised that there is a continuing place for community based work with children, parents and families; that resources and contributions from continuing Council budgets, partners and the community can continue; and that ASGs will need to be more creative in identifying resources for their work. The Extended Services team is working with ASGs to help achieve these changes.

Activity bursary for children from disadvantaged families

- 5.9 Since the work of the Scrutiny Review a further Government funding source has become available. This new scheme offers children in full-time education from economically disadvantaged families a subsidy so that they can attend leisure and recreational activities that would otherwise be only available to children from better off families. The intention is that, through participation, their self esteem and confidence will rise, having a positive implication on their attainment, attendance and behaviour.
- 5.10 Provision for disadvantaged children and families is a feature in most ASG plans so it is appropriate that this new fund helps support ASG priorities.
- 5.11 The Council has £38,730 funding through the Standards Fund in 2009/10 (year 1) for a first phase involving about six schools. In 2010/11 there will be sufficient funding

for all schools in the Borough to participate in the period through to August 2011. At the current time it is not known if further funding will be available for the 2011/12 year.

- 5.12 Schools in the areas of the Borough with the highest proportion of free school meals, in Bracknell south of the town centre, were invited to be part of the pilot. Seven schools responded: Easthampstead Park and The Brakenhale secondary schools, and Great Hollands, Birch Hill, Fox Hill, St Michael's Easthampstead and The Pines primary schools. Work has progressed with all these schools. Individual tracking is being undertaken to monitor participation and identify the outcomes for children and young people over time and demonstrate the degree of success of the intervention.

Progress with implementation of children's centres

Change to Children's Centres areas

- 5.13 Due to the development of two further centres it was necessary to make some changes to the areas of the existing Children's Centres to ensure the level of reach does not go below or above government guidelines. See attached map at annex A.
- 5.14 The Alders, Chestnuts and Family Tree remain the same.
- 5.15 Birch Hill and Hanworth have moved from the The Oaks to the Rowans.
- 5.16 Harmans Water, Crown Wood, Martins Heron and Forest Park have moved from The Rowans to The Sycamores.
- 5.17 Binfield has moved from The Maples to The Hollies.
- 5.18 New Staff have been recruited to cover the additional areas.

Capital Works

- 5.19 The new Alders building at College Town School is now in place and should be in service by the end of September.
- 5.20 There are new buildings under consideration in Crown Wood and Warfield
- 5.21 Discussions continue around the development of space at the caretaker's cottage in Crowthorne C of E school and Broadmoor Hospital .

Marketing

- 5.22 An information sheet about Children's Centres is going out as an insert in the Health Visitors red book
- 5.23 There will be a slot on Community TV during this term

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5.24 A new IT system for Children's Centres has been developed and will be operational from November. This will give staff the ability to monitor record and track all families going through the centres to ensure services developed are making a difference.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 The present budgetary provision is contained within the main body of the report.

Equality Impact Assessment

6.3 Available upon request.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4

Background Papers

Progress reports presented twice yearly to the Community Activity and Services Partnership. Paper on Disadvantage Subsidy approved by Children and Young People's Trust on 30 June 2009.

