Transforming services for children, young people and their families in West Sussex

The Children and Young People’s Plan for West Sussex 2006-2009

2008 UPDATE
Priorities and Key Targets 2008-2009

The preparation of a Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP), including an annual review, is a statutory requirement of the Children Act 2004. This update represents the final ‘refresh’ of the original 3 year plan. The annual review process is beneficial as there has been an intense period of significant change since the CYPP was first published. These changes include health and County Council restructuring, funding pressures, social change, revised partnership arrangements, and national policy direction. The CYPP needs to keep pace with what is going on nationally and locally.

This update of the CYPP comprises multi-agency strategic priorities and key targets. The detail behind the key targets summarised within the update can be found in the West Sussex Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-2011, which now includes revised targets based on the new National Indicator (NI) set. Responsibility for achieving the priorities and targets in the CYPP and the LAA lies with the Children’s Trust together with other partners who are committed to delivering services to children, young people, their families and carers in West Sussex. Further actions to achieve CYPP priorities can be found in detailed service strategies and plans that support the CYPP.

A new feature in this update is the introduction of ‘spotlights’ that, rather than make incremental improvements across all priorities, aim to focus on a small number of selected topics and deliver markedly better outcomes over the life of the CYPP. The ‘spotlights’ under each ‘Every Child Matters’ outcome have been chosen following stakeholder consultation and where there is existing capacity to implement improvement either through LAA delivery plans or through Children’s Trust working groups.
A lot has been achieved over the first 2 years of the CYPP and a few of these successes are identified within this update. Children and young people are at the forefront of our activities and their voice is stronger than ever. A very small selection of their observations and contributions are also captured here. There will be a new, full CYPP in due course, which will provide an opportunity to revisit fundamentally the overall approach, to improve further the participation of stakeholders including children, young people and their families, and to focus action even more effectively on delivering priority outcomes. A process for developing the next generation CYPP is already in development. The current CYPP has been a significant stage in the evolution of children’s services in West Sussex and our approach continues to improve as we learn from experience. The next CYPP will, again, present opportunities to change the way agencies work together as partners to improve outcomes for children and young people in the County.

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Some of the achievements for children and young people over the last two years include:

Be Healthy

- The number of children and young people having to wait over 13 weeks for access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) has fallen from 520 in 2005/06 to 0 (zero) by April 2008
- The successful introduction and take up of hot school meals in West Sussex primary schools has exceeded targets
- The reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies is exceeding national targets
- Successful MEND programmes at District and Borough level, in partnership with West Sussex Primary Care Trust, are helping young people and their families to change the way they see exercise and nutrition as part of a healthy lifestyle

Stay Safe

- The number of Children in Care who have been adopted has increased from 24 in 2005/06 to 47 in 2007/08
- The social work team at Gatwick Airport has improved the safeguarding of children arriving in the UK and is working closely with the Immigration Service and Sussex Police to reduce child trafficking through the airport
- The timeliness of reviews for Children in Care has improved significantly, as have the numbers of children and young people in care participating in their reviews

Enjoy & Achieve

- Educational attainment at age 11 (Key Stage 2) and 16 (Key Stage 4) continues to improve as does the achievement of Children in Care at Key Stage 4
- The number of pupils permanently excluded from school has reduced as has persistent absence
- The number of schools achieving ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ judgements in Ofsted inspections has increased
- West Sussex Library Bookstart scheme reaches 98% of children under 5 years old
Some of the achievements for children and young people over the last two years include:

1. **Make a Positive Contribution**
   - West Sussex is the first County Youth Service, one of only 12 in the country, to receive the National Youth Agency Quality Mark award building on Beacon Council status for the ‘Positive Engagement of Young People’ in 2006.
   - A Children in Care Council is being established led by Children in Care to improve engagement, give them a voice and ensure their views are listened to and, when appropriate, acted upon.
   - 24 local youth forums have been set up to spend £1.4m over 2 years from the Youth Opportunities Fund, encouraging many young people to get involved in their communities.
   - Youth Councils at District and Borough level are ensuring that young people have opportunities to get involved in local decision making.

2. **Achieve Economic Well Being**
   - Reduction in the percentage of young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) in West Sussex to 4.5% in 2006/07.
   - The percentage of young people achieving Level 2 qualifications by age 19 stood at 74.9% in 2007, up from 71.4% in 2005.
   - The number of young people completing an apprenticeship has increased from 543 to 992.
Some comments about improved outcomes by children and young people over the last two years:

“The planning for the project was new and exciting – it prepares you for life skills, we learnt teamwork and co-operation.”
(Youth Opportunities Fund applicant)

“It’s made me seem more important to higher authorities – teachers, etc. I get noticed more. I feel my voice is more heard. I even got to take part in the House of Lords UKYP campaigns debate. It’s given me a purpose in the community”
(West Sussex Youth MP)

“Let’s get going as soon as possible”
(Children in Care Council)

“Young people don’t have to pay double on bus fares any more. They listened to us and took us seriously. I went to meetings to construct this whole scheme!”
(Youth Cabinet)

“This work has given me a chance to participate in the political process, as well as gain valuable experience in team working and encourage my confidence”
(Worthing Youth Council)

“I went round my local area and got companies to sign up to the 3-in-1 card – this means we get the discounts we really want! Then I started a Facebook campaign to get New Look involved”
(Youth Cabinet)

“I’ve been able to attend a huge spectrum of different events that have been a wonderful insight and a real inspiration to me for what I do as a person and how to work well for the good of others”
(School Council Member)

