

Children's and Young People's Plan: 2009 Review

Foreword

Suggested wording - not yet agreed by Councillor Glazier

Welcome to the first annual review of the East Sussex Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2008 – 2011. The aim of the CYPP is to make East Sussex the best possible place in which to grow up and it sets out an agenda for everyone whose work affects the lives of children and young people.

This review confirms that the priorities, set out in the CYPP last year, remain the important ones for the County and that we are making progress towards our goals. Our key challenge, narrowing gaps between the outcomes for some children and young people and the rest, remains demanding, however. There is still a long way to go to address key gaps in outcomes around health, educational attainment and access to activities and support. We have highlighted in this review both our long term strategies and some key areas where strong leadership and commitment will be particularly important in 2009/10.

The review takes account of recent policy developments – particularly around child protection and safeguarding, the sustainable community strategy (Pride of Place), and the latest available data. I hope you will find it a useful overview of what we, as a partnership, have achieved since the 2008-11 Plan was agreed and how we propose to direct our energies for the future. Our collaboration through the Children's and Young People's Trust (CYPT) is crucial for these children and young people who most need our services and support.

I am therefore pleased to share with you this document, which sets out how we have done so far and what the Children's Trust Partners will be particularly focusing on in 2009/10.



Councillor Keith Glazier

Chair of Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group

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DRAFT

Section 1 – How we reviewed the Plan

We review the Children and Young People's Plan each year to make sure we are continuing to prioritise the right things.

At the end of the 2008/09 financial year we looked back at our targets and actions to assess both what we have achieved and where we had not done as well as we had hoped. Our progress is set out in Section 2.

We have taken into account new policy developments (such as the new Protection of Children in England: Action Plan, the government's response to Lord Laming's report) when conducting this review as these will have an impact on our work going forward. Key developments that will be a focus for 2009/10 are set out in Section 6.

In April, we also looked at our priorities with a series of parent and carer focus groups and with the Youth Cabinet. The participants told us what was important to them and what they thought was important for us to tackle for children and young people over the coming year.

The Children and Young People's Plan covers many of the issues affecting the lives of children, young people, their parents and carers and these are also reflected in the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy, "Pride of Place", in both the children and young people countywide section, and within other relevant themes, for example health and well-being, and cross-cutting priorities such as reducing inequalities and narrowing the gap.

The CYPP also needs to be considered in the context of many other partnership plans which aim to improve quality of life in East Sussex. For example, plans covering climate change, transport and community safety are areas where children and young people have a lot to contribute as these areas have a direct impact on the quality of their lives now and in the future.

Section 2 – Progress against the key indicators during 2008/09

This section looks at how well the priorities of the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) are being dealt with by assessing progress against all the key performance indicators in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). As well as pan-County data we have, where possible, shown data broken down to relevant geographies or by groups.

The review covers work in some of our most challenging areas, which are being addressed through the Local Area Agreement. While it is to be expected that progress on these few top priorities will be slow because of the complex nature of the issues, some headway is already starting to be made on those that have had targets set in the LAA since April 2008. These are highlighted in the text.

Overarching

We are committed to developing a holistic, integrated approach to support all children and young people, including effective prevention and early intervention. In particular, we want to achieve:

- Effective support for parents and carers;
- An interconnected system of services and support, focused on prevention; and
- Diversity that is valued and equality and community cohesion promoted.

These aims in the CYPP are reflected in the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy "Pride of Place" through the following objective:

- To ensure children and young people are well cared for, have healthy life styles, achieve their potential, and grow into confident, empowered, responsible adults - able to contribute to the economic prosperity of the county

Where are we now?

In order to provide **effective support for parents and carers**, we continue to provide targeted integrated services, such as family support, youth support services and Connexions, together with highly specialised integrated services for those with the most complex needs, including the Youth Offending Team, respite services for disabled children, speech and language and other therapy services, substance misuse services and mental health services. As at 31 March 2008, 488 families were supported by the Family Outreach Service and parenting programmes are being provided across all 22 Local Partnerships for Children areas (LPCs) on a needs basis, with applications continuing to be agreed from both provider organisations and individual LPCs. 145 schools have trained Parent Information Contacts and all schools have access to Parent Support Advisers. A survey is currently planned for mid-2009 to ascertain how many schools are running information sessions for parents at transition points. The findings will inform further planning in this area.

We are endeavouring to nurture and sustain a holistic approach to the services the CYPT provides, in particular with the 'Think Family' methodology; for example our Family Substance Misuse service, Family Nurse Partnership and the transition work with Adult Social Care.

We are continuing to develop our services with a strong **focus on prevention and close joint working**, including children's centres and extended schools, which are enabling our services to reach out into communities. Across the County, 69% of children have access to our network of 28 Children's Centres and 98% of children within the 30% most deprived SOA's have access. Phase Three of the Children's Centre programme, which will result in universal access, is on schedule to be delivered by 31 March 2010. 100% of secondary schools and 69% of primary schools are currently providing the core extended school service offer. Overall this means that 76% of all schools are now making the full offer and a number of additional schools are likely to be judged at full offer by September 2009 which will increase the total proportion of extended schools to 85%.

Implementation of the **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)** and Lead Professional role is being embedded across the Children's Trust so that we can ensure, in as systematic a way as possible, that those who need help are given it, at the right time, and that the joint working which is required is organised and reviewed as efficiently as possible. As at 17 April 2009 there were 673 active Children's Index accounts, also 1541 CAFs. Resources are now being deployed to ensure a smooth transition from the Children's Index to ContactPoint and to undertake quality assurance on the content of the CAFs.

The county-wide **Equality and Diversity** Coordinating Group organised a workshop in December 2008 which involved representatives from all Children's Trust partners. A mapping exercise was carried out which established there was inconsistency in recording within each agency, as well

as between agencies in order to inform service development and reviews. As a result a task group has been set up to agree a common approach and action plan for further partner training in 2009/10.

An annual equality information report is now produced and shared with partnership agencies, which informs decision making and service developments.

In the 2008 Safer Schools Survey carried out by the anti-bullying team, 75% of respondents thought that young people from different ethnic, faith or cultural backgrounds got on well in East Sussex and 71% said they had friends from different ethnic, faith or cultural backgrounds. A new county wide Hate Crime process has recently been developed which encompasses racist incidents, homophobic incidents as well as widening the scope to include incidents against people with disabilities and women.

Be Healthy

We want children and young people to live free from the avoidable causes of poor health and unhappiness. In particular, we want to achieve:

- Better physical health and the adoption of healthy lifestyles by all children and young people;
- Better emotional well being and mental health for all children and young people;
- A reduction in risky behaviour by young people and fewer teenage conceptions; and
- Improved support for children and young people with complex health needs, promoting maximum independence and inclusion.

These aims in the CYPP are also reflected in the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy "Pride of Place" under the following strategic aims:

- To ensure children and young people are well cared for, have healthy life styles, achieve their potential, and grow into confident, empowered, responsible adults - able to contribute to the economic prosperity of the county; and
- To reduce health and care inequalities within and between communities and improve overall health and wellbeing.

Where are we now?

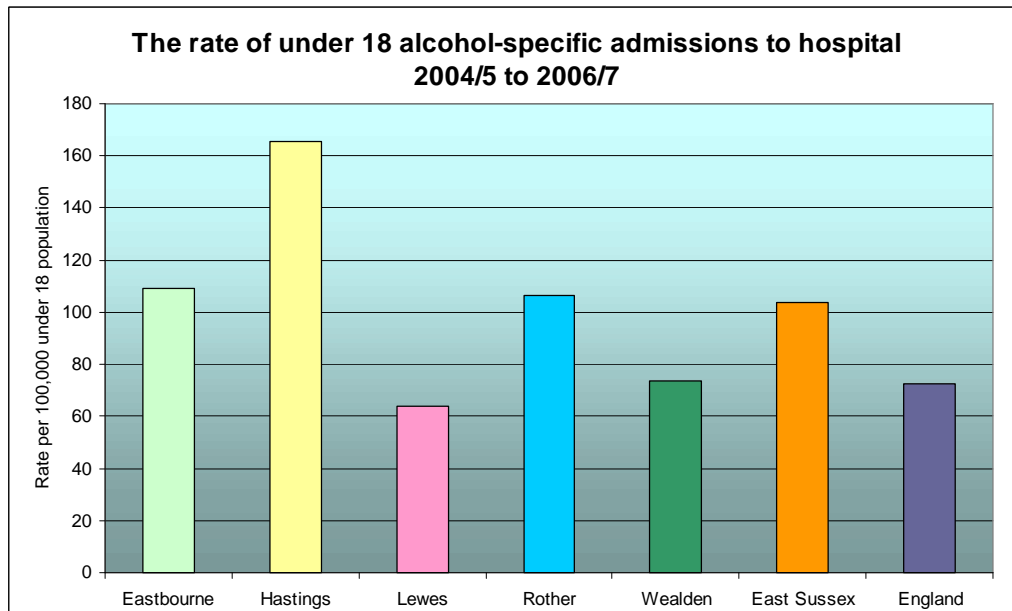
We continue to promote better **emotional well being and mental health** for children and young people through a variety of programmes from the Family Nurse Partnership to the Youth Development Service, also by implementing the Healthy Care Strategy for Looked After Children, the Anti-Bullying Strategy, the Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme and the Commissioning and Planning framework for Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health. In addition, a key priority of the Youth Development Service Strategy 2007-2010 is to ensure that the promotion of healthy life styles and access to relevant health services underpins all support provided through positive youth work interventions with young people. As well as promoting emotional health and wellbeing, this Strategy aims to help young people avoid risky behaviours by ensuring a wide geographical spread of sexual health services and easier access to support around substance misuse.

Access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) has been extended through additional Primary Mental Health Workers and a helpline for professionals. The Tellus3 Survey in 2008 showed that 64.9% of children and young people in East Sussex enjoy good relationships with those around them, a proxy measure for emotional health. This is above both the regional (62.1%) and national (63.3%) averages. The interim measure for Effectiveness of Child and Mental Health (CAMHS) service for 2008/09 is the comprehensive CAMHS target as in PAF indicators. East Sussex scores 4 (fully achieved) except services for 16/17 yr olds which score 3 (partly achieved).

The emotional and behavioural health of looked after children is assessed through the use of a 'primary carer' *Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire* (SDQ) which covers details of emotional difficulties, conduct problems, hyperactivity or inattention, friendships and peer groups and also positive behaviour. Of the 237 looked after children in East Sussex the average score across our looked after children was 16 (mid range). The individual scores for each child, however, varied due to the range of different needs. Those children scoring higher than 17 on their individual score are cross referenced with a CAMHS clinician to see whether they are known to their service. If they are not known then a referral is made.

We have sought to **reduce risky behaviour** by young people through implementing our Drug and Alcohol strategies, providing targeted information, advice and guidance and, in particular, through the new Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan which was put in place for 2008/09. The impact of alcohol on young people was highlighted for special investigation this year through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which provides the CYP with

qualitative information to support the quantitative data in informing both planning and decision-making processes.



The average for East Sussex of under 19 alcohol-related emergency admissions to hospital in 2008/09 was 103.7 (the crude rate per 100,000 under 18 population) taken from Local Authority Alcohol profiles.