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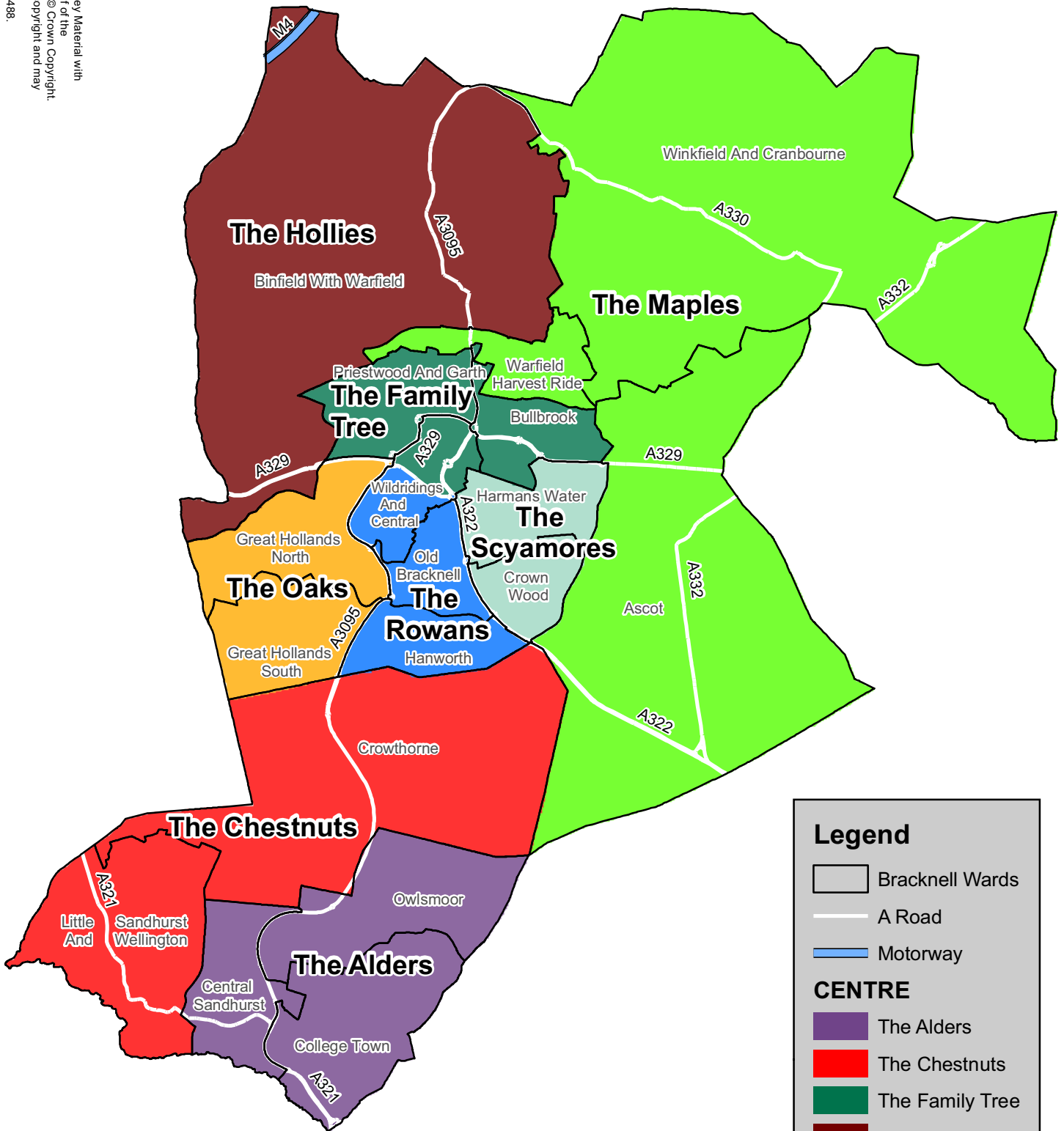
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Children's Centres



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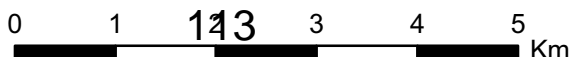


Legend

- Bracknell Wards
- A Road
- Motorway

CENTRE

- The Alders
- The Chestnuts
- The Family Tree
- The Hollies
- The Maples
- The Oaks
- The Rowans
- The Scyamores



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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10 Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to invite Members of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel to note the Panel's work programme for 2009/10, which is attached at Appendix 1 to this report, and consider establishing a working group to review the Council's plans and performance with regard to safeguarding children. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission adopted the work programme on 16 July 2009 having formally consulted the Corporate Management Team and the Executive thereon, as required by the Council's Constitution. For their information, the Leader and Chief Executive have received a copy of the adopted work programme under cover of a letter dated 6 August 2009.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes its 2009/10 work programme, attached at Appendix 1, which has been adopted by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.**
- 2.2 **The establishment of a working group to review the Council's plans and performance with regard to safeguarding children be considered.**

Background Papers

Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny – 2008/09

Agenda and minutes of the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 10 June 2009

Agenda and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 16 July 2009

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Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) in 2009/10

The work programme for O&S in 2009/10 is aimed at maintaining a strategic and coordinated work programme based on major areas of Council and partner organisations' activity, of direct and significant interest to residents. The programme incorporates the routine, on-going work of O&S and the completion of reviews currently underway. It proposes a limited number of new O&S reviews which are seen to be timely, relevant, significant and likely to add value.

The work programme for the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of which Bracknell Forest Council is a member, is determined separately by that Committee.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION	
1.	Co-ordination of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels
2.	Routine Monitoring of the Performance of the Council's Corporate Functions To include: the Corporate Performance Overview Reports; the Performance Monitoring Reports of the Chief Executive's Office and the Corporate Services Department; progress on the regeneration of Bracknell Town Centre; the reports of both internal and external audit; and progress on strategic risk management.
3.	2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13. Note – each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels will also scrutinise the budget proposals in their departmental areas.
4.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
5.	Reviewing the Action Taken on Previous Overview and Scrutiny Reports To periodically review the action taken by the Executive in relation to agreed recommendations from earlier O&S reports.
6. New	The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's Theme Partnerships for: The Town Centre Partnership, The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and The Economic and Skills Development Partnership.
7. New	Sustaining Economic Prosperity To review the service plans for the Council's new Priority 6, to sustain the economic prosperity of the Borough during the current economic downturn.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of Adult Social Care Services To include: a series of visits to adult social care facilities in, and possibly outside, the Borough; on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports on complaints received) and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.</p>
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>
3.	<p>2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Adult Social Care budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13.</p>
4. New	<p>Transforming Social Care and Safeguarding Adults All-Panel workshops to familiarise Members with distinct areas of the initiative, including Care Homes, after which a working group will be established to undertake more in-depth review work in this regard.</p>
5. New	<p>Safeguarding Adults To monitor the Annual Safeguarding Adults Annual Reports.</p>
6. New	<p>The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's Health and Social Care Partnership.</p>

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of Children's Services and Learning To include on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports on the Children and Young People's Plan) and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.</p>
2.	<p>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</p>
3.	<p>2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Children's Services and Learning budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13.</p>
4.	<p>14-19 Years Education Provision To complete the work of the Working Group undertaking a strategic review of education services to the age group 14-19 years.</p>

5. New	The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's two Theme Partnerships for: The Children's Trust and The Early Years, Child Care & Play Partnership.
6. New	Safeguarding Children To review the Council's plans and performance with regard to safeguarding children, including the role of the Executive Member, and a specific review of child protection practice and procedures.
Reviews to be considered when resources become available	
7. New	Transport A strategic review of the procurement and provision of transport used by Children's Services and Learning.

ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	Monitoring the performance of the Environment, Culture and Communities Department To include on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports; monitoring the arrangements for securing and applying receipts from Section 106 agreements; and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.
2.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
3.	2010/11 Budget Scrutiny To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2010/11, and plans for 2011/12/13.
4.	Monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan for Supporting People
5. New	Playbuilder Programme To contribute to the decision-making process on the allocation of funding, and to monitor the implementation of the Council's participation in the government's 'Playbuilder' programme for transformation and creation of play areas.
6. New	The Work of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Building on the 2008/09 O&S review of the Local Area Agreement, to review the role and activities of the Bracknell Forest (Local Strategic) Partnership's Theme Partnerships for: The Strategic Housing Partnership, The Cultural Partnership, The Transport Partnership, and The Climate Change Partnership.
7. New	Highway Maintenance and Improvement To review the Council's plans and performance for highway maintenance and improvement.

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	Monitoring the implementation of the Borough's Health and Well-Being Strategy
2.	Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies To complete the work of the Working Group undertaking a detailed review of the preparedness of the Council and NHS organisations for handling public health emergencies
3.	In conjunction with the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, monitoring the performance and budget of the Berkshire East Primary Care Trust and the Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust This review will include the linkage with the Operating Framework and the national NHS priorities set by the Department of Health; also the progress of health service providers on infection control, particularly in relation to MRSA and C Difficile.
4.	Contributing to the annual 'Health Check' process and responding to consultations by the PCT and NHS Trusts operating in the Borough
5.	The New 'Healthspace' in Bracknell To complete the work of the Working Group undertaking a detailed review of the PCT's plans and progress towards creating the new 'Healthspace' for Bracknell.
Reviews to be considered when resources become available	
6. New	The New NHS Constitution To review the implementation by NHS organisations of the new NHS Constitution, which brings together a number of rights, pledges and responsibilities for staff and patients.

Note – This programme may need to be amended to meet new requirements arising during the year.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) activity over the period May to July 2009, also the national and local developments in O&S.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the quarterly progress report on Overview and Scrutiny.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

(i) Overview and Scrutiny Activity

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

- 3.1 The indicative work programme for O&S in 2009/10 was contained in the Annual report of O&S, adopted by Council in April 2009. This has been considered by the newly appointed Commission and Panels and the Commission adopted the revised work programme at its meeting on 16 July. The Chairman of the O&S Commission sent the revised programme to the Leader and Chief Executive on 6 August.

Overview and Scrutiny Working Groups

- 3.2 The table at Appendix 1 sets out the current status of the O&S Working Groups, along with the list of completed reviews. Reports finalised and published in the quarter included: the Working Group reports on the reviews of Housing & Council Tax Benefits Improvement Plan, and Waste and Recycling.

Partnership Scrutiny

- 3.3 The approach to O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership was endorsed by the BFP Board on 21 May and implementation has commenced. Questionnaires have been sent to the ten Theme Partnerships, whose Chairmen and Lead Officers have been invited to meet the Commission or relevant O&S Panel. Nominations have been received from partner organisations for the Partnership O&S Group, whose first meeting is planned for 28 September.

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

- 3.4 The O&S Commission continues to meet on a two-monthly cycle. At its meeting on 11 June, the main items included: meeting the Chairman and Lead Officer of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership; adopting the two Working Group reports on Waste & Recycling and the Review of the Council's Older People's Strategy;

receiving the Executive's response to the review of services for Adults with Learning Disabilities; and considering the final 2008/09 Performance Monitoring Reports for the Chief Executive's Office and the Corporate Services Department. At its meeting on 16 July, the main items considered by the Commission were: the Executive's response to the review of Children's Centres and Extended Schools Services; the final 2008/09 Corporate Performance Overview Report; adopting the report of the O&S review of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Improvement Plan; considering the new statutory guidance on scrutiny of crime and disorder matters; and adopting the O&S work programme for 2009/10. The Commission's next meeting will be on 24 September.

Environment, Culture and Communities O&S Panel

- 3.5 The Panel has continued to meet on a three-monthly cycle. At its last meeting on 23 June, the Panel: appointed Councillor Finnie as Chairman and Councillor McLean as Vice-Chairman; reviewed the Department's Performance Monitoring report; received a report and presentation on the Section 106 procedure; received an update from the Cleaner Borough Group and received the report of the review of the Implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefits Improvement Plan. The Panel is commencing a new review on Highway Maintenance, with participation from Town and Parish Councils, and has received a separate briefing presentation on the Play Builder Scheme. The Panel's next meeting is on 8 September, at South Hill Park.

Health O&S Panel

- 3.6 The Panel has continued to meet on a three-monthly cycle. At its last meeting on 18 June, the main items included: determining the Panel's response to proposals from Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Trust (H&WPHT) on service changes; considering information produced by the NHS Trusts on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; also the 'Aiming High' programme; determining the Panel's response to the consultation on the Broadmoor Hospital redevelopment; reviewing information from H&WPHT on their financial position; and considering the Executive's response to the Panel's letter concerning the Council's Health and Wellbeing strategy. The Panel's next meeting is on 3 September.

Children's Services and Learning O&S Panel

- 3.7 The newly restructured Panel has commenced a three-monthly meeting cycle. At its last meeting on 10 June, the main items considered by the Panel included: reviewing the statutory annual report for children's social care complaints; considering the Ofsted Inspection report on the Council's Adoption Service, together with the action plan; receiving a presentation on Education Transport policy; and reviewing the department's latest Performance Monitoring Report, also the quarterly report of O&S. The Panel's next scheduled meeting is on 16 September.