“The key finding from our Youth Conference was that we must not solely rely on others to give us a boost in life. It’s up to every single individual to reach their full potential”
(Aurn Youth Council)
Strategic priorities for 2008-2009 are to:

- Promote positive lifestyle choices, including action around obesity, physical exercise, sensible drinking, substance misuse and smoking
- Improve access to a broad range of health services for children and young people, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Speech & Language Therapy
- Improve the sexual health and well being of young people, including action to reduce teenage pregnancies and to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted infections
- Improve the emotional health and well being of all children and young people
- Reduce health inequalities, particularly in deprived areas and from potentially excluded groups including those with complex needs and disabilities, and Children in Care

Key targets in the West Sussex LAA 2008-2011

- NI 51 – Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services

Improving mental health and emotional well being

We aim to ensure the right kind of support is available for children and young people in respect of their emotional well being and mental health through:

- Agreeing the scope of specialist CAMHS and the way specialist and acute services are delivered
- Developing our capacity to provide local, non-specialist support
- Taking the action needed to meet the LAA target
- Developing a strategy that, in the longer term, meets the needs of children and young people in West Sussex, reflecting the above

Key Every Child Matters contact:
Fiona Feehan, West Sussex County Council
3. PRIORITIES & KEY TARGETS 2008/09

**Strategic priorities for 2008-2009 are to:**

- Improve preventative measures to reduce family crisis and breakdown by improving targeted family support and family group conferencing to help parents and families in safeguarding and promoting their children’s welfare.
- Work with partners to reduce the number of children and young people killed and seriously injured on our roads.
- Ensure that court assessments comply with the Public Law Outline to secure better outcomes for children and families.
- Ensure that all children needing a Child Protection Plan have a named, qualified social worker.
- Extend services for disabled children, children with autism and their families, including additional short breaks through ‘Aiming High for Disabled Children’.
- Increase the capability of agencies to tackle bullying in and out of school.
- Explore young people’s concerns that they feel unsafe out-and-about either because of the physical environment (for instance poor street lighting at night) and/or because of other people (for example groups of people, including drunk adults). They want safe places to go and safe means to get there and back.

**Key targets in the West Sussex LAA 2008-2011**

- NI 59 – Initial Assessments for children’s social care carried out within 7 working days of referral.
- NI 69 – Children who have experienced bullying.
Children’s social care Initial Assessments
We aim to improve the level of Initial Assessments carried out for children’s social care, through the following actions:
- Set and rigorously monitor performance targets for each service team on a monthly basis
- Enhance the administrative support for the recording of Initial Assessments
- Improve performance tracking systems for operational managers
- Review the capacity and focus of the services involved in Initial Assessments
- Continue to develop the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) by partner agencies
- We will respond effectively if we believe that a child may be being abused, harmed or neglected

Key Every Child Matters contact:
Brian Relph, West Sussex County Council

Tackling bullying in and out of school
We aim to ensure the right kind of support is available for children and young people who experience bullying through the following actions:
- Deliver training for professionals and partner agencies
- Ensure guidance is effectively promoted, kept relevant and up-to-date
- Provide direct support to educational settings
- Improve quality and quantity of data about bullying
- Provide 2 bullying caseworkers to work with others to support children, young people, parents and carers
- Provide a contact centre helpline to support parents, carers and professionals
- Ensure multi-agency action through the Action Against Bullying Partnership

Key Every Child Matters contact:
Paul Rigglesford, West Sussex County Council
Strategic priorities for 2008-2009 are to:

- Improve early learning and play experiences for pre-school children
- Raise educational attainment for all pupils across all Key Stages, with a particular focus at age 11 and 16, especially for those in deprived areas and from potentially excluded and vulnerable groups
- Develop personalised learning and ensure a broad and balanced curriculum that is both academic and vocational
- Reduce further persistent absences and exclusions from schools

Key targets in the West Sussex LAA 2008-2011

- NI 79 – Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19
  
N.B. Plus 16 statutory DCSF targets mandatory in the LAA – see appendix on page 13

Ensuring all schools reach the national 30% benchmark for pupils achieving 5+A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths by 2011 or earlier

We aim to improve the educational achievement of young people aged 16 (Key Stage 4) through the following actions:

- Improve overall attainment at age 16 via both academic and vocational provision
- Improve the Mathematics results in the 3 schools that did not meet the 30% benchmark target for 5+A*-C including English and Maths in 2007
- Provide additional support for teaching and learning in all schools where attainment is not significantly above the 30% benchmark
- Ensure that schools in challenging circumstances receive focused support for children and families with additional needs

Key Every Child Matters contact:
Peter Senior, West Sussex County Council
Increasing the percentage of young people achieving Level 2 qualifications by the age of 19

We aim to improve the educational achievement of young people aged 19 through the following actions:

- Identify gaps in provision and develop learning opportunities to meet need
- Increase the number of Apprenticeship places
- Develop Diplomas and the means to deliver them
- Provide high quality work placements to help prepare young people for working life
- Improve school Sixth Forms, especially Level 2 provision

Key Every Child Matters contact:
Jane Zacharzewski, Sussex Learning & Skills Council
Strategic priorities for 2008-2009 are to:

- Increase the take up of positive activities and personal development opportunities by all young people, including volunteering
- Reduce levels of offending behaviour by Children in Care, and reduce rates of re-offending by all young people
- Improve support for young carers, including respite care
- Continue to work with Children in Care to develop the Children in Care Council
- Improve access to cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting opportunities

Key targets in the West Sussex LAA 2008-2011

- NI 19 – Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
- NI 110 – Young people’s participation in positive activities

Reducing anti-social behaviour through Targeