

Children’s and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel 6 Month Performance Update

1. Progress against Priorities

Priority	Progress
<i>Being Healthy</i>	
<p>1. Halting the rise in obesity (impact of sports and leisure, healthy lifestyle)</p> <p>2. Reducing prenatal mortality</p>	<p>1. Data collection has exceeded the 80% target with 91.5% of children in Reception and 86.6% of children in year 6 being weighed and measured. Overall prevalence of obesity in children is lower than the 2005/06 baseline; however this is likely to be due to improved ascertainment.</p> <p>2. Between 2005 and 2006 the number of babies dying in Walsall fell from 35 to 23 deaths (a rate of 10.2 to 6.4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full retrospective audit of infant mortality cases has been carried out to determine patterns of incidence. This work has high level steer from the tPCT and is fully engaging partners in Walsall Hospitals Trust and the Perinatal Institute. • The Low Birth Weight Babies Programme is in its second year and is responding to the Research Project carried out in 2006 through an action plan supported by NRF funding; having many aspects related to lifestyle issues and targeted work with those communities most at risk. The programme specifically provides tools and resources for midwives to spend more time with pregnant women to improve their health and well being in pregnancy. • A Pathway has been launched to improve the mental health of women in pregnancy and in the post natal period. • The tPCT is moving towards Baby Friendly accreditation as one of the ways of increasing the uptake of breast feeding. • Walsall tPCT has been chosen as one of 10 national pilot sites to implement the Family Nurse Partnership which focuses intensive nursing support to young first time disadvantaged mothers during the formative weeks of pregnancy and up to the child’s 2nd birthday. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NB Performance on this item is likely to be red as actions required to change this are long term and complex, however the actions/ plans to address this issue are based on recent, local investigation and are being systematically implemented - therefore rated green.</i></p>
<p>3. Improving child and mental health services (CAMHS)</p>	<p>3. The CAMHS service is in the process of reorganisation. Consultation with staff is now complete and most posts are aligned to the new structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new service model will deliver increased accessibility

<p>4. Reducing teenage pregnancy</p>	<p>through the creation of a Tier 2 team. The focus of this team will be upon prevention, early detection and management of mental health problems and rapid access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ‘Transition from CAMHS to AMH services’ protocol has been reviewed and updated and is in the final stages of ratification. • We are currently reviewing and updating the protocol for admission of under 17’s to the Local Tier 4 beds to include improved guidance around risk assessment and management, training of AMH inpatient staff. We will develop an integrated care pathway to help ensure the highest standards of care are delivered to adolescents requiring admission to AMH psychiatric facilities. • The current waiting time for CAMHS is on target at 8 weeks. <p>4. The under 18 teenage pregnancy conception rate in Walsall continues to fall; the overall reduction of -14.2% currently exceeds that for both England and the West Midlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All actions identified in the 2006-08 Strategy/Action Plan have been addressed. • All actions/interventions have been targeted at both ‘hot-spot’ areas and at vulnerable groups. • TP Self Assessment process/review occurred in April 2007, feedback from GOWM to the TP Board was very positive, and recommendations made have been agreed and actioned.
<p>Staying Safe</p> <p>1. Reduce the incidence of bullying</p> <p>2. Reduce the impact of domestic violence on children and improve services</p> <p>3. Improve stability for looked after children (links to fostering and adoption)</p>	<p>1. Walsall is launching its AB charter, standards and policy in November. Selected sites across schools, youth provision and Social Care residential services are piloting an electronic data collection tool to be rolled out to all child care providers in 2008.</p> <p>2. A response toolkit has been developed which will be circulated to all schools, promotional activity aimed at CYP is in development Multi agency response team (DART) took effect in August 07. Specification and protocols explicitly address victim, perpetrator and child responses. A programme of perpetrator interventions is now in place</p> <p>3. We continue to exceed targets in relation to the key performance indicators that reflect placement stability –three placement moves, long-term placement stability and the numbers of children placed for adoption. The service is striving to recruit more local placements for children with complex needs through a specialist foster placement scheme –recruiting new carers and enabling existing carers to “stretch” their capacity through effective local multi-agency support to placements. There is a targeted ongoing marketing campaign, which includes events</p>

	<p>such the Eid Mela, the Vaisakhi and Diwali celebrations, attendance at the Hindu and the Black Sisters fora and adverts in "the Vine". This has resulted in 4 Asian Muslim, 2 African - Caribbean families currently being assessed .As well, one of these Muslim families is experienced in caring for older children and unaccompanied asylum seekers. There is also one white /European family interested in fostering older children with more complex needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the re-provision of children’s homes, a quantity surveyor has been appointed and initial specifications for both properties submitted. The draft programme of works has been devised and it is estimated that the refurbishment programme will commence on or around the 25th February 2008 at Hilton Road children’s home, with the Lichfield Road refurbishment starting on or around the 25th April 2008. The estimated completion date for the project as a whole is July 2008.
<p>Enjoy and Achieve</p> <p>1. Improve attainment of boys in English</p>	<p>1. In 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the age of 5 girls perform better across all areas of learning assessed in the foundation stage. • By the age of 7 girls outperform boys in English (reading and writing) but boys outperform girls in mathematics – including at the higher level 3. • By the age of 11 girls outperform boys in English, although the gap has narrowed significantly over the last 5 years and is also very close to the national averages for boys and girls. In mathematics boys’ perform better than girls particularly at the higher level 5. There has been a significant narrowing of the gap in performance compared with boys and girls nationally at the expected level 4 and this is now in line with the national average. • By the age of 14 girls outperform boys across all areas tested – significantly so at the higher levels in English. • A dedicated focus on boys’ achievement has been commissioned. Although in its infancy a multi agency group has been tasked with identifying key activities as a result of a thorough needs analysis. • At KS4 a network of 23 teachers are focussing on “study plus” materials is taking place and at KS2 the impact of ISP and visual literacy materials. Action research projects are taking place around learning journey diaries where boys’ achievement is proving to be successful. Observations have taken place and group discussions to enable networking and sharing good practice • Links have been made with the College of Continuing education to develop aspects of family learning in relation to boys achievement with a focus on engaging fathers

<p>2. Improve attainment and attendance of LAC</p>	<p>2. There has been a slight overall improvement of attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 with good strategies in place to further improve in 2008. The targets for 2008 remain very challenging. Improvement in attainment at the end of key Stage 4 has been good and this makes the targets for 2008 very achievable.</p> <p>We were disappointed that we could not appoint head teachers last term owing to experience of the applicants interviewed. However, following further advertisement, Tony Stephens and Pete Bishop have now been appointed as the head teachers each (part time) for the school. They bring a good range of skills and knowledge and can commence duties with immediate effect. This should help us regain ground lost on the implementation of the project. The website for the school is now active and on-line learning materials available in English and mathematics.</p>
<p>3. a) Improve attainment of Pakistani heritage pupils</p>	<p>3a) At KS1 Pakistani pupil attainment improved in reading and writing, particularly for boys but there was a 2% drop in Maths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At KS2 Pakistani pupil attainment improved in all subject areas with boys' attainment in English improving by 10% in English and 14% in Maths and Science. However there is still a negative residual of 15% against all pupils nationally in both English and Maths. • At KS3 Pakistani pupil attainment improved in all subject areas, boys and girls improved by 9% in English, girls fell by 9% in Maths. However there is still a negative residual of 18% against all pupils nationally English, 23% in Maths and 25% in Science.
<p>b).Improve attainment of Bangladeshi heritage pupils</p>	<p>3b) At KS1 Bangladeshi girls reading and writing fell this year, however the Maths results improved by 4%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At KS2 Bangladeshi pupil attainment rose in all three subject areas, particularly for girls who had a 22% improvement in Maths. However there is still a - 8% negative residual against all pupils nationally in both English and Maths. The cohort for Bangladeshi pupils at KS 3 shows that 69% of the cohort is boys. Bangladeshi pupil attainment fell sharply in all three subject areas. The average negative residual is 14% against all pupils nationally in all subjects. We now have 38 schools offering the extended schools offer – in excess of target. Schools and their partners are making significant progress in the delivery of extended learning opportunities, through a varied menu of activities.
<p>4. Increase numbers of children in enjoyable learning and recreation activities</p>	<p>4. A working group has been established and a programme developed for extended learning / study support, including proposals for a stakeholder conference, study support strategy, case studies and dissemination of good practice guidance.</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>An action plan is in place to encourage more young people to join and use the library service. Actions include:</p>

