

## 2009-10 Performance Commentary

### Service: Children & Families

<b>Number of Indicators:</b>	82
<b>Including LAA Indicators:</b>	10

#### Overview commentary on Performance Indicators achieved

Of the 82 indicators at quarter 4 update we had 25 assessed as achieving target, 46 progressing towards target/ awaiting information and 11 where we felt there were areas of concern.

Some of the indicators are automatically calculated by the DCSF following statutory information returns. For Children's social care these are not submitted until May and June.

3 indicators are derived from the National Tell Us Survey and therefore it is difficult to predict outcome

Where achievement in exams are quoted these relate to the performance in August 2009.

#### Overview commentary on Performance Indicators not achieved

NI 56 - Obesity in Primary School Age Children in Year 6

- Data is not yet available

NI 58 - Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children

- Data will only be available once the Strength & Difficulty Questionnaire ( SDQ) results are received

NI 112 - Under 18 Conception rate

- Progress remains limited against the target set from 1998. However radical reform of CASH services now underway by PCT and steps being taken to design and develop services on school sites.

NI 117 - 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET

- Whilst below target we continue to compare favourably with our statistical and northwest neighbours. A number of local indicators have been established are being monitored to further improve the figure. Significant issues of youth unemployment nationally as a result of the recession. Against that backdrop performance is encouraging.

NI 68 - Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment.

- We are currently reporting an underachievement in this area. There has been difficulty in clarifying the difference in a 'contact' and 'referral' to social care within the authorities ICS system which has impacted on the performance of this indicator. Measures have been taken to address this. Additionally work on thresholds is identified as priority by the LSCB and Children's Trust and is underway with partner agencies. Finally participation on the GONW/REIP sponsored project to develop and pilot thresholds is agreed with work being facilitated from June.

The other key areas for concern are some of the Social Care indicators.

The CIN census is being completed for the first time for a full year and will highlight areas for addressing. This will provide a much firmer information footing to move forward in 2010-11.

Measures in 2009-10 in terms of reviewing the way social care teams work has already taken substantial strides into reducing the timescales from referral to assessment.

### **Key challenges in achieving targets in 2009/10**

- Clarification and re issue of Information sharing protocols between partner agencies following LGR has delayed the receipt of regular monthly management information which has resulted in issues not being addressed as quickly as possible
- Review of targets is underway based upon Cheshire East profile rather than previous whole County position
- LGR inevitably impacted upon achievement of targets due to the need to build teams and systems. Significant restructuring and transformation of services has been achieved .

### **Key challenges in achieving targets into 2010/11**

Some of the key stage 2 indicators may be affected by the industrial action to boycott the SATS in May 2010.

Tackling Health inequalities with special reference to teenage pregnancies continues to be a difficult area to address locally despite a number of initiatives – effective partnership work will remain crucial to obtaining an improved outcomes.

Narrowing Gap with youngster from deprived areas and children in care together with tackling underachievement in schools will remain a key focus of the department.

Significant recruitment to social care teams is underway but already evidence of some difficulties in recruiting in key areas (e.g. Practice Consultants in social care and safeguarding).

Continued transformation of services with partner agencies to secure early identification and intervention in families to reduce the need to recourse to costly statutory interventions is developing.

### **Commentary on indicative financial outturn 2009/10**

The financial outturn indicates a deficit of approximately £1m within the Children and Families Service, which in the main can be attributed to continued shortfalls in relation to transport, an area of service that is subject to a major review. During the year, in line with budget policies for 2010/11 there has been an increased application of a variety of grants to help support our children and families