

Report to: East Sussex Strategic Partnership
Date: 17 July 2009
Title: Pride of Place strategy review – Children and Young People
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Purpose: To share a summary of the recent statutory annual review of the East Sussex Children and Young People's Plan and its implications for the implementation of the "Pride of Place" priorities for children and young people

Recommendations: That the ESSP Board:

- (i) Note the summary of progress and proposed key areas of focus for the Children and Young People's Trust partnership in 2009-2010, set out in the 2009 annual CYPP review**
- (ii) Consider how all ESSP partners can contribute to the continuing priorities for children and young people set out in both "Pride of Place" and the CYPP**

1. Background

- 1.1. At its meeting on 18 September 2008, the ESSP board agreed to put in place a rolling programme of strategy reviews and updates, working through existing countywide thematic and population based partnerships. In the case of children and young people, the priorities in "Pride of Place" are elaborated in more detail in the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011, which the County Council and partners in the Children and Young People's Trust are required by law to review annually. The 2009 annual review of the CYPP, completed recently, forms the basis of the strategic review of Pride of Place for this section of the population.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. Attached to this paper as annex A is a copy of the full 2009 annual review of the CYPP. This document is very near completion; a range of partners are currently conducting a final review of the detail with comments required by 17 July. Once any final amendments have been made the review document will be published on the ESCC website, and also on the ESSP website in the "Children's Trust Express" area. For those who would like the fullest possible picture, the CYPP itself is available at <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/partnershipsinitiatives/cypp>
- 2.2. The review document (Annex A) considers in turn the five key outcome priority sections of the CYPP, identifying in each case the relevant associated outcome priorities set out in "Pride of Place". The overall target in "Pride of Place" is 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".
- 2.3. Progress against LAA targets is also set out within each section.

3. High level summary of performance

- 3.1. Attached as Annex B is a summary table showing current performance against all LAA targets for children and young people. Paragraphs 3.2 to 3.6 below comment on three key target areas.

Educational attainment

- 3.2. A number of education targets relate to performance in national tests/exams for which the results for the school year 2008-2009 are not yet available. A key indicator is the percentage of young people achieving at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths. In 2008 our rate of improvement from 2007 was faster than the national average, narrowing the gap between the East Sussex and national figures (46.1% and 47.3% respectively). We also improved more than all but one of our statistical neighbours. However, in addition to being below the national figure, we are at the bottom of the list of our statistical neighbours. Improved results are predicted for 2009, including for all our "National Challenge" schools, based on early entry results.
- 3.3. While overall results are important, it is also essential to look at the range of results across the country. There are stark differences in levels of attainment, in particular, between young people entitled to free school meals and those who are not. This gap is now a national indicator, and our gap in East Sussex last year (of 29 % points) was bigger than both the national and SN gap. We are currently developing a comprehensive strategy and action plan for narrowing this gap, with a range of targeted actions. The full CYPP review document also highlights differences between the 22 "Local Partnership for Children" areas.

Young people not in education, employment and training

- 3.4. Another key indicator is the percentage of young people not in employment, education and training. The graphs attached to this paper as Annex C show how this indicator has fluctuated over the last three years. The critical months for performance measurement purposes are November to January. An average of these three months is taken for the LAA NEET target. In 2009/2010 the LAA target is 6.2% and 5.4% in 2010/2011. The out turn in 2008 / 09 was 7.2% (av. Nov – Jan), the latest percentage is 6.99%.
- 3.5. While overall no very significant reduction has been made to the countywide % NEET figure over the last three years, the charts do show that between May to November last year the number of young people NEET was lower than for same period in previous two years. This was achieved largely by increasing provision and flexibility of opportunities in post 16 education. However, this trend has not been maintained through out the remainder of the year due to the economic downturn. In fact there are more young people NEET now than in the previous two years. The increase in the % indicator in the key Nov-Jan period was slightly less in East Sussex than across the South East as a whole, but there are no grounds for complacency. It is also important to note that there are significant differences across the five districts of East Sussex, with the figure in May for Hastings (10.96%) being much higher than the figure for Wealden (3.52%). Over the last two years the percentage has reduced in Hastings, however, as it has in Eastbourne. Rother, on the other hand, has seen an increase.

Teenage pregnancy

- 3.6. Conceptions by girls under the age of 18 in 2007 (the latest available data) fell in East Sussex compared with 2006, in contrast to a rising national trend. The figure is still higher than the South East average, however, with, again, significant differences at district and ward level. At 36.8/1000 we are a long way off our target of 20/1000 by 2012.

4. Key issues and opportunities

- 4.1. A key aim of the Children and Young People's Trust partnership, and the CYPP, is to narrow gaps in outcomes between some children and the rest – across the five key outcome areas in the 2004 Children Act (staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic wellbeing). The recession increases the challenge here: there are a range of impacts from the increased incidents of domestic violence to reduced employment opportunities for young people. Within the County Council we have also had to increase resources for social care as a result of a significant rise in – well founded – referrals leading to an increase in the number of children and young people with child protection plans. (The increase here began before the “Baby P” case in Haringey but rose again sharply following that case.)
- 4.2. There is nevertheless strong commitment across the CYPT partnership to driving improved outcomes despite the challenges. Schools are providing extended services and looking at a range of approaches to narrowing the gap, including one to one tuition through the pilot “Making Good Progress” programme, now being rolled out nationally. In Hastings the academies programme is designed to transform secondary education – a process which has begun with investment in the significant programme of support from the Ninestyles consultancy and the new Executive Head for the three 11-16 schools. For the youngest children, Children's Centres are providing integrated support and promoting better take up of early years education, with the programme on track to cover the whole county by 2012. Support for teenagers is improving with new investment through the Youth Opportunities Fund and MyPlace programmes; more sexual health services on school sites; increased access to mental health services (for example through targeted mental health services in schools as well as work over the last few years significantly to reduce waiting times for specialist services; and a more joined up approach to the most vulnerable, including homeless young people. Section 7 in the CYPP review document, “Key Areas of Focus for 2009-2010” illustrates the range of strategic development and implementation of new policies planned for the current financial year, in addition to the extensive list of “levers” set out in the main Plan.
- 4.3. The range of partners who can potentially contribute to improving outcomes for children and young people is very wide. Views from ESSP partners about additional ways in which the challenge may be met would be very welcome. These might range from direct action such as creating more apprenticeship opportunities for young people to reduce the NEET % (an approach discussed recently at the CYPT Executive Group) to reviewing the potential impact of different partnership strategies on children and young people.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. For many children and young people, East Sussex is a very good place to live and grow up. Surveys of children and young people such as the annual Ofsted Tellus survey indicate that the majority feel safe and believe they are making good progress. There are still significant gaps, however, in both perceptions, and the reality of measurable outcomes, between some groups of children and young people and the rest. We are hoping that examination results in 2009 will show a narrowing of the gap in educational attainment, and that progress will continue to be made on other indicators too, despite the challenging context of the recession. Raising the aspirations, confidence and motivation of families and communities as well as individual children and young people is a key theme – identified also, of course, in the Sustainable Community Strategy action plan.
- 5.2. Views from ESSP members on this account of progress, and on addressing key challenges, would be very welcome.