- the Big Wild Read - a reading challenge run through the summer which resulted in 80 new members.
- Bostin Book Bonanza held in October with events, authors and performance poetry. This was used as an opportunity to consult with young people on how the library service could become more relevant to them.
- Bloxwich Young Advisors Group – in development to give young people a say in the development of their services from their local library.
- Developing work with Children Centres

Ready Steady Summer

- Ready Steady Summer 2007 provided 80 different activities with a total of 391 individual sessions. These activities were run by 37 different activity providers and a total of 3,660 young people participated.
- This equates to 8.2% of the 40,992 young people aged between 8 and 19 living in the Walsall Borough, being involved in Ready Steady Summer activities
- 67% of participants were aged between 10 and 14 with only 9% aged between 15-19.
- All activities demonstrated at least 2 learning outcomes within the 5 "Every Child Matters " priorities
- The ethnicity breakdown of Ready Steady Summer participants broadly reflects that of the borough
- As part of the Mentoring Scheme, participants had the opportunity to work towards a recognised accreditation as part of the programme. 60 of the 65 mentors completed either the Platinum Youth Achievement Award or the Local Authority Award. This equates to 92% of mentors receiving a recognised accreditation. A total of 82 mentees took part in the programme with 51 receiving a Local Achievement Award equating to a 62% of mentees achieving an accreditation.

Sports Development

WAY 4WARD – is a new programme offering exercise advice and support to young people. Who are given exercise recommendations from an exercise specialist (Active Lifestyle Officer) and supported to sustain long term changes to their levels of activity. Since July 07 the Active Lifestyle Officer has seen 40 referrals; with 18 being self referrals and 22 medical.

Fun 4 Life - specialist weight management clinic for overweight and obese children. This is a 12 week programme which includes physical activity and lifestyle sessions for both parent and child. 26 families accessed the Summer term programme and currently 13 families are taking part in the Autumn programme. Results

	<p>have shown decrease in BMI in both parents and children and reported increases in self esteem.</p> <p>Skilz 4 Sport - is a physical activity session for young people who have low physical activity levels and/or have weight management issues. 3 sessions currently running across the borough, average 10 children per session.</p> <p>Healthy Lifestyle lessons - in Year 6 took place in North Walsall Primary School in the Summer term. Currently 3 schools are half way through their 10 week block. These are a block of 10 lessons which focus on different topics which form part of a healthy lifestyle. Previous results have shown 81% of the pupils reported at least one behaviour change and there has been a 42% increase in knowledge of what it means to have a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>The Narrowboat Alternative Curricular Program engaged with 4 Behaviour Improvement Schools and the Key stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit to deliver accredited courses via the Open College Network at NVQ level 2. 30 pupils attended & passed the course with attendance overall averaging 92%. In addition to the curricular activity 50% of the pupils took up the opportunity to attend during holiday periods on a voluntary basis. In addition we delivered Level 1 Junior Sports Leader Award to 30 children in partnership with Black Country Connexions' Transition Through Sport program.</p> <p>From April to September, 656 Sports Coaching sessions were delivered across 82 schools with 2,060 children benefited from the coaching. 27 schools received free NRF coaching.</p>
<p>Making a Positive Contribution</p> <p>1. Increase the participation of young people in positive activities</p>	<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) continues to target those who are known to the Youth Offending Service. PAYP is particularly busy during the summer period when relatively large numbers of young people are positively engaged in a wide range of activities, from performing arts to motor cycle scrambling, for the six week holiday period. Some of the more challenging individuals are supported by Key Workers -this summer 30 out of 215 "at risk" young people were allocated a Key Worker. • The Connexions programme "Transition Thru' Sport" has worked in partnership with Walsall Street Teams to target the Community Sports Leadership Award at twelve particularly vulnerable young people. • In addition, working in partnership with the Vine Trust, Connexions has part-funded a project that will develop different faith group's work with young people within their locality. This will result in more referrals to Connexions PAs in the drop-in centres. • New Youth Service projects have opened at St Giles, Willenhall, and Unity Youth Centre, Birchills. Youth Centres have been refurbished and reopened at Pelsall, Pleck and

	<p>Walsall Wood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer education work, around drugs and sexual relationship education is taking place with young people from Beechdale, Brownhills, Darlaston, Mossley and Willenhall. Young people, some who are NEET, have been trained on the Youth Awareness programme. Work is also taking place with NEET young people in both centre based and detached work in Darlaston, Blakenall, Birchills/north Walsall, Delves, Pleck, Willenhall and Brownhills. Some of this work is in partnership with Connexions the DAAT and the Safer Borough Partnership. • Ready Steady Summer 2007 provided 80 different activities with a total of 391 individual sessions. These activities were run by 37 different activity providers and a total of 3,660 young people participated. This equates to 8.2% of the 40,992 young people aged between 8 and 19 living in the Walsall Borough. All activities met at least 2 of the "Every Child Matters" priorities • There has been increased involvement of children in vocal and instrumental projects through the Wider Opportunities programme for KS2. During the past six months these projects have reached 35% of Primary Schools. • Forest Arts Service has provided a wide range of arts activities for young people at Forest Arts Centre to include bands & orchestras, choirs, vocal & instrumental workshops, World Music, Rock & Pop, digital arts, music theatre, drama workshops and regular dance activities in addition to the Schools Dance Festival & Summer Dance Festival. Forest Arts also hosted the highly successful regional Pop Stars competition and large numbers of young people attended the holiday films. • We have recorded 11,204 pupils visits to Forest Arts Centre to take part in participatory arts projects and regular activities during the past six months and 5,601 pupil visits in organised school groups to Museums and Galleries. • The Leather Museum now offers a new Roman activity to schools which is being developed in relationship with Surestart and Walsall Museum has successfully secured funding for a new education space which will improve facilities and further encourage school visits to the Museum. • The New Art Gallery have improved the marketing of the service which involved the production and distribution of a new schools leaflet and much more consultation work within schools which has helped to raise the profile of the Gallery. In addition further improvements have been made to the education programme which now includes core workshops and talks which run throughout the year. • The Parenting Strategy has been refreshed to take account of parental consultation and our Parenting pilot
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<p>2. Reduce anti-social behaviour and offending</p>	<p>programmes are evaluating well (evaluations undertaken by external DoH/DCSF appointees)</p> <p>2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training commissioned for all residential unit staff and a collection of foster carers to develop the concept of restorative justice; to reduce the incidents of police call outs; and to make young people own the consequences of their offending and understand the effects upon the victims of their actions. Staff/carers will also access the suitability of punitive actions and the causes behind young people’s behaviour. • ROLAC worker post is currently vacant. Thought needs to be given to the mainstreaming of this post to ensure continuity; previous incumbent met with LAC and staff to try and avert anti-social behaviour and as a second contact/intervention for young people on orders. • Police Officers seconded to the Y.O.S. have undertaken a breakdown to analyse in greater detail the increase in reprimands; a meeting took place between YOS and OCU Superintendents. An action plan was agreed. • Police to employ an Analyst to look at the number or reprimands that have been given and monitor the situation, to feedback at a future meeting. In the meantime however the possibility of Custody Officers issuing a “warning” to young people instead of a Reprimand to be looked at, but this would not count as detection for the Police. • A meeting with Education Walsall resulted in a full time secondee to the YOS for an initial period of 6 months. This worker will develop connectivity & benchmarked interventions between the YOS and Education Walsall, whilst being based primarily with the YOS. The worker will provide capacity to attain the target of 90% of all young people on the YOS caseload being in Education, training or employment. • Corrective actions have been put in place and we have made a positive move forward with an increase of 6.2% overall between Q.1 and Q.2. in the number of offenders engaged in ETE. • Connexions now provides 2 additional days PA staffing resources to YOS to help increase the numbers entering EET- now 6 days in total. We are also discussing the appropriateness and availability of post 16 provision, focusing on providers who will more readily accept trainees with an offending background. • The PA deployed with the YOS has worked with Key Workers to develop a “Skills 4 Employment” workshop to enable young offenders to gain basic employability skills that will help them succeed in the labour market.
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<p>3. Improve involvement of young people in their communities</p>	<p>3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with the Voluntary Sector, Connexions fund Community Initiative projects reach out to vulnerable young people who are NEET or “Not Known” and who may not use statutory services. Some, e.g. Walsall Black Sisters Collective, work closely with schools to target 25 disaffected young people, helping them develop a more positive approach. • Striving to reach more young people and working with local partners, Connexions has improved access to services in two key “NEET” areas by opening “drop-in” facilities in the Bentley Community Information Point and the Young People’s Information Centre, Ingram Road, Bloxwich. This complements the long-standing service provided in partnership with Job Centre Plus at Brownhills. • Connexions have enrolled 21 young people on the Walsall “Leaps and Bounds” performing arts programme. Half of the participants are either Looked After or Care Leavers. • Connexions have deployed PAs to both LAC and Transition and Leaving Care. Part of their role is to work together to ensure young people’s smooth transition at 16 from LAC to Transition and Leaving Care. This has worked well this year. • During the summer period Walsall PAYP funded a Life Skills programme for LAC and Care Leavers. Young People completed CVs and portfolios and successfully engaged in post 16 education following the course. • Young people have contributed to the Children and Young People’s Trust Partnership forums in the Brownhills and Aldridge North and central Walsall areas. Youth Opinions Unite District groups continue to meet across the borough. The Forum for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities is meeting regularly and is also feeding in to the YOU borough wide participation process. • Young people in Darlaston have formed a Youth Forum and are looking at issues including improving ‘green space’ facilities. • 92% of the young people acting as mentors on the 2007 Ready Steady Summer scheme and 62% of the children who were mentored achieved a recognised accredited outcome. • Formation of a Bloxwich Young Advisors Group to advise in the development of plans for the future of Bloxwich Library and Theatre as a community facility and to consult on stock and services • As part of the Education Walsall Accessibility Strategy Plan Objective 6 ‘To gather the views of young people’ the Youth Forum for young people with learning difficulties and
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	<p>disabilities meets on a termly basis with a half termly planning meeting. Representatives from 14 secondary and 4 special schools in years 7 to 12 attend. Since its inception in 2004 when 12 young people attended there has been a steady increase in numbers and a range of disabilities so at the last forum (October 29th) there were 30 young people. Topics which have been discussed include consultation on transition planning, person centred planning, risk assessments and planning external visits. The topic of our last forum was 'Disability' (What do I Think? and Who do I want to tell?).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walsall Council organised a Local Democracy event (16th Oct 07) at the Council Chamber where representatives from primary, secondary and special school council's attended including representation from Oakwood school. Children were consulted with on their aspirations for the future of school and communities in Walsall by the Mayor, Cabinet Lead for CYP and EW representatives. • Voting for Youth Opinions Unite, the local arrangement of The National Youth Forum, takes place annually for secondary age pupils including those in special schools. A Young People's Disability Forum is established as part of YOU structure. The chair of this group is a member of the Borough wide Forum. • Training has been run through School Councils UK for infant, primary, secondary and special school councils with representation from Jane Lane and Oakwood Schools. Guidance is offered to schools on the formation of councils to promote their representative and inclusive constitution. • Connexions PAs deployed to TPT have worked with a group of nine Teenage Parents who completed a Peer Mentoring Programme. They now facilitate sessions in schools, sharing their experiences of pregnancy, child birth and parenting. They are producing a diary of their experiences which will be used as a resource to reduce teenage pregnancy. • Working in partnership with the Youth Service and Walsall Youth Arts, the PA working with vulnerably housed young people has developed a project that uses art a discussion medium. Some of the work has been shown in a local Chameleon Gallery. • Former care leaver was involved in the recruitment of the new Virtual Head Teacher • The Ready Steady Summer Mentoring Scheme team's vulnerable children aged 8-13 with rigorously selected young people from local schools who act as mentors and positive roles models through the summer holidays. Mentees have the opportunities to have fun; experience new challenges form new relationships. .As part of the Scheme, participants had the opportunity to work towards a recognised accreditation. 60 of the 65 mentors completed either the Platinum Youth
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<p>4. Helping young people to find solutions to bullying and discrimination</p>	<p>Achievement Award or the Local Authority Award. A total of 82 mentees took part in the programme with 51 receiving a Local.</p> <p>4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual anti-bullying conference is now established and is supported by the safeguarding board, partners and local businesses. 450 C&YP attended the conference in Nov 2006 and 500 C&YP will be attending the conference in November 2007- The aim of the conference is to allow C&YP to demonstrate how they 'Make a positive contribution' and 'Stay Safe'. An anti-bullying charter and related standards has now been developed for Walsall. We are now establishing a C&YP's anti-bullying forum (pupil voice). A multi-service training package has been developed (BIP,CISS, BSRT) to raise awareness of bullying and harassment behaviours, included in this is a training and development package for C&YP, 'Is this bullying.' • The Care Leaving Team has now developed their project to enable five Care Leavers to mentor younger Care Leavers when they transfer from the Looked After team at 16. This has been a successful trial that has helped them resolve a range of issues relating to independent living including combating bullying and discrimination. • Two Looked After children acted as mentors on the LAC Residential. The volunteers were trained to cover a range of issues including interpersonal relationships. • Youth club programmes include work on bullying, sexual health and positive relationships.
<p>Achieving Economic Well-being</p> <p>1. Helping young people to feel enthusiastic about their future</p>	<p>1. Latest higher education results generally shows an improving trend across the black county (with except of Sandwell) in the number of pupils entering higher education. Walsall shows second highest (+ 65% improvement (560 in 2000 to 1043 in 2006) represents in 2006 some 85% of the total Y13 cohort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimhigher remains at the heart of 14-19 strategy and developments in Walsall and is recognised as impacting on learners in all schools through central and school-specific activity. In all secondary school development plans. • Aimhigher has engaged 6,950 learners (some in more than one activity) in some kind of central supported activity in 2006-07 academic year. • Its recognised as one of the contributing factors in the continuing improvement in KS 4 attainment in Walsall. • Looked After Children continue to be targeted directly through the LAC team for Aimhigher support and attendance at collaborative events where appropriate. LAC will be included in collaborative activity in Walsall even if their home

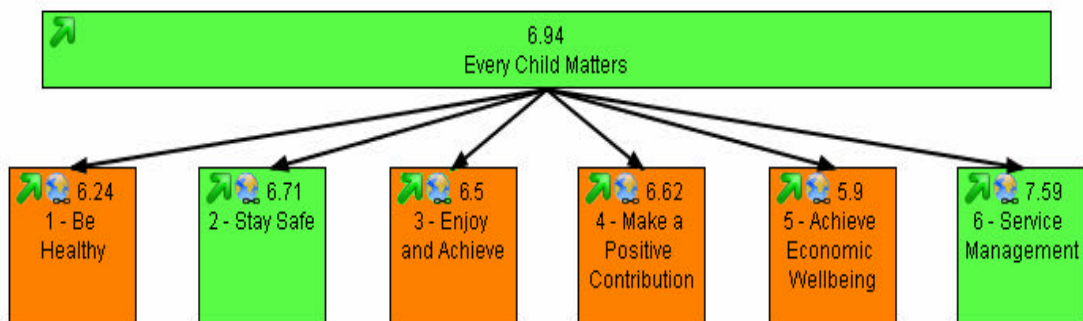
<p>2. Increase enterprise amongst young people</p> <p>3. Encourage employers to help young people to obtain skills, leading to sustainable employment opportunities</p>	<p>school declines to participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by Aimhigher, three secondary schools gained the Black Country Quality Award for Careers Education and Guidance in May 2007. This is 100% increase in schools with this prestigious award. A further 8 schools are on line to apply for the Q Mark in October 07. Three more were awarded on 9th Nov 07. CARD operations and strategic management groups now formed. A total of 12 secondary schools, and the FE College are registered HE CARD schools. One of these schools will pilot "universal" CARD from September 07. Universal card is supported by Black country LSC and will act as process for delivering September guarantee. TOR and implementation plans will be ready by end Nov 07. Shire Oak to pilot with students still to be identified. All CARD activities (Sept/Nov) are running at capacity. Numbers of students applying for the most challenging HE courses for Autumn 2008 seems to be rising e.g. Aldridge has more Oxbridge and medic applicants than usual. Staff attribute this to the Aimhigher Walsall Oxford Access Project now in its 4th year. Stronger links with Walsall Training Providers are also resulting in the development of bespoke activity, especially for Y12 Level 2 learners, which raises awareness of vocational routes. It is hoped that this work will act as part of the "pump priming" process which raises demand for Diplomas as they come on stream. The level 2 Y12 conference to drive this goal will take place from 10th to 14th December 07, and is on target to involve 175 students. <p>2. At qtr 2, a total of 2,434 pupils have been supported through the following EBP and curriculum development activities:</p> <p>3. The Walsall NEET figure for the first Quarter (07/08) was 9.8% and the second Quarter figure was 9.9%. While this demonstrates a rise of 0.1 this is in keeping with the expected seasonal variation.</p> <p>The key comparator is the second Quarter figure from (06/07) which was 10.3%. Therefore if we compare like with like we see a drop of 0.4%.</p> <p>As the final (06/07) Quarter 3 figure was 9.1% and met the LAA Stretch Target of 9.7%, it appears that we are currently on course to hit the (07/08) LAA Target of 9.4% this year.</p> <p>These figures are the latest in a line that demonstrate longer term NEET reduction in Walsall.</p> <p>This is due to a range of factors; management of the cohort by Connexions through tracking, dialogue and submission to vacancies, an improving 14-19 offer together with a reasonably buoyant local economy,</p>
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<p>4. Increase numbers of decent homes for children and their families</p>	<p>better borough-wide partnership working where a range of partners recognise their responsibility for NEET,</p> <p>In addition more recent initiatives include; Connexions effective management and delivery of the Year 11 Activity Survey, Connexions effective management and delivery of the September Guarantee, good partnership working to deliver the NEET TAP. (Projects have included training of key partners and employability workshops for young people.)</p> <p>4. At qtr 2, 121 homes occupied by vulnerable households have been improved to the decent home standard, including 11 housing children. Hence this target is on track to be delivered. As most of our decent homes grant eligibility criteria is linked to old age and disability it's a smaller proportion than the total that contain children. Though this is making a recognisable contribution to improving the homes of children and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Health Through Warmth (HTW) scheme continued to make good progress in the first half of 2007/8 installing improved energy efficiency measures in homes and helping reduce fuel poverty in Walsall. • Our new Repair Assistance policy made equity release products available across the Borough to help pay for home repairs for vulnerable households. We continue to work in partnership with the voluntary sector, private landlords and housing associations to help improve the standard of rented homes containing children. • During Qtr 4 there's a planned promotion of energy efficiency planned in schools.
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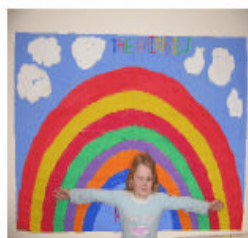
2. Performance Data

- ECM Scorecard Quarter 2 performance (see appendix 1)
- Overall Performance in Performance Information Management System (PIMS) at Quarter 2 2007/8 (see below)

Note: Overall ECM Rating is borderline Amber/Green



Please click on one of the outcomes shown above



3. Customer Focus

Table 1 shows statistical data for Q1 and Q2 in 2007/08. The targets on the right hand side were agreed at CSMT when the annual report 2006/07 was presented. These targets demonstrate consolidation of or improvement on the achievements made in 2006/07.

Attention is required to the timescales for the completion of stage 1 responses and to the number of complaints being received by the customer care team.

There are numerous positive aspects to the data and the achievements within handling of statutory complaints regarding children's services.

The number of complaints received directly from children and young people is currently at 40% with the target set at 20%. This reflects the ongoing work to promote the rights of children to complain and empowers them to voice concerns safely. This is complemented by the work of NYAS, the advocacy provider. Direct work has taken place with children placed in residential units and foster care and training is provided to staff teams to raise their awareness.

Mediation continues to be used effectively as an alternative method to resolve complaints following a response at stage 1. This demonstrates excellent customer practice and follows the guidance and regulations issued in September 2006; the expeditious completion of complaints promotes service user satisfaction.

Each complaint provides an opportunity to reflect and improve the services being delivered. A system was introduced by the Customer Care Team in September 2007 and allows for the capture of all learning opportunities. The Customer Care Team monitors each complaint and provides feedback to managers in Children's Services. The impact this could have on service delivery to our customers is significant.

Table 1.

Children's Services Complaints Statistical Data for Q1 & Q2 2007/08				
	Quarter 1 (Apr/May/June)	Quarter 2 (July/Aug/Sept)	Cumulative figures (year to date)	Target 2007/08
CH7 Complaints Received by CCT in Period	20	14	34 (36%)	95
CH13 Received from child	6	7	40%	20%
Done in period	22	13	35	
CH8 Within timescale (10 working days)	10	3	38.50%	60%
CH8 Within timescale (20 working days)	14	7	61%	80%
More than 40 days	4	2	4	
Upheld	5	2	7	
Not Upheld	6	9	15	
Partially Upheld	8	1	9	
Withdrawn	3	1	4	
Compliments received in period	3	3	6	

4. Corrective Actions

For full performance information see ECM Scorecard Quarter 2 (see appendix 1)
Summary of corrective action for Q2 is as follows

Being Healthy

- Perinatal Mortality/ Infant Mortality rate (St. Matthews)
- Babies with low birth weight
- Rate of deaths from suicide and undetermined injury
- Under 18 conception rate
- % 15-24 year olds attending for chlamydia screening

Staying Safe

- Number of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000
- Total number of Looked after Children

Enjoy and Achieve

- LAC attainment – at least 1 GCSE A*-G or NVQ
- KS3 English L5+
- KS3 mathematics L5+
- KS4 5+A*-C GCSE
- KS4 5+A*-C including English and mathematics GCSE

Make a Positive Contribution

- First time offenders in the youth justice system
- % LAC given a final warning/reprimand/caution
- Number of LAC in Independent Provision (Agency Foster Care)

Economic Well Being

- Change in average number of families in temporary accommodation

Service Management

- % uptake of training places by multi-agency practitioners in Safeguarding during the year

5. Assessment Predictions

Below is a summary of gradings and grad descriptors from the recent posted APA letter from 26th November 2007

Table 2.

Areas for judgement	Grade awarded
Overall effectiveness of children's services	3
Being healthy	3
Staying safe	3
Enjoying and achieving	3
Making a positive contribution	3
Achieving economic well-being	2
Capacity to improve, including the management of children's services	3

Grade	Service descriptors	Capacity to improve descriptors
4	A service that delivers well above minimum requirements for users	Excellent / outstanding
3	A service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for users	Good
2	A service that delivers only minimum requirements for users	Adequate
1	A service that does not deliver minimum requirements for users	Inadequate