Adult Social Care O&S Panel

- 3.8 The newly restructured Panel has commenced a three-monthly meeting cycle. At its last meeting on 2 June at Heathlands Day Care Centre, the main items considered by the Panel included: consideration of the Panel's work programme, informed by a presentation by the Chief Officer for Adult Social Care; receiving the Executive's response to the review of services for Adults with Learning Disabilities; reviewing the statutory annual report for adult social care complaints; considering the report of the review of social care and community transport; receiving an update on the 'Caring about Carers' O&S report; and reviewing the department's latest Performance

Monitoring Report, also the quarterly report of O&S. The Panel's next scheduled meeting is on 1 September.

Joint East Berkshire Health O&S Committee

- 3.9 This Committee, now chaired and serviced by Slough BC until May 2010, continues to meet broadly on a three-monthly cycle, rotating between the three Councils' venues. The last Committee meeting was on 29 June in Bracknell, when the Committee: confirmed co-opted members; received a presentation by H&WPHT on proposed service changes; questioned H&WPHT on their car park charging policy; reviewed the link between the Primary Care Trust's operating framework and budget; and considered the Committee's work programme for 2009-10. The Committee's next meeting will be on 14 September at Slough.
- 3.10 Responses to the feedback questionnaires on the quality of O&S reviews are summarised in Appendix 2.
- 3.11 External networking on O&S in the last quarter has included two O&S Chairmen and two O&S officers attending the annual conference of the Centre for Public Scrutiny in June.
- 3.12 Quarterly review meetings between O&S Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Executive Members and Directors are taking place regularly for the Commission and the Panels. Agenda-setting meetings continue to be held, usually in combination with the review meetings.

(ii) Developments in O&S

- 3.13 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill is still going through its Parliamentary stages, and is due for its third reading in October. As advised in the last quarterly report, the main clauses relating to Overview and Scrutiny relate to the handling of petitions.
- 3.14 The O&S provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 commenced on 1 April 2009. The accompanying regulations and guidance relating to scrutiny of local strategic partnerships is awaited. Statutory guidance has been issued by the Home Office on the O&S provisions in the Act flowing from the Police and Justice Act. This guidance was considered by the O&S Commission, in its capacity as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee in July, and discussions are on-going with Thames Valley Police Authority.
- 3.15 On 23 July, the Government's Communities Secretary launched a consultation entitled 'Strengthening Local Democracy'. This envisages increased O&S powers for local authorities, with councils becoming a local point of accountability for citizens to call on to scrutinise public spending decisions. Greater influence over all the money coming into their area would mean that councils could scrutinise more than £100bn a year from other deliverers of public services. DCLG has said that councils would become the setting for select committee style sessions at which councillors could 'grill anyone charged with spending public money - not only police chiefs, health bosses but also representatives from Job Centre Plus and the Environment Agency - and demand action where they are coming up short'. Other services provided by organisations outside the public sector such as utility companies whose actions equally affect people's quality of life would also be subject to a new level of council scrutiny.

- 3.16 The new arrangement whereby O&S reports are personally presented to the Executive at their briefing meeting by the Lead Member of the O&S review, commenced during this quarter.
- 3.17 The revised structure of O&S, with the Social Care and Learning O&S Panel being split into two: Adult Social Care, and Children's Services and Learning, was implemented in this quarter, with all Panels electing Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, and agreeing their work programmes for the municipal year. The O&S Commission have now met twice in their new capacity as the Council's statutory 'Crime and Disorder' Committee.

Background Papers

Minutes and papers of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Panels.

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Doc. Ref

Alluse/Overview and Scrutiny/2009/10/CMT 19.8.09 O&S Progress Report

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUPS – 2009/10

Position at 6 August 2009

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Older People's Strategy	Edger (Lead), Mrs Birch & Virgo	Victor Nicholls	Richard Beaumont	√	√	√	√	<u>Completed</u> - Executive response received on 22 June to letter of 29 April containing O&S observations on the strategy

Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Services for People with Learning Disabilities (Social Care Modernisation Agenda)	Leake (Lead), Mrs. Shillcock & Virgo	Glyn Jones	Andrea Carr	√	√	√	√	<u>Completed</u> The Executive response to the letter of 6 April 2009 summarising the work of the Working Group and making

								recommendations was received by the Panel on 2 June 2009.
Transforming Social Care (TSC)	To be appointed	Glyn Jones	Andrea Carr					All-Panel workshops are proposed to familiarise members with distinct areas of TSC before a working group is set up to undertake more in-depth review work in this area.