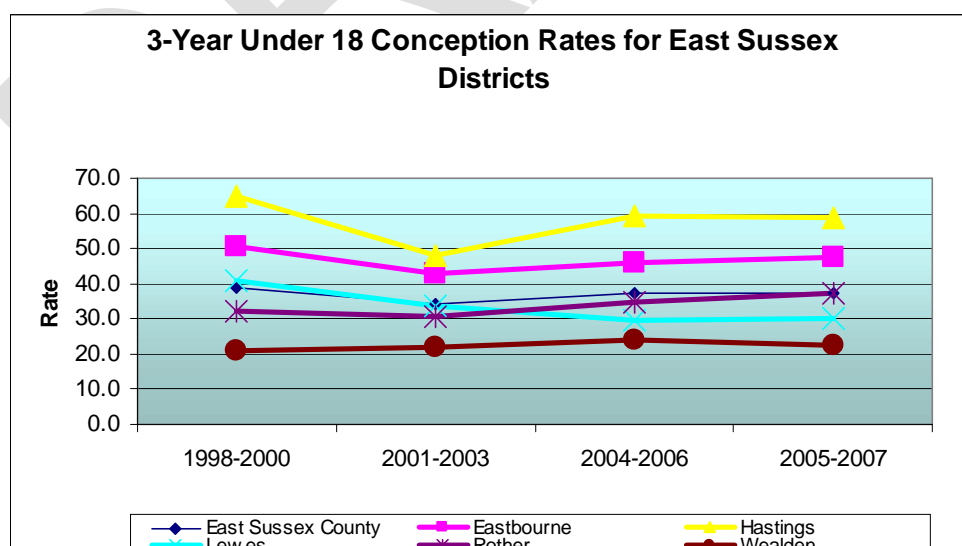
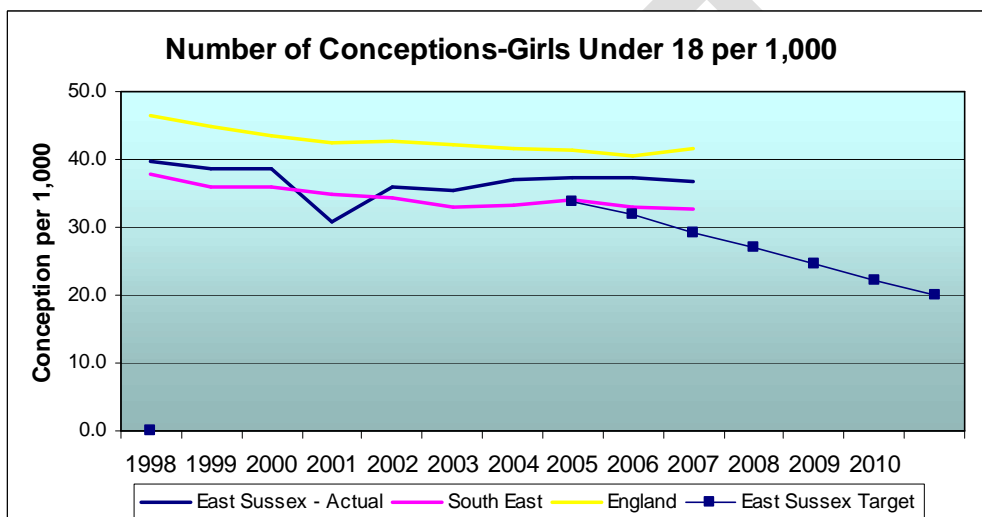
The under 18 alcohol specific admission to hospital 2004/5 to 2006/7 in Hastings and Eastbourne were of a particular concern, falling in the 10% and 20% of LA's in England, respectively, with the highest rate of problems; and was the impetus for the CYPT to undertake a comprehensive needs assessment on this area. The findings also include a more in-depth analysis of alcohol consumption across a number of alcohol related indicators. Some very marked patterns have emerge, for example, Eastbourne's female-alcohol related months of life lost ranking is third highest in the country and Hastings's male-alcohol-specific hospital admission is the ninth highest in the country. Conversely, Wealden's rankings were among the lowest (in the bottom 20%) in the country.

The percentage of young people reporting, through the Tellus3 Survey, either frequent misuse of drugs/volatile substances or alcohol, or both, in 2008 was 10.7%. This is higher than the regional average (10.1%) but below the national average (10.9%).

The commissioning arrangements for Chlamydia screening were changed in 2008/09 and a new national Chlamydia 0800 phone number launched. Postal kits were made available for young people on request and the PCT worked with GPs and Pharmacists who participated in the generating of tests of young people. Part of this campaign was to send out letters to all 15 - 24 yr olds inviting them to come and take a test. An additional £42k investment

programme has also been agreed by the PCT which includes a health promotion campaign, on buses, radio and magazines across the county. As a result, the number of screenings is already rising and rates in under 24 year olds was 13% for Hastings & Rother and 12% for ESDW on 31 March 2008; compared to 4.4% and 4.6% respectively in 2007/8.

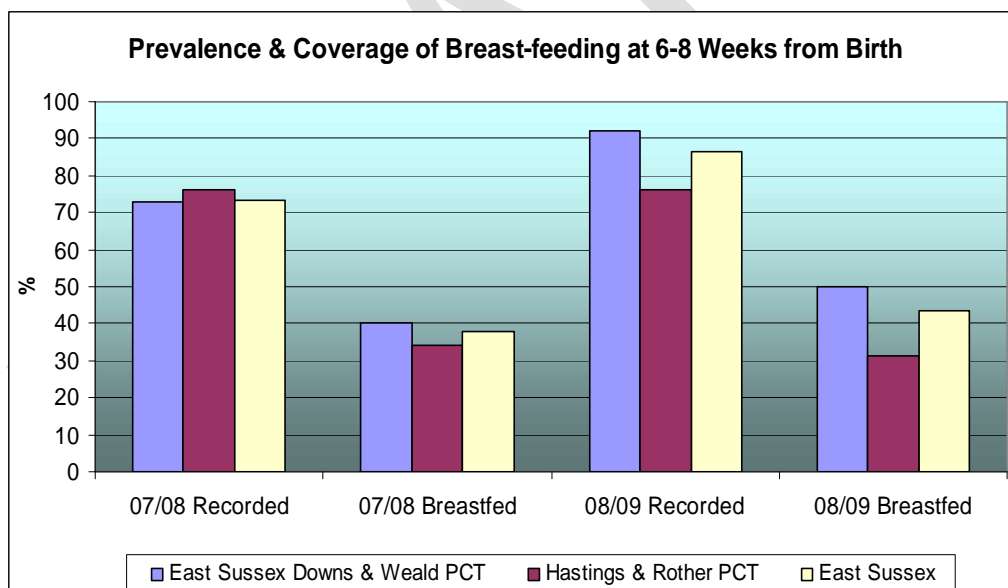
LAA Target: While teenage conception rates are still higher than we had hoped, the last year saw a reduction of 0.4 conceptions per 1000 girls aged 15-17 to 36.8. While this rate is still higher than we had hoped, the reduction compares well to the national trend of increasing rates. The overall baseline percentage change since 1998 is -7.6%. However, these figures do mask some key differences between and within Districts.



The County wide Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board has been strengthened with all four key agencies represented and data analysis has been improved to give estimated figures at District level on a quarterly basis. This has allowed local targeting of activity in a more timely way and, as a

result, additional Strategic Health Authority money was used to support youth outreach provision in rural towns in the west of the county in 2008/09. Increased funding was also secured to improve access to contraceptive services across the county and provision was increased within schools, with ten now offering sexual health advice on-site.

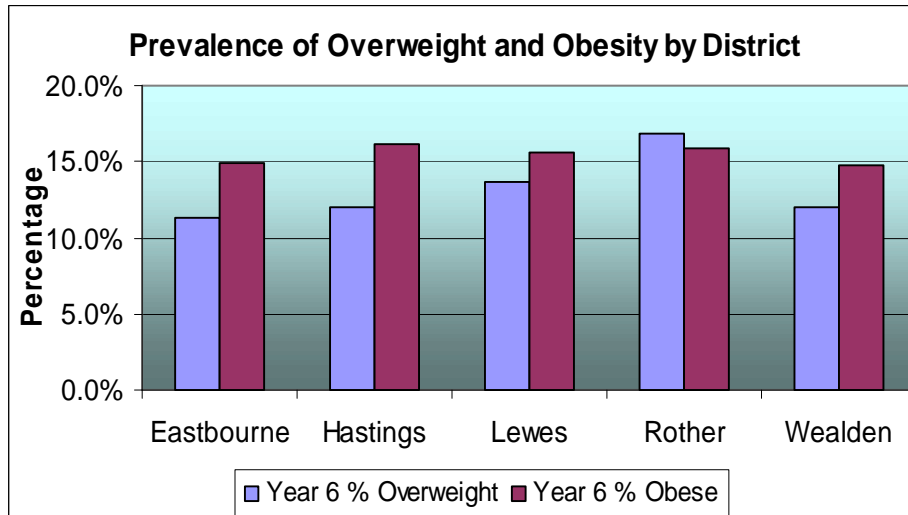
LAA Target: Although we are still below the Vital Signs targets, as at March 2009 the County average for breastfeeding coverage at 6-8 weeks was 86.3% and for prevalence of breastfeeding was 43.4%, which compares well to 72.4% and 35% respectively for the same period of the previous year and indicates an improving trend. However, these figures mask quite marked differences between the East and West of the County. Coverage and Prevalence in the East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT area are 90.5% and 49% respectively, while in the Hastings and Rother PCT area they are 70% and 29%. This is partly due to a key post in the east of the county remaining vacant for 9 months, which has affected data collection. This situation has now improved with recruitment in March 2009. Collection of data has also been affected by problems in recruitment of health visitors; the PCT now has a clear plan in place to address the shortfall in the east so that there will be a consistent approach to the reporting of breastfeeding data over the next year.



We have been working to achieve better **physical health** and the adoption of healthy lifestyles by children and young people through programmes such as the Child Health Promotion programme, the expert patient programme for children and young people, the Family Nurse Partnership Programme, the Healthy Schools programme, the Obesity Strategy, School Travel Plans and the Sports Development strategy.

The prevalence of obesity among pupils in reception year in East Sussex schools has reduced from the 2006/07 figure of 8.2% to 7.7% in 2007/08.

However, in Year 6, the obesity figure was 15.4%, broadly in line with the 15.3% recorded in 2006/07.



100% of schools continue to participate in the Healthy Schools programme and 88% have already achieved the new National Healthy School Status.

The overall figure for young people in East Sussex undertaking 2 hours of high quality PE in all key stages is 93% (academic year 2007/08).

Currently data on the take up of school lunches is only available for schools within the County Council contract. For these, primary school meal uptake is 32% and secondary school meal uptake is 29%. There are 8 out of contract primary schools and 13 secondary schools; these are not obliged to return information but we have made contact to and expect that some figures will be available next year.

Data released in January 2009 shows the infant mortality rate in East Sussex to be 4.2 deaths per 1,000 live births (2005-2007). This remains below the national rate (4.9) and above the regional rate (4.0) but, due to the small numbers involved, these differences are not considered to be statistically significant.

90.5% (313/346) children looked after, who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, had their teeth checked by a dentist and had an annual health assessment during the year.

The strategy for children's palliative care was refreshed during the year to make sure it met the requirements of the key national standards in Better Care: Better Lives. The Strong links with AHDC joint action plan were developed alongside a Sussex network.

Stay Safe

Keeping children & young people safe is a key priority. In particular, we want to see:

- Children and young people safe from bullying and discrimination;
- Earlier intervention to prevent more serious safeguarding and safety issues arising in the future;
- Vulnerable children in need of care protected, while minimising disruption to their lives, and emotional stability achieved for those children who need to be looked after;
- Children and young people safe from accidental injury and death;
- Children and young people protected from neglect and abuse, including domestic violence; and
- Children and young people safe from being victims of crime.

These aims in the CYPP are also reflected in the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy "Pride of Place" under the following strategic aims:

- To ensure children and young people are well cared for, have healthy life styles, achieve their potential, and grow into confident, empowered, responsible adults - able to contribute to the economic prosperity of the county; and
- To build safe communities through targeted activity, particularly in high crime areas

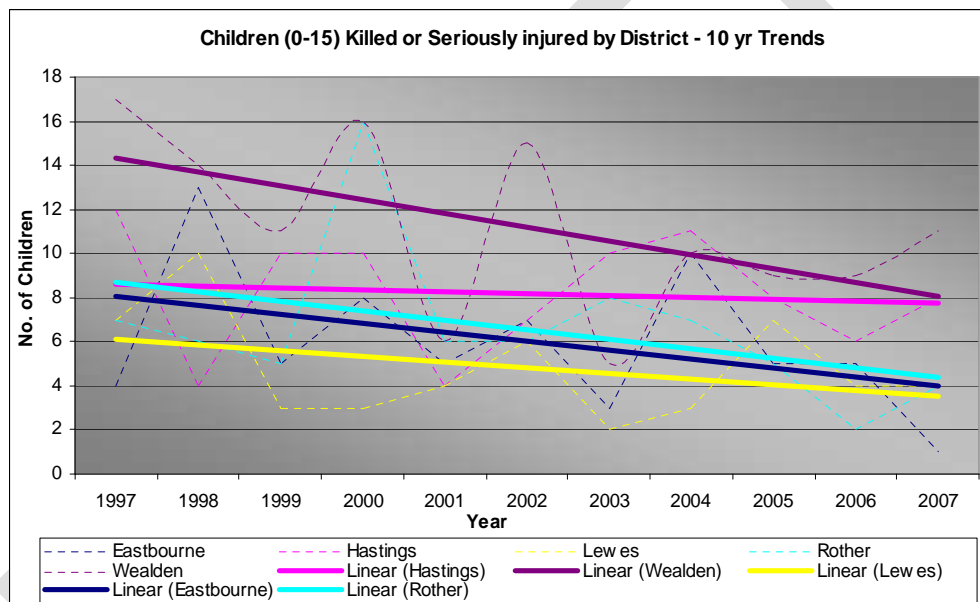
Where are we now?

The Schools Forum agreed to provide funding to extend the **anti-bullying** service and we have continued to reduce the incidence of bullying experienced by children and young people through the Local Safeguarding Children Board Child Safety Action Plan, and by implementing the Anti-Bullying Strategy and projects such as the "Fear and Loving – Challenging Homophobia" Resource.

In the Tellus3 Survey (2008), 48.7% of respondents reported having been bullied in the last four weeks. This is below the regional average (50.4%) but slightly above the national average (48.0%) and is much higher than reported through the more comprehensive East Sussex Safer Schools Survey also carried out in 2008. That survey showed that only 29% of children and young people felt they had experienced bullying. The proportion of reported incidences of bullying which have stopped following intervention was 85% in 2008/09 (213/250).

A total of 173 schools reported racist incidents during Terms 1 and 2 of the 2008- 2009 academic year. Last year for the same reporting period, only 156 schools reported so this represents a welcome increase in reporting, largely as a result of having a new worker in place.

During 2008/09 we continued to progress with **earlier intervention** to prevent more serious safeguarding and safety issues arising in the future through use of Contact Point and the Common Assessment Framework, implementation of strategies such as the Family Support Strategy and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Child safety action plan, as well as programmes such as the roll out of Children's Centres and Extended Schools. In addition to the core funding for children's services, the County Council dedicated some new funding to deal with the effects of increased numbers of children with child protection plans.



Provisional figures for 2008/9 revealed that child casualty figures increased in Eastbourne from one child in 2007 to nine children in 2008. There has also been an increase in pedestrian casualties (of all ages) from 15 in 2007 to 22 in 2008. 50% of all pedestrian casualties occur in Eastbourne and Hastings; therefore further support is planned in these hotspot areas, for example expanding Child Pedestrians Training in the schools and identifying the high risk areas where 20mph speed limits can be supported.

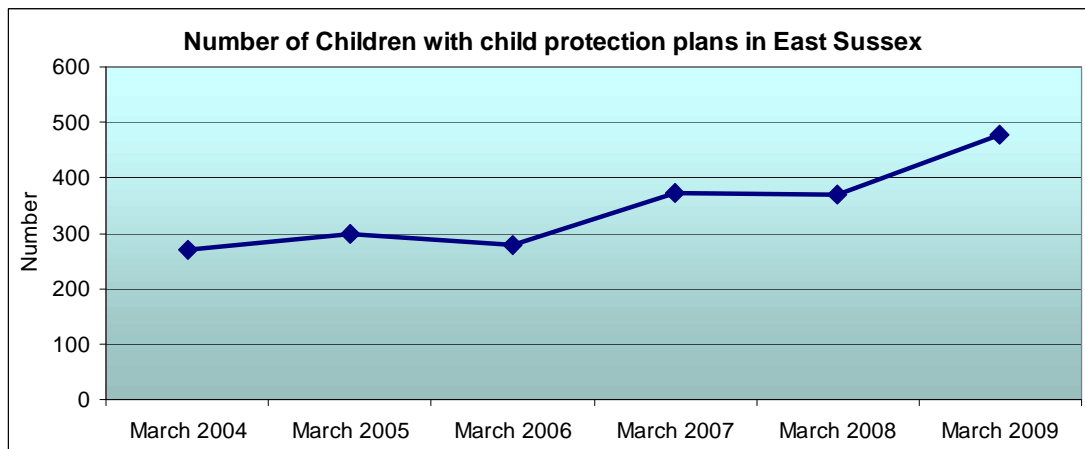
At the beginning of the year, provisional figures showed a rate of admissions to hospital due to unintentional and deliberate injuries to children to be 192.4 per 1,000. This was an increase of 8% on the previous year and included a 7% increase in all emergency admissions for that age group over the same period. This rate did reduce again during the year so that the annual outturn was 173.8 per 10,000; however, this was still significantly above the target of 152 per 1000.

We continued to improve our **support to vulnerable children and young people** on the edge of care, ensuring consistency of thresholds and processes to inform decision making about a child/young person becoming looked after and continuing to integrate the work of social care, behaviour support and re-integration and Family Group Conference services.

During 2008/09, 93.4% (399/427) of Looked After Children (LAC) cases were reviewed within the timescales required by the Review of Children's Cases Regulations 1991. 5.6% (26/461) of LAC had three or more placements during the year (Apr 08-Mar 09), which was an improvement of 8.1% on the previous year. 70.5% (136/193) of looked after children aged under 16 at 31 March who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, were either living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or had been are placed for adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement together lasted for at least 2 years. This outturn is on a par with the previous year (70.9%) and shows that we are able to maintain stability of placement at times of increased activity. 62.5% (10/16) of LAC were adopted within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption. The majority of those adopted within these timescales were young babies and young children; we are aware that we need to look at ways of increasing the speed of adoptions for older and more difficult to place children.

In the year to March 2009 90.3% (4067/4503) of referrals to Children's Social Care went on to initial assessment. 71.9% (2923/4067) of those initial assessments for children's social care were carried out within 7 working days of referral, which compares with 81.3% achieved in the previous year. The apparent decrease is attributable to a significant (39%) increase in activity with an additional 1150 initial assessments being completed. 82.9% (1312/1582) of core assessments for children's social care were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement, which compares with 81.3% in the previous year.

During 2008/09, 357 children had child protection plans that ceased, of which 31 had had that plan for two years or more. This equates to 8.7%. 464 children had new child protection plans started, of which 53 had previously had such a plan, equating to 11.4%. 99.7% (326/327) of child protection reviews took place on time during 2008/09. The remaining child's review was due in March 2009 but actually took place in April.



Enjoy and achieve

We want all children and young people to enjoy their childhood and youth, and to develop the wide range of skills and understanding they need to make a successful contribution to a fast changing world. In particular, we want to see:

- Better play facilities for children, particularly in deprived areas;
- Higher take up of early years education and high quality provision for all;
- Improved opportunities for cultural and creative development for all children and young people;
- All children and young people achieving their potential at school, and experiencing a broad, stimulating curriculum/activities both at school and beyond;
- A reduction in persistent absence; and
- A reduction in the numbers of children and young people excluded from school (permanently or fixed term).

These aims in the CYPP are also reflected in the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy "Pride of Place" under the following strategic aims:

- To ensure children and young people are well cared for, have healthy life styles, achieve their potential, and grow into confident, empowered, responsible adults - able to contribute to the economic prosperity of the county; and
- To provide high quality education, learning and skills development opportunities for all by building on good performance and improving poor performance

Where are we now?

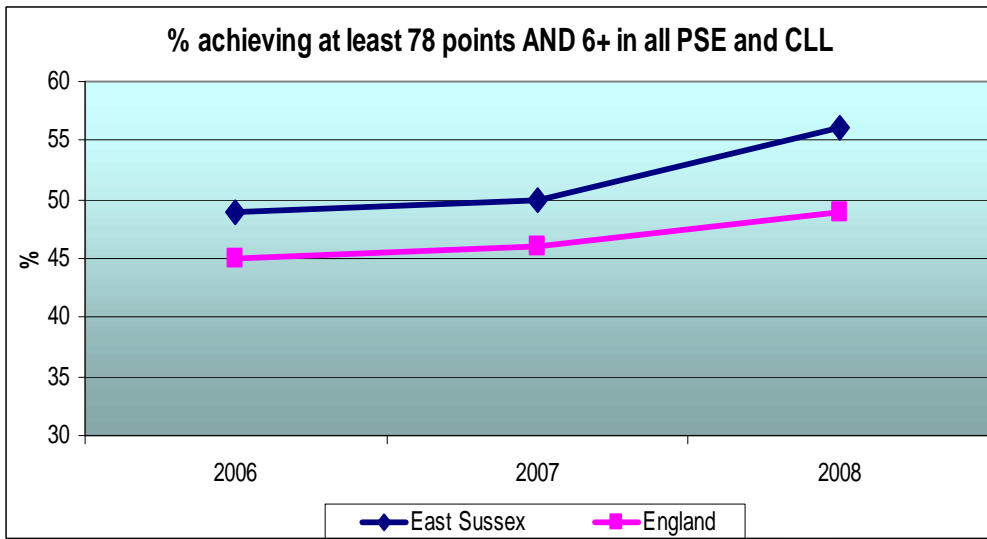
We have been promoting cultural opportunities for children and young people through engagement with Creative Partnerships, which continues to run programmes involving East Sussex schools, and by encouraging the cultural sector to engage with schools through the Culture Shared Programme. This programme involves partnership working between the cultural sector (e.g. museums and art galleries) and schools.

We have worked to improve **play experiences** The Play Pathfinder Programme is seeking to improve and develop play opportunities for children and young people across East Sussex. The programme will be investing almost £2.1m of capital funding to improve and develop 35 local play sites across the County as well as an Adventure Playground in Hastings Ore Valley.

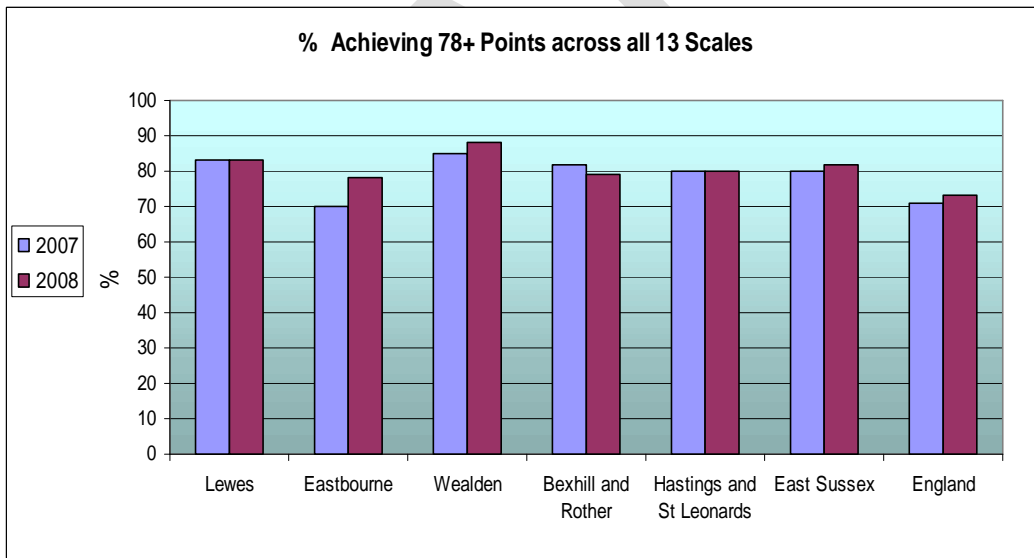
The Tellus 3 Survey in 2008 showed that only 44.4% of children regarded play facilities in their area to be satisfactory or good (NI 199). This is below the regional average (46.2%) and narrowly below the national average (44.7%). Places to go and things to go, together with development of the County Play Strategy, are particular priorities for the Children's Trust in 2009/10.

We have worked to increase **take up of Early Years nursery education places** in our most deprived neighbourhoods through a mapping exercise between the Early Years Education Entitlement (EYEE) Headcount data and the Children's Index to identify pockets of children not taking up EYEE. Targeted outreach activities have been undertaken via the 28 operating Children's Centres (NI 109). **LAA Target:** A new partnership effort was begun during the year to achieve a greater take up of formal childcare by low income working families (NI 118). This is measured through the uptake of the childcare element of working tax credit. At 15%, East Sussex take up is currently around 2% below the national average. Job Centre Plus and the District and Borough Councils have developed an action plan with the County Council to increase take up to the national average by 2011.

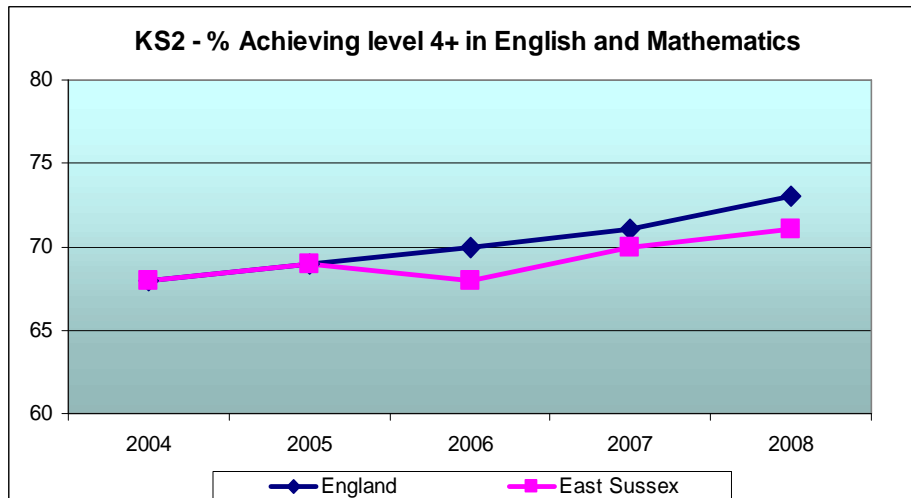
56% of children achieved at least 78 points across the **Early Years Foundation Stage** (NI 72), with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy.



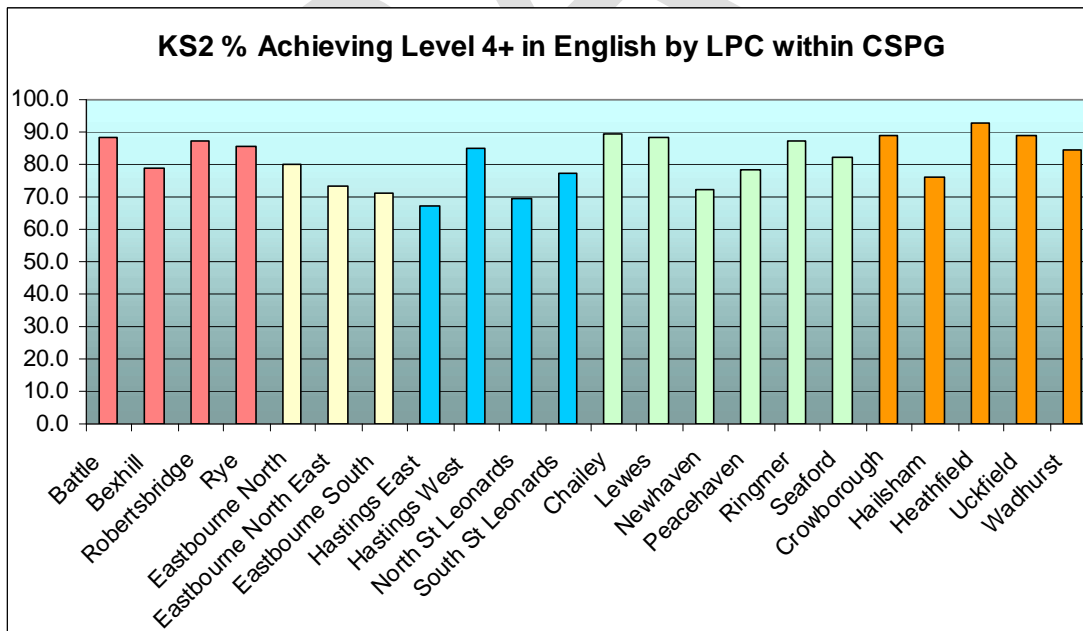
The gap between the lowest achieving 20% and the rest was 31.6% (NI 92); while this represents an improvement of 0.6% over the previous year we want to make a significant reduction in this gap in 2009/10.

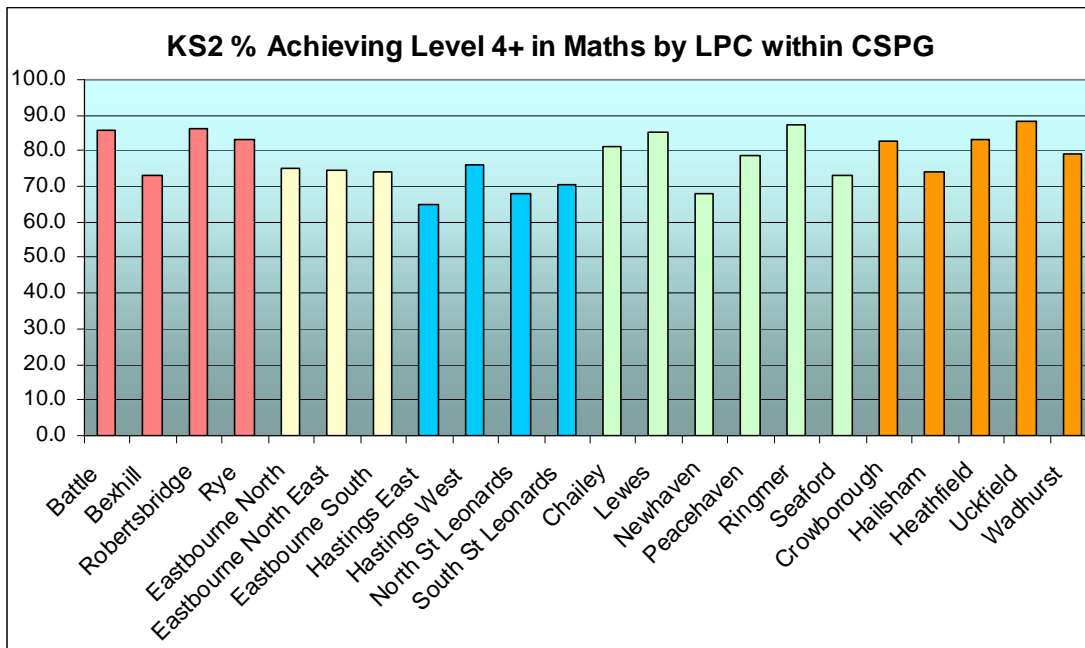


Results of the 2008 **Key Stage 2** tests for 11-year-olds in East Sussex are showing that 71% of children achieved at Level 4 or above in both English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 (NI 73).

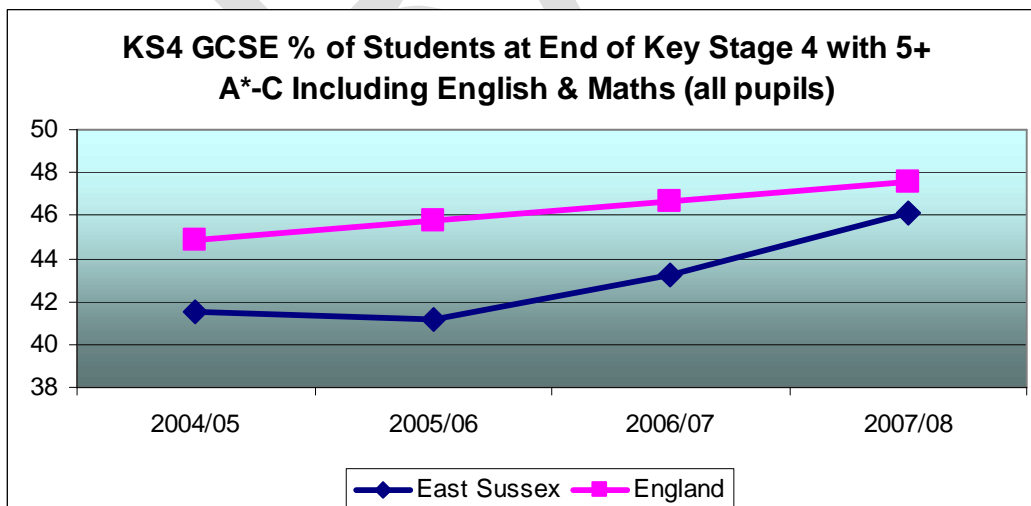


While this is below the national average of 73%, it represents a 3% improvement over 2 years. However, the data does show there are differences between Districts and between individual LPC areas within Districts, which largely mirror areas of deprivation in the County.

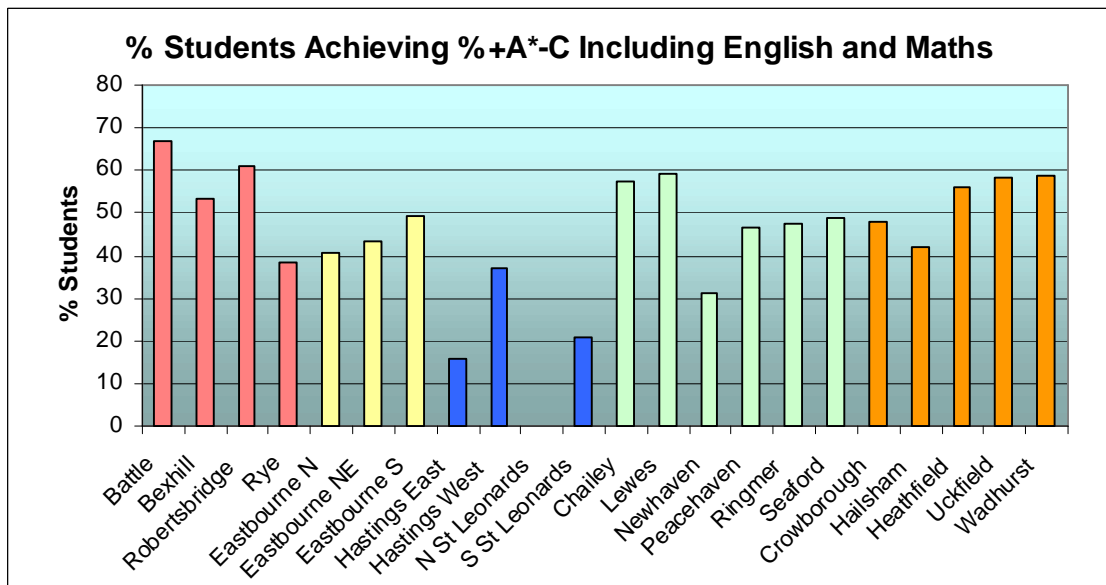




Key Stage 4: At 46.1%, the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent, including English and mathematics (NI 75) was the highest ever in East Sussex and was above the national rate of improvement, narrowing the gap between the authority and the national figure (47.3%). However, East Sussex remains at the bottom of the table when compared to statistical neighbours, although the rate of progress was faster than all but one statistical neighbour.



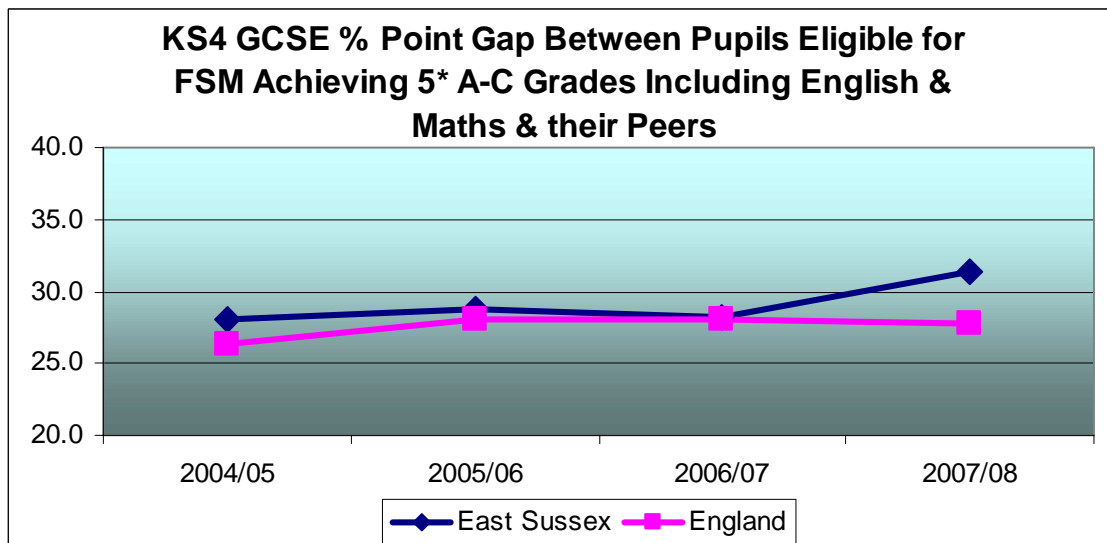
Even more marked than at Key Stage 2, there are significant differences in attainment at Key Stage 4 between Districts and between LPC areas within Districts.



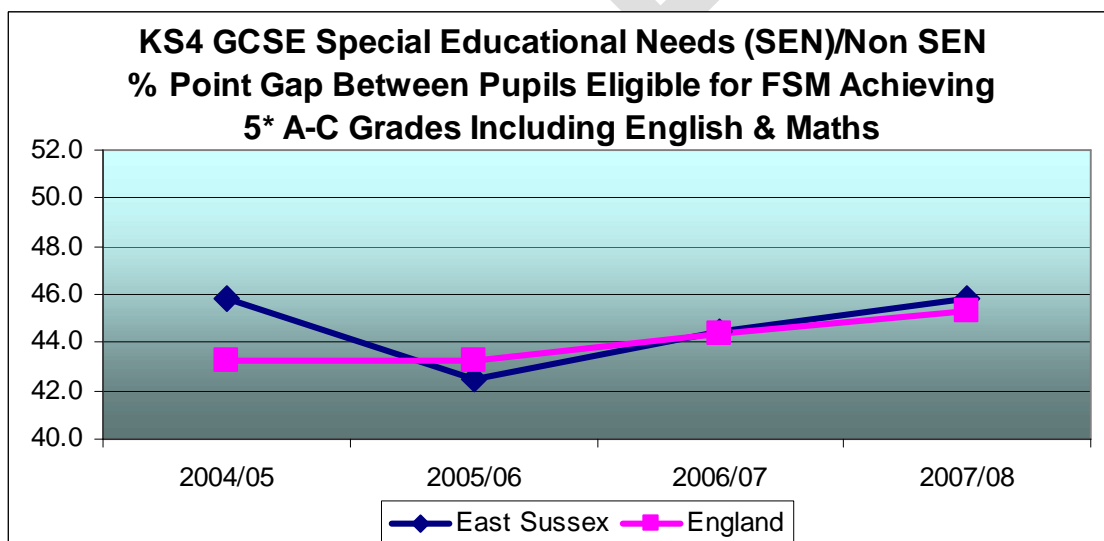
In the 2007/08 academic year, there were 4 schools where less than 30% of pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and mathematics (NI 78). However, this represented a reduction of 2 schools in the category since the 2006/07 academic year and, in particular; the Federation of 3 Hastings School in the 2007/08 academic year has started the process of improving attainment in one of the lowest attaining parts of the County. In the 2008 exams, the aggregate performance of the Hastings Federation Schools was 20.1% for 5 A*-C GCSEs (including English and Maths) and 36.4% for 5 A*-C GCSEs. Early indications are that the Federation is making good progress on future attainment with the results for those students entered early for English and mathematics already exceeding the percentage of students achieving grade C or above in 2008.

At all Key Stages there were still marked differences in attainment of children and young people in **vulnerable groups**. 8.33% of Looked After Children achieved 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics* in the 2007/08 academic year (NI 101) and the achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers achieving the expected level at KS 2 and 4 (NI 102) was:

- 2008 Key Stage 2 Level 4+ for English is 25% and for maths is 21%
- 2008 Key Stage 4, 5 A*-C GCSE including English and maths is 31.3%



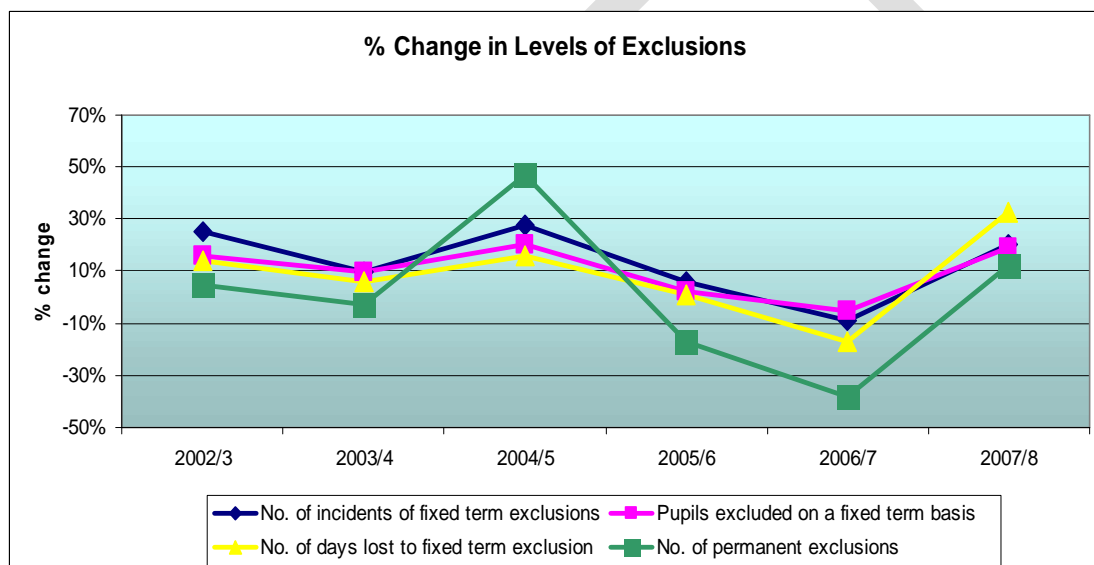
The SEN / non-SEN gap at Key Stage 4 achieving 5 or more A* - C GCSE (or equivalent) including English and mathematics (NI 105) was 46.2%.



The latest **attendance** data (Term 3 of the 2008/09 academic year) shows overall secondary absence across the county to be 8.2%, although terms 3 and 4 traditionally reflect an increase in pupil absences, due to seasonal illness, which will fall slightly in later terms. The secondary school persistent absence rate (NI 87) at term 3 is 5.8%. All secondary schools in the county now identify persistently absent pupils termly to ensure individual action planning and strategies are in place to support young people in their educational achievements. 8 schools were identified by DCSF for 2008/09 as have particular problems with persistent absence – these schools reported a collective total of 563 pupils persistently absent at the end of term 1 (8.4% of total pupils on roll in the 8 schools). These schools have been targeted for action and term 3 already shows an improvement to 509 pupils (7.6%).

Overall primary absence across the county as at term 3 of the 2008/09 academic year was 6.1%, though, as with secondary schools, seasonal illness does affect figures in terms 3 and 4. An East Sussex initiative has been to identify persistently absent pupils in every primary school at the end of each term and resources are targeted to those schools above the 2.4% national average and with a minimum of 10 persistently absent pupils.

There were 63 permanent exclusions (NI 114) between April 2008 and March 2009, an increase of 5 over the previous financial year. For the academic year 2007/08 (NI114) 0.09% of the total school population were permanently excluded (57/63027) and there were 3703 fixed term exclusions of less than 5 days, which represents a decrease of 13% over the previous year. One of the contributing factors to the reductions in permanent transfers was the increase in managed transfers. There were 52 over the course of the financial year, an increase in 57.8% from the previous year.



Making a Positive contribution

More young people than ever before are actively involved in supporting their communities as volunteers and in shaping the strategies and policies which affect them and their wider communities. We want to extend opportunities and encourage all young people to play a positive part in this way. In particular, we want to see:

- More children and young people encouraged to participate in decision making;
- More children and young people participating in positive activities, including volunteering;

- A reduction in the perception of anti-social behaviour and reduced numbers of young people receiving final warnings, reprimands or convictions;
- An improved perception of children and young people by others in their community, including between different groups of people; and
- Better access to activities by improving transport options.

These aims in the CYPP are also reflected in the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy “Pride of Place” under the following strategic aims:

- To ensure children and young people are well cared for, have healthy life styles, achieve their potential, and grow into confident, empowered, responsible adults - able to contribute to the economic prosperity of the county;
- To enable everyone to enjoy a wide range of cultural, sporting and leisure opportunities;
- To build strong, sustainable communities with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership; and
- To improve sustainable travel choices and access to services and facilities within and between communities in the county

Where are we now?

Children and Young People in East Sussex have had many opportunities to **participate in decision making** across the CYPT at a strategic, local and individual level. All the partners of the Children’s Trust take active steps to involve children and young people in decisions that affect them. Surveys undertaken in the past year include Tellus3, Safer Schools and Health Related Behaviours Survey.

The Youth Cabinet have led a number of important campaigns and awareness raising projects:

Stop Smoking Campaign – they produced a DVD which was sent to East Sussex schools with a questionnaire. There have been over 1,000 responses to the questionnaire which are being analysed and the findings will be used in developing services for young people.

Speak Out! DVD - the Youth Cabinet went out to speak to young people from hard to reach groups and made a film about what they thought of life in East Sussex. As a result service managers from across the CYPT met the young people in order to respond to the issues they had raised and a number of projects have developed from these meetings.

The Youth Cabinet have also been consulted on the Children and Young People's Plan, the new Participation Strategy, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, East Sussex Crime Prevention Initiative and taken part in the Democracy Challenge where they joined with County Council members.

Similar forums are also supporting young people to ensure their views are held, these include W4Y – Wealden's first youth forum covering Crowborough, Hailsham, Heathfield, Uckfield and Willingdon; further groups include Hastings Young People, Crowborough Youth Council and Youth Majors.

The Pupil Voice (for under 11 years) and the Learner Voice (11-19years) are additional projects which are designed to help schools map current levels of pupils' participation and plan for improvement; they have enabled schools to gain real evidence of school achievements and to clearly identify where there is room for improvement. The information gained is then able to inform wider consultations beyond the school councils regarding all aspects of school life and learning.

The East Sussex Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Participation Project has led to greater involvement of young people, this project has included the creation of the 'Download' website on participation activity, quarterly telephone surveys – where families are asked specific questions on on-going projects, all feedback is then taken to the Participation Action Group and then onto the Senior Management Team; this approach has enabled children and young people to have a direct impact on the service provided.

The SHA also recently commended the PCT's on the involvement young people had in the development of the Station Plaza Health Centre.

Further consultations were undertaken with young people to evaluate and challenge service delivery through an evaluation project that was taken forward with the Youth Development Service, including mystery shopping carried out by young people in 3 youth advisory settings.

The Disabled People's Participation Group has been developed in Partnership with Adult Social Care, PCT and the East Sussex Disability Association, which has attracted a large number of disabled parents and carers who are committed to inform on service development.

During 2008/9, 319 Looked After Children communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews, this is an increase of 12% on the previous year. Additionally the Children in Care Council meet regularly to discuss and have their views heard, during the last year they have been instrumental in the creation of the Children in Care pledge – which is a promise to all children and young people living in care in East Sussex setting out standards and expectations.

LAA Target: In the 2008 Tellus3 survey 73% of children and young people reported **participating in positive activities** - this is 3.5% above both the regional and national averages and provides a baseline for NI 110, participation in positive activities.

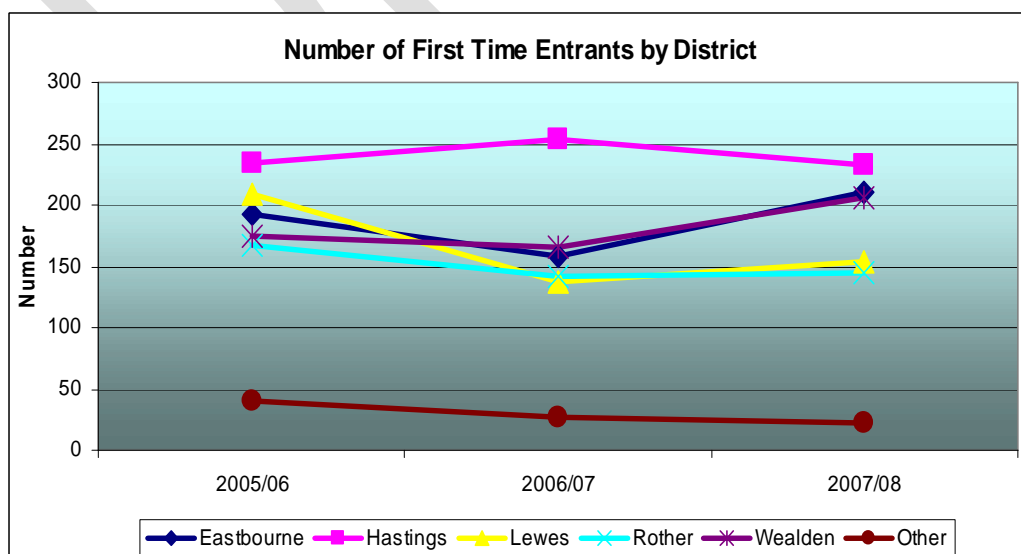
An additional specific positive activities survey was also conducted by Connexions; for this three quarters (75.2%) of young people in year 11 in 2009 took part, of these just over half (52.4%) had taken part in some form of positive activity in the previous four weeks. Of the activities the young people were involved with, the most popular option was Sports Club or Class (35.3%).

Agreement has also now been reached to provide free access to Looked after Children at leisure facilities across the county.

A draft Children and Young People's Volunteering Strategy was developed and will be put out for consultation in summer 2009.

We have, in addition, involved young people in a creative arts intergenerational project with older people from the University of the Third Age to help challenge negative perceptions held by both groups of each other and promote intergenerational understanding. Building on this good work we have also bid for Generation Together funding which will support the achievement of many of our priorities around community cohesion and increase the number of young people involved in volunteering.

In 2008, a challenging baseline was developed against which to measure our future progress in reducing reoffending by young people. Provisional data for 2008/09 suggest that there has already been encouraging progress in reducing reoffending. There was also a significant fall in the number of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 in 2008/09 which at 719 was 20% lower than the target for the year of 897.



34 young people were sentenced to custody in 2008/09, representing 4.2% of the total number of young people receiving a court conviction in the year.

64.5% of young offenders were actively engaged in suitable full-time education, training or employment by the end of their court order, an increase of just under 2% compared to the previous year, and 89% of young offenders had access to suitable accommodation at the end of their court order.

An analysis of the ethnic composition of children and young people in the youth justice system in 2008/09 showed that there was a slight over representation of mixed race young people but that all other minority ethnic groups were either under represented or proportionate to general population data.

Achieve economic well-being

We want to minimise dependence on benefits for families, by supporting parents and carers to work, thereby increasing their income. We also want all young people to stay in education, employment & training until they are at least 18 years old. When they leave school we want them to have the skills they need to prosper. In particular, we want to see:

- Significantly fewer children and young people living in poverty and all children and young people living in decent housing;
- All young people able to access a broader, personalised range of education and training opportunities until the age of 18, supported by good information, advice and guidance; able to achieve well and to manage their learning and personal development; and
- Many more employers engaging with and participating in the planning and provision of learning opportunities.

These aims in the CYPP are also reflected in the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy "Pride of Place" under the following strategic aims:

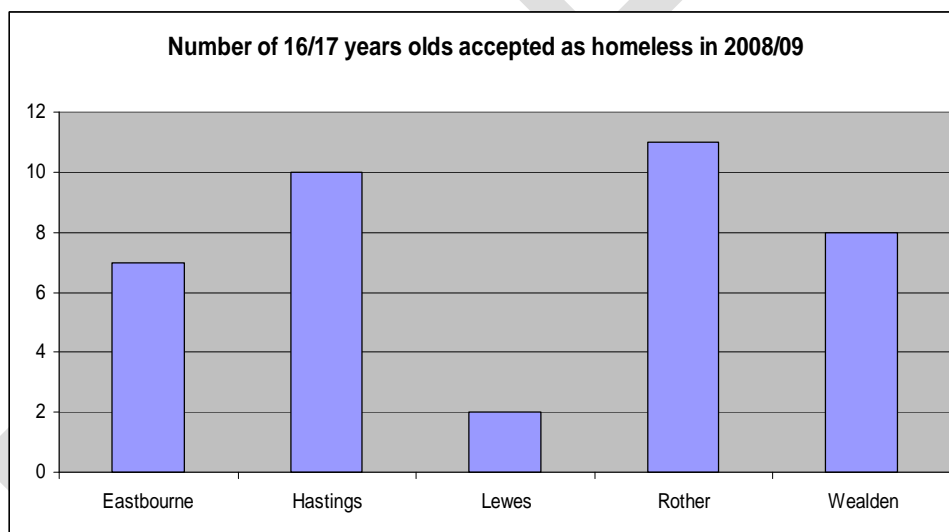
- To ensure children and young people are well cared for, have healthy life styles, achieve their potential, and grow into confident, empowered, responsible adults - able to contribute to the economic prosperity of the county;
- To narrow the economic performance gap within and between communities in the county and between the county and the region, in order to develop a thriving, diverse and sustainable economy where everyone can prosper; and
- To provide affordable, good quality and environmentally friendly homes and housing for all

Where are we now?

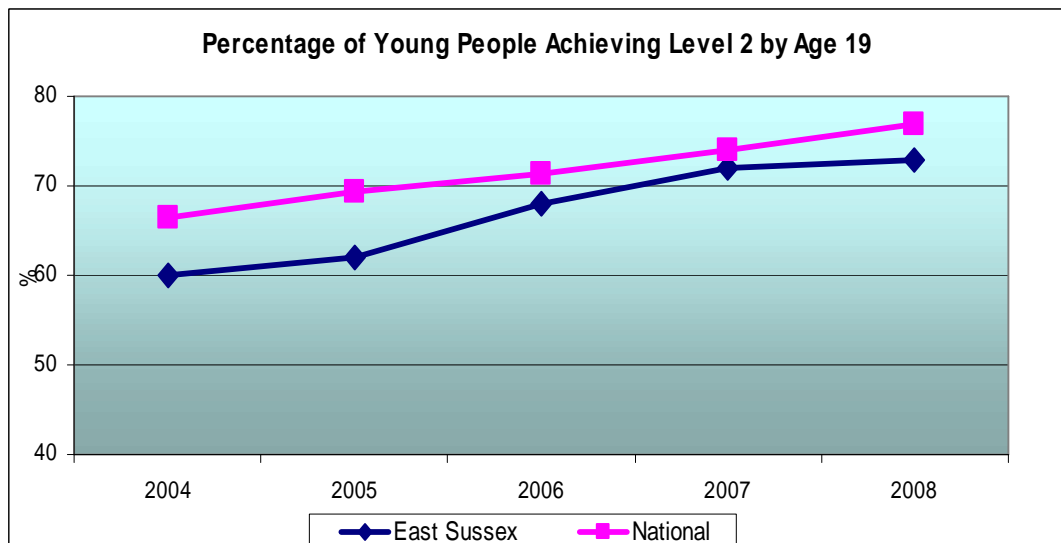
We have worked in partnership with the District and Borough Councils, through the new County youth homelessness strategy and the local Housing Strategies, to tackle child poverty and homelessness and recognise the different issues which exist across the boroughs.

The Child Poverty Bill was introduced to the House of Commons on 11 June 2009 and enshrines in legislation the commitment by the government to eradicate child poverty by 2020; this commitment is mirrored in the CYPT's aspiration to reduce poverty. Although in relative terms child poverty in East Sussex appears to be improving, the actual number of children living in low income households has risen by over 800 to more than 17,000 (18.5% of the age group). These children and young people are concentrated in the coastal towns of Hastings (29.7%) and Eastbourne (23.6%).

There has been a significant reduction in the number of young people accepted by local housing departments as homeless to 38 in 2008/09.



82.4% of care leavers had been found suitable accommodation (NI 147) as at the end of March 2009.



We have increased the range of choices for vocational and educational learning opportunities in order to encourage young people to stay in education, employment and training. Programmes included the 14-19 Plan, the Employer Engagement Strategy, the Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy, the new qualifications and curriculum pathways, the new Connexions contracts and the September Guarantee.

In the 2007/08 academic year, there was further improvement in the percentage of young people achieving Level 2 and 3 qualifications by the age of 19 (NIs 79 and 80).

LAA Target: In the 2007/08 academic year, there was further improvement in the percentage of young people achieving Level 2 by the age of 19 (which is equivalent to 5+A*-C grade GCSEs) from 72% in 2007 to 73% in 2008, achieving the annual LAA target. The gap with the national figure, which was 77% in 2008 has also narrowed. For Level 3 at 19 in 2008 the figure was 47%. We know, however, that young people living in many of the coastal towns and in low income families were under represented in this group.

15% of Free School Meal (FSM) eligible learners progressed from Level 2 at 15 to Level 3 at 18 against 42% for non FSM eligible learners (NI 81). This is a gap of 27% and provides a baseline for future planning. 16% of FSM eligible learners progressed from below Level 2 at 15 to Level 2 against 14% for non FSM eligible learners (NI 82). 52% of FSM eligible learners were still below a Level 2 qualification in comparison to 22% of non FSM eligible learners and this gap of 30% provide another baseline for planning in this area.

In addition to the core funding for children's services, the Schools Forum provided funding to address the 14-19 agenda, including the transfer of 16-19 funding from the LSC and implementing 14-19 diplomas.

Indicative figures for March 2009 show 411 new learners aged 14-16 taking up diplomas (compared to 244 in Sept 2008) and 672 new learners post-16 (compared to 65 in Sept 2008) (NIS 90). We are aware there is still resistance in some schools to diploma provision and less interest amongst parents and communities for the new qualification. Distribution of 14-19 TCF, which provides additional funding to support the provision of facilities for the delivery of 14-19 diplomas, has been planned in collaboration with Local Area Partnership Boards and an entitlement curriculum planning group has been initiated to develop a strategy to increase uptake on routes other than GCSE/GCE. A 14-19 Plan will be produced for distribution to schools and communities in Autumn 2009 to raise awareness of and interest in Diploma opportunities.

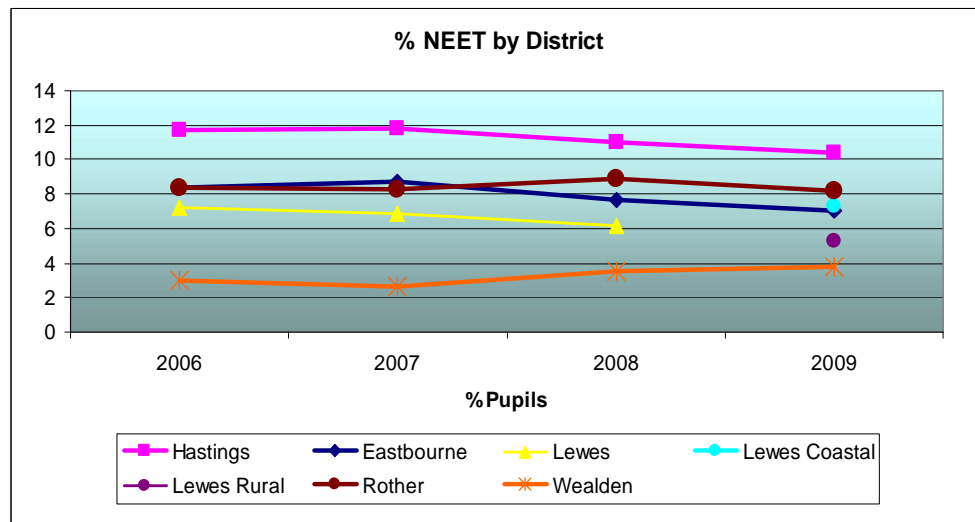
The September Guarantee was implemented successfully in 2008, with 78% of all 17 year olds receiving an offer of education or training (NI 91). These figures compare favourably with our geographical neighbours (West Sussex: 65% with an offer; and Brighton & Hove: 76% with an offer). As at January 2009, the percentage of 17 year olds in learning continued to remain above target, with 81.63% of all 17 year olds in learning.

The latest figures from the Education Deprivation domain rank, show a growth of 5.7% in applicants from high deprivation areas from 2004 to 2006 across Sussex (NI 106). This compares to a smaller increase of 3.2% in low deprivation areas. There was a significant drop (-10.6%) in 2006 applicants from the lower Socio-Economic Groups (SEGs) compared to the previous year but there was also a -6.7% drop from higher SEGs in the same year, which suggests that this is attributable to the introduction of variable fees. Despite this drop back, there has still been a positive growth of 1.1% in applicants from lower SEGs since 2003, at the same time as there has been a decline in applications from higher SEGs. The gap between the lower and higher SEGs is narrowing - it stood at 52.6% in 2006, compared to 54.8% in 2003.

We have helped more young people to access and achieve well in a broader, personalised range of education and training opportunities until the age of 18 using levers such as the 14-19 Plan, the new Connexions contracts, the NEET Strategy, the new qualifications and curriculum pathways and the September Guarantee. We have also implemented the Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy and pursued campaigns such as "You can do it" to raise aspirations. We have also engaged with many more employers to ensure their participation in the planning and provision of learning opportunities.

LAA Target: In 2008/09, the percentage of young people aged 16-18 who were not in education, employment or training was 7.2%. While this was 0.2% above the target for the year, it still represents a reduction from the 2007/08 level of 7.7% and, in a time of economic downturn, shows a reducing gap in comparison to national figures – East Sussex was 1% above the

national average in 2007/08 but was only 0.5% above in 2008/09. However, we know that young people who had not achieved Level 2 qualifications, those with learning difficulties or disabilities (LDD), teenage mothers, young offenders, those living in many of the coastal towns and in low income families are over represented in this group.



The March 2009 adjusted NEET figures for sub-areas showed that Hastings continues to have the worst NEET problem (10.97%), followed by Rother (8.33%); the Lewes District coastal area (8.01%) and the Eastbourne Downs area (7.77%). Lewes District rural area and Wealden both have NEET levels below 5%. The percentages have fallen slightly since February, when it was identified that 16% fewer young people (400) than expected had entered employment without training, probably as a consequence of the economic downturn. The data suggests that some of those young people have been found alternative routes, such as workplace training, and analysis continues to better understand the patterns of joining and leaving. 70.6% (24/34) of care leavers were in employment education or training in the period April 2008 to March 2009 (NI 148) and 70.4% of young offenders (NI 45).

4157 young people took up work placements in the 2007/08 academic year (75% of the cohort). This included 53 placements in ESCC. So far in the 2007/08 academic year, 98 placements accessing work experience have been taken up at ESCC and a co-ordinator has now been appointed to ensure vulnerable young people are well supported while on placement.

There were 4422 active employers on VT Enterprise database during 2008, an increase of 26% on the previous year. This included employers offering work placements and undertaking work-related learning activities in schools and colleges. Resources for high quality placements have been shared with district councils, schools and the NHS and the pan-Sussex online employer management system database is now being populated. This will produce much improved data on work with employers from September 09.

In October 2008, validated LSC data indicated that 99 young people were involved in a Young Apprentice programme across East Sussex. 11 were placed in the Hastings/Rother LAPB area, 45 in the Eastbourne/Hailsham Federation area, 10 in Lewes Rural, 22 on the Western Coastal strip and 11 in Wealden. Each LAPB has been commissioned to run further Youth Apprenticeships from September 2009, and in line with the 14-19 entitlement strategy, each will support a total of 83 learners.

2006-2008 pan Sussex data showed that 65.3% of young people starting apprenticeships achieved at the end and 75.4% of young people completed the course.

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Section 3 – Statement on safeguarding

The member agencies of the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board believe that all children living in or visiting the County have the right to: -

- Safety and security in a culture of high expectation, which provides protection from harm and exploitation and enables them to develop healthily to meet their full physical, intellectual and emotional potential.

In order for this to be realistic all member agencies are working to the standards within the Children Act 2004 to ensure that:-

- All those who work with children and young people know what to do if they are worried about possible harm.
- When concerns are reported, action is taken quickly and sensitively to help children and their families.
- Agencies that provide children and young people with services take steps to ensure they are safe and are comply with legal requirements.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 requires from agencies that there is: -

- Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare;
- A clear statement of the agency's responsibilities towards children available for all staff;
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- Service development that takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and families;
- Staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or (depending on the agency's primary functions) in contact with children and families;
- Safe recruitment procedures in place;
- Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and
- Effective Information sharing.

Within East Sussex these responsibilities are monitored by the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB); this is made up of representatives from the senior levels of all organisations in the area involved in protecting or promoting the welfare of children. Its purpose is to work co-operatively together to safeguard children within East Sussex. This requires proactive intervention where children are abused, targeted work with children at risk of harm and preventive work within the community to develop a safe environment for children.

The key priorities of the East Sussex LSCB are: -

- To ensure that children within East Sussex are protected from harm.
- To co-ordinate agencies' activity to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- To ensure the effectiveness of agencies' activity to safeguard and promote the welfare of children through monitoring and review.

Accountability

The LSCB annual report is received by the Children's Trust, the East Sussex County Council Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and is also presented at the Primary Care Trusts' Professional Executive Committee and other LSCB member organisation's senior management boards.

Key issues addressed by the Board in 2008-9 include:

- Ensuring the voice of the child can be heard - A full advocacy service for all children started in April 2008 which provides advocacy services for looked after children and those with child protection plans.
- Maintaining and improving the quality of inter-agency child protection interventions – the following areas have been considered:
 - Monitoring the progress of the Common Assessment Framework and Contact Point;
 - A review of domestic abuse services and safeguarding provision;
 - Anti-bullying services in schools and the community.
- Ensuring that there is effective learning – this has included:
 - Undertaking two Serious case reviews;
 - Development of the Child Death Overview Panel;

- Briefings across agencies on the lessons from Baby Peter.
- Ensuring a uniform approach to safeguarding and consistency of practice across Sussex – achieved via:
 - A review of the action plans following the self-audit undertaken by all agencies of their services against the standards in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 completed in 2007;
 - Developing a multi-agency file audit process to review quarterly referral and child protection conference processes;
 - Monitoring the progress of the Independent Safeguarding Authority and its implications for all agencies.
- Maintaining an effective functioning Local Safeguarding Children Board

The work of the LSCB sub groups has helped to achieve continuous improvement by maintaining and developing:

 - Effective safeguarding procedures;
 - Multi disciplinary training programmes;
 - Data for and audits of safeguarding activity;
 - A child safety action plan; and
 - Good communication and collaboration between agencies and professionals.

The Planned Work of the LSCB for 2009/10 will include:

In addition to the ongoing activity to achieve continuous improvement, specific priority will be given to the following:

- Assisting in the development and improvement of safeguarding services for children experiencing domestic abuse;
- Reviewing the development of the Safeguarding with Intensive Family Treatment (SWIFT) service provision for parents with mental health;
- Implementing Laming report recommendations;
- The roll-out of the Vetting and Barring Scheme;
- Arrangements for missing children.

Section 4 – Statement on the integration of services

Integration of services is a key aim of all Children's Trust arrangements. In East Sussex we have made good progress in all the key dimensions of these arrangements.

Shared vision: The CYPP sets out a shared vision and shared priorities. At local level shared priorities are also developed by Area Children's Services Planning Groups and Local Partnerships for Children

Integrated front line delivery: We are committed to integrating service delivery to children, young people and families wherever possible. At local level, children's centres, extended schools and Connexions centres provide vehicles for physical co-location and integrated delivery of services by a range of agencies. A number of specialist services are also integrated, for example the Under 19s Substance Misuse Service. The Early Support Programme provides coordination and coherence across services for young disabled children. We are also increasingly promoting "whole family" approaches to service delivery, working with adult services. The detailed planning of services in local areas is undertaken on an integrated basis in a number of areas for example through the new local youth partnerships (activities for young people) and through Local Partnerships for Children. Two LPC areas in particular are "trailblazers" for the integration of services for 0-11 year olds. Provision of services and support to individual children is integrated through the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – see below.

Integrated processes: Our early progress in relation to information sharing, through the East Sussex Children Index, means that we are well placed for the local implementation of ContactPoint. The index also provides a continuous update on the number of assessments and plans put together by agencies jointly through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), which is increasingly steadily. The CAF is used in a range of settings by agencies ranging from health visitors to housing officers. We see CAF, when implemented well, as a powerful vehicle for ensuring that young people and families are empowered to seek, and are given, the support they believe they really need – not what services may think they need.

Integrated strategy: In addition to the CYPP itself, we have developed a number of common strategies around issues such as support for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities, mental health, family support, tackling youth homelessness, promoting equality and strengthening participation by young people in service and strategic development. Further areas of strategic development in 2009-2010 include promoting play and ensuring coherence in actions to combat child poverty. Strategies are

underpinned in some cases by virtual pooled budgets and/or detailed aligned resource planning as, for example, in mental health, the provision of therapy services and youth homelessness.

Integrated governance: Our CYPT partnership structure provides integrated governance to lead the development of an integrated approach to all policy and service development. We are taking a number of steps in 2009-2010 to strengthen governance arrangements. These include new joint commissioning arrangements and enhanced communication across the partnership about how the CYPT works.

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Section 5 – Statement on early intervention and prevention

All CYPT partners recognise the paramount importance of early intervention and effective prevention in order to promote the well being of children and young people as successfully as possible.

“Early intervention” includes both putting in place services and support which ensure the youngest children get the best possible start in life and acting quickly when an individual teenager starts to develop a problem.