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Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel								
WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Strategic Review of Waste	Brunel-Walker (Lead), Mrs. Angell, Beadsley, Mrs. Ryder, Wade (Crowthorne), Allen (S'hurst & Ms Healy (Warfield)	Steve Loudoun / Janet Dowlman	Andrea Carr	√	√	√		The report was adopted by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 11 June 2009 and subsequently submitted to the Executive member. A response is

								expected in September 2009.
Supporting People (SP)	Mrs. Shillcock (Lead) & Mrs. Fleming	Simon Hendey / Clare Dorning	Andrea Carr	√	07/08 √ (Annual monitoring)	07/08 √ (Annual monitoring)	N/A	The Working Group met on 30 September 2008 to monitor progress against implementation of the SP programme and reported its findings to the Panel on 18 December 2008. It will meet again in autumn 2009 to monitor progress.
Housing Strategy	Finnie (Lead), Mrs. Fleming and Finch	Clare Dorning	Richard Beaumont	√	√	√	√	<u>Completed</u> Detailed input provided to draft strategy, which was finalised and approved by the Executive in July 2009
Implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Service	Finch (Lead), Beadsley, Burrows	Simon Hendey / Shanaz Alam	Emma Silverton (Richard Beaumont to Support)	√	√	√		Awaiting Executive response to report sent on 22 nd July 2009

Improvement Plan								
Review of Highway Maintenance	Beadsley, Brossard, Leake and Mclean Parish and Town Councillors: Edwards (Binfield) Kensall (Bracknell) Withers (Crowthorne) Mrs Cupper (Sandhurst) Young (Winkfield)	Steve Loudoun	Richard Beaumont					First meeting arranged for 28 September 2009.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel								
WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies (previously known as Patient	Burrows (Lead), Mrs. Angell, Thompson. Mrs. Mattick,	David Steeds	Andrea Carr	√				The re-launched Working Group has met on 5 occasions and met the Director of

Focus)								Public Health and the Council's Head of Environmental Health & Safety and Emergency Planning Manager. Further meetings with reps of the Primary Care Trust, Health Protection Agency and Emergency Preparedness Division of the Dept of Health are proposed.
Bracknell Health Space	Virgo (lead) Mrs Angell, Baily, Leake, Mrs Shillcock	Glyn Jones/ Mary Purnell	Richard Beaumont	√				Three meetings held to date, also a site visit to the private sector builder of the Healthspace. Further meetings are being arranged.

Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Hospital Discharge Procedures	Baily, Coad (Slough BC), Napier (RB W&M)	N/A	Andrew Scott (RB W&M)	√				No progress in last year and now under review.

Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WORKING GROUP	MEMBERS	DEPT. LINK OFFICER	O&S LEAD OFFICER	SCOPING	DRAFT REPORT / SUBMISSION	FINAL REPORT / SUBMISSION	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE	CURRENT STATUS
Extended Services & Children's Centres (Joint with Health OSP)	Leake (Lead), Mrs. Birch, Mrs. Angell, Mrs. McCracken, Burrows, Beadsley	Graham Symonds / Karen Frost	Katie Dover/ Richard Beaumont	√	√	√	√	The Executive response to the report has been received and it will be considered at the Panel meeting on 16 September.
14-19 Years Education Provision	Mrs Birch (Lead) Dr Josephs-Franks, Kensall, Mrs McCracken,	Martin Surrell	Andrea Carr (Emma Silverton to support)	√				The Working Group has met on nine occasions to date and visited

	Mrs Ryder							Bracknell & Wokingham College and Ranelagh and Sandhurst Schools. A visit to Garth Hill College is proposed and a questionnaire has been sent to local employers.
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Completed Reviews