We aim to secure effective early intervention and prevention through:

- High quality outreach maternity services which encourage all mothers, and fathers, to access services and support pre birth. In Hastings we are a pathfinder for the Family Nurse Partnership programme which provides intensive support for young mothers from the 16th week of pregnancy through to their child's second birthday
- The Healthy Child Programme, through which health visitors provide support for the development of pre school age children. The programme now includes a strong emphasis on early identification of possible problems and the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to plan targeted support with families and other services.
- Support for early years settings to ensure that practitioners can identify problems and understand how to work with families appropriately, including through the CAF
- Additional targeted preventative services through Children's Centres, particularly for the most deprived areas of the county, including support for the development of key communication skills and emotional well being through play
- A wide range of parenting support programmes from universal information and advice services to intensive courses, through children's centres, schools and other settings
- A personalised approach to support for learning at school, through which individual children and young people can be monitored and given additional support where they need it, linked to support for other aspects of their wellbeing

- A positive, inclusive culture in schools and colleges, with high quality relationships across the whole school/college community, minimising the risk of disaffection
- Increased provision, where possible, for play and for activities for young people – responding as well as we can to the need for young people to have things to do and places to go
- Effective deployment of Youth Support Services including the Youth Development Service, behaviour support, sexual health services, health promotion to tackle risky behaviours and social care services – designed to ensure that any problems for children and young people, especially in adolescence, are tackled early and well
- Effective implementation in all universal services of the Common Assessment Framework, as a tool for early discussions with families and young people about problems and how they can be empowered to help solve them
- Ensuring that where young people develop significant problems, for example homelessness, we always take a holistic approach to their needs, providing a comprehensive package of support to help them in all aspects of their lives
- Effective local mechanisms for coordinating support as early as possible. We will be working in 2009-2010 on the development of consistent arrangements across the county, based on key common principles, for early identification and coordination of support for individual children and young people

Section 6: Ensuring delivery

Resource management and commissioning

East Sussex County Council

The County Council plans to spend a net £72.5m on Children's Services in 2009/10. However, after taking account of specific grants and other income the total gross expenditure is £440.5m including funding delegated to schools.

The budget includes a range of new initiatives to address key priorities within this Plan. Major areas of new expenditure or additional investment are set out below.

New funding provided by the County Council:

- Effects of the 'Baby P' case - £1.0m (£0.8m one-off, £0.2m ongoing)
- £0.22m for one-off activities for young people and bright & talented children
- £0.25m for additional Child Protection posts
- £1.25m for 'excess' cost increases, particularly in relation to implementation of the Public Law Outline and for home to school transport
- New funding allocated from the Dedicated Schools Grant with the full agreement of the Schools Forum:
- £0.16m to support the Implementation of Virtual Colleges in the East and West of the County

New or additional specific grants will enable services to be extended and improved including:

- Extension of the free early years education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds £0.9m
- Aiming Higher for Disabled Children Grant (short breaks) £0.5m
- Fair Play Pathfinder Grant – additional £0.05m revenue & additional £1.0m capital
- Think Family Grant for parent and family support services £0.36m

The major elements of Capital investment in school and other children's services buildings for 2009/10 are:

- £24.3m on replacement of Bexhill High School to open in 2010/11 (total cost £37.3m)

- £4m on new Children's Centres, Extended School and Early Years facilities
- £1.6m for modernisation of Grove Park School
- £1.2m for School Access Initiative schemes
- £1.0m for hall and kitchen at High Hurstwood CE School
- £0.6m for Temporary Accommodation (new installation & replacements)
- £0.56m for kitchen and dining room at Barcombe CE School
- £6.0m Target Capital funding for 14-19/ SEN projects (2009-11)
- £4.9m 14-19 Diploma Exemplar Capital Funding

New capital grant (£0.8m) has also been secured from the DCSF co-location fund which will enable delivery of services to be further integrated, extended and improved from 2 Youth Access Centres in Eastbourne and Hastings

Section 7: Key areas of focus for 2009-2010

The CYPP covers a very broad range of activity and contains 28 key priorities. We plan to make progress in all these areas over the course of 2009-2010. In the list below, however, the Trust has highlighted some areas which will be a particular focus because either:

- we need to increase efforts to improve outcomes;
- 2009-2010 is a critical period in terms of implementing strategies; or
- we anticipate particular challenges to which we need to respond.

The current challenging economic climate has already made some of our targets more difficult to achieve and will continue to pose a challenge for us.

The proposed areas of focus in 2009/10 are:

Safeguarding

All Children's Trust partnerships across the country will be considering carefully the recommendations made by Lord Laming and the Government's response following the "Baby P" case in Haringey in 2008.

In East Sussex, the 'Statement on Safeguarding' (detailed in Section 3) highlights the key issues facing the CYPT.

A particular focus in 2009-10 will be on our collective response to the challenges posed by domestic violence; looking the range of support and services provided to families.

National strategy for children and young people's health, "Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures"

Planning for implementation locally will be a key focus, including strengthening information and support for parents, implementing the pilot Family Nurse Partnership programme in Hastings, continuing on the anti-smoking campaign following the Youth Cabinet work. Planning for delivery of a Healthy Child programme for school aged children, tackling obesity – see below, encouraging more take up of sport, rolling out the "You're Welcome" standards for young people's services and enhancing services and opportunities for disabled children and children with complex needs.

Implementation of our joint local commissioning plan for expanding short breaks for disabled children (as part of the "Aiming High for Disabled Children" programme) will be a key strand of work in this context.

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

The current economic climate is making it difficult to achieve targets for reducing the percentage of young people who are NEET. In East Sussex we

want to step up efforts, involving as wide a range of partners as possible, to achieve the lowest possible level of NEET young people by the 2009/2010 November-January count.

Childhood obesity

Evidence from the 2008 annual exercise to measure the height and weight of children at age 4/5 and 10/11 (reception and Year 6) indicates that - in line with (slightly below) the national average – nearly a third of children in East Sussex aged 10/11 are either overweight or obese.

On the basis of the data we have identified areas within East Sussex for targeted action, beginning in 2009-2010. Raising awareness of the issue is critical and we will increase effort to promote healthy lifestyles, contributing to the nation-wide “Change4life” programme.

Play

East Sussex is one of two “Play Pathfinder” counties nationally. 2009-2010 will see the development of a county wide play strategy, building on the five existing district/borough level play strategies and learning from the Play Pathfinder programme. This will tackle key issues such as the importance of building space for play into environmental planning, encouraging parents to allow their children to play outside and adopting a consistent approach to managing risks which maximises opportunities for children.

Achievement in education and training

We will develop and promote a broad based approach to drive up levels of achievement in education and training, engaging all partners across the Children and Young People’s Trust and in the community. All partners, not just schools, have a part to play in creating the conditions in which all young people can succeed and improve their life chances.

For primary schools this year will see planning for important changes in the curriculum in the light of changes to the national framework. It will also be a key period for the implementation of new options for young people in the 14-19 age range, particularly the new vocational diplomas.

Changes in responsibilities for post 16 education and training, and the extension of the participation age for young people

At the same time as expanding education and training opportunities for 14 year olds, we will work closely together through the CYPT and through other partnership arrangements to plan for the significant changes proposed to responsibilities for post 16 education and training, and for the extension of the participation age for young people.

Youth homelessness and wider housing issues

In 2008-2009 the CYPT developed a county wide strategy for preventing and responding effectively to youth homelessness. In 2009-2010 the implementation of the strategy will begin, a task which will require sustained leadership and commitment. Building on existing good practice as shown, for example, in the work of the Eastbourne Children’s Centres with families in

temporary accommodation, we will also explore ways of strengthening the support we provide across the Partnership to families experiencing difficulties in relation to housing.

Child poverty

The CYPT proposes to draw together key actions relevant to tackling child poverty to establish an overview of how the issue is being addressed through the partnership and consider any further actions which might be taken.

Strengthening the Children and Young People's Trust Partnership

We have considered together what practical steps we need to take to strengthen our Partnership working in 2009-2010, taking into account national guidance, the 2008 Audit Commission report, "Are we there yet?" and the implementation of World Class Commissioning across the NHS and local government. A number of actions are planned in relation to joint commissioning, clarifying governance arrangements and communicating more effectively in the way the CYPT structures work.

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CYPP Review 2009 - Appendix 1

Focus Group Consultations (March and April 2009)

Aim of the Focus Group Consultation

The focus group consultation formed part of an extensive process to review the existing Children's and Young People's Plan and to agree the key priorities for 2009-10, which will be given particular emphasis during the coming year.

Who took part?

Members of the resident's panel with children between the ages of 0-19 years from across the county were invited to attend a variety of informal focus group sessions. Sessions were held in Eastbourne, Peacehaven and Hastings. In addition a number of telephone interviews were conducted to gain further views from parents in East Sussex.

What we asked

We wanted to find out what parents and carers thought as important for their children in East Sussex. What were the hot topics for them and their children, and had the CYPT chosen the right priorities for 2009/10?

Parent and Carers views about key issues for children and young people

Public transport

Many felt this was an issue for young people and their independence, as public transport was both expensive and infrequent (especially in rural areas) Suggestions included the provision of a community bus, as it was felt that in some areas the roads were too dangerous for cycling.

Drugs

Parents thought this was now a major issue, especially now as drugs are so cheap and seemingly easy to access.

Smoking

It was felt that East Sussex provided a good service to young people through the Connexions Team and that support is available.

Places to go

Strong views were gained on the need to have inexpensive but safe places for children and young people to go. It was felt that this was especially important for teenagers – as they want to belong.

Suggestions included – cheaper or free swimming, more youth clubs with trained staff. Information on activities of children with special needs needed to be made more widely available.

Risky behaviour

In Hastings, the parents stated that mugging was an issue for young people. Discussion also centred round the change in teenagers' lives, for example young people are staying at home longer and are perhaps not as mature as they used to be at 18 years.

Parents and Carers views about the draft priorities set by the Children's and Young People's Trust.

The focus groups gave comments for each of the priority areas identified by the CYPT, agreeing that some were more important than others, but agreed overall with the priorities listed. Below are listed the key areas discussed at the focus group under each of the listed priorities for 2009/10.

Parents felt **Safeguarding** was a specific area and did not feel able to comment on personal experience, views were expressed concerning making the whole community safe.

Around the **Health Strategy** all parents commented on the popularity of alcohol, and that young people find ways to buy alcohol. Binge drinking is also a big problem, especially as this links to further issues such as teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Regarding **Young people not in education or training** it was felt that more paid work experience would be a positive step for young people, getting them motivated and involved in 'real' projects. Additionally, parents commented on the perception of vocational education – that it was not always seen as a positive step, especially if it followed failure of the academic route.

Some parents felt that in terms of **Childhood obesity** one of the key issues was that there is now only a minimum of two hours for PE week, it was felt this was exacerbated due to cheap fast food being so popular and readily available.

In terms of **Play** strategies safe, open play areas were seen as very important and cycle paths equally vital so children can get to the play areas safely. Discussion's focused on the need for children to be able to go out and play in a safe and secure environment, as some parents had had experiences of young children being bullied by older children in play areas and belongings stolen.

Parents spoke about **Educational Achievement** and the need for teachers to be able to maintain respect and hold interest, but also set boundaries and discipline. They felt that smaller class sizes were key in order to give children confidence, drive and ambition.

Regarding **Raising the leaving school age to 18 years**, parents felt strongly that some young people may not want to stay and want or need to go out to work.

Parents were concerned that it was compulsory and could lead to having a class full of resentful teenagers – who don't want to be there.

They also raise that point of infrastructure and if there was room for young people to stay in school for longer, particularly if the quality of teaching was to be maintained.

Parents held the view that this was pushing the problem up to 18-19 year olds who would still not have jobs at the end of their education.

In terms of **Strengthening the Children and Young People's Trust Partnership** it was felt that communication is the key – promotion of what is available, especially out to the rural areas.

Youth Cabinet Consultation (March 2009)

In November 2007, nearly 17,000 young people across the county voted to elect new members to the Youth Cabinet. The Youth Cabinet is not run along party political lines and the membership is diverse and inclusive. Every member is independent and works around issues that are important to them and their constituents; and because it is democratically elected young people have a credible and authoritative voice on local issues.

The members of the Youth Cabinet were asked to be involved in discussing and highlighting the issues of young people for the coming year and take an active role in drawing the list of potential priorities which the Children's Trust plans to put additional emphasis and efforts during the coming year.

The key areas discussed and viewed as important for 2009-10 at the Youth Cabinet were:

- Smoking
- Sexual health and teenage pregnancy – access to condoms
- LGBT workers in schools
- Education Maintenance Allowance
- Raising aspirations
- Youth homelessness and more youth volunteers