Publication Date	Title
December 2003	South Bracknell Schools Review
January 2004	Review of Adult Day Care Services in Bracknell Forest (Johnstone Court Day Centre & Downside Resource Centre)
May 2004	Review of Community & Voluntary Sector Grants
July 2004	Review of Community Transport Provision
April 2005	Review of Members' Information Needs
November 2005	The Management of Coronary Heart Disease
February 2006	Review of School Transfers and Performance
March 2006	Review of School Exclusions and Pupil Behaviour Policy
August 2006	Report of Tree Policy Review Group
November 2006	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Review of the ASB Strategy Implementation
January 2007	Review of Youth Provision
February 2007	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2006
February 2007	Review of Library Provision
July 2007	Review of Healthcare Funding
November 2007	Review of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy

December 2007	Review of the Council's Medium Term Objectives
March 2008	2007 Annual Health Check Response to the Healthcare Commission
April 2008	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/08
May 2008	Road Traffic Casualties
August 2008	Caring for Carers
September 2008	Scrutiny of Local Area Agreement
October 2008	Street Cleaning
October 2008	English as an Additional Language in Bracknell Forest Schools
April 2009	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/09
April 2009	Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check 2008/09 (letters submitted)
April 2009	Children's Centres and Extended Services in and Around Schools in Bracknell Forest
April 2009	Older People's Strategy
April 2009	Services for People with Learning Disabilities
May 2009	Housing Strategy
June 2009	Review of Waste and Recycling
June 2009	Review of Housing and Council Tax Benefits Improvement Plan

Results of Feedback Questionnaires on Overview and Scrutiny Reports

Note – Departmental Link officers on each review were asked to score the key aspects of each O&S review on a scale of 0 (Unsatisfactory) to 3 (Excellent)

	Average score for previous 8 Reviews ¹
PLANNING	2.9
Were you given sufficient notice of the review?	
Were your comments invited on the scope of the review, and was the purpose of the review explained to you?	2.9
CONDUCT OF REVIEW	2.6
Was the review carried out in a professional and objective manner with minimum disruption?	
Was there adequate communication between O&S and the department throughout?	2.6
Did the review get to the heart of the issue?	2.8
REPORTING	2.9
Did you have an opportunity to comment on the draft report?	
Did the report give a clear and fair presentation of the facts?	2.4
Were the recommendations relevant and practical?	2.5
How useful was this review in terms of improving the Council's performance?	2.4

¹ Road Traffic Casualties, Review of the Local Area Agreement, Support for Carers, Street Cleaning, Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, English as an Additional Language in Schools, Children's Centres and Extended Services, and Waste and Recycling.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN ITEMS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents current Executive Forward Plan items relating to Children's Services and Learning for the Panel's consideration.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That the Children's Services and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel considers the current Executive Forward Plan items relating Children's Services and Learning appended to this report.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Consideration of items on the Executive Forward Plan alerts the Panel to forthcoming Executive decisions and facilitates pre-decision scrutiny.
- 3.2 To achieve accountability and transparency of the decision making process, effective Overview and Scrutiny is essential. Overview and Scrutiny bodies are a key element of Executive arrangements and their roles include both developing and reviewing policy; and holding the Executive to account.
- 3.3 The power to hold the Executive to account is granted under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 which states that Executive arrangements of a local authority must ensure that its Overview and Scrutiny bodies have power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Executive. This includes the 'call in' power to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented and to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the body / person that made it. This power does not relate solely to scrutiny of decisions and should therefore also be utilised to undertake pre-decision scrutiny.

Background Papers

Local Government Act 2000

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME

REFERENCE	I018138
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TITLE: Garth Hill College (OSP) ICT Provider Contract Award

PURPOSE OF DECISION: To approve the award of contract for the supply, installation and commissioning of academic and classroom ICT equipment and software for the new building.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Within existing budget

WHO WILL TAKE DECISION: Executive

PRINCIPAL GROUPS TO BE CONSULTED: Garth Hill College, Garth Hill College (OSP) Project Board, Corporate IT, Procurement, Corporate Services - Finance

METHOD OF CONSULTATION: Meeting(s) with interested parties

DATE OF DECISION: 20 Oct 2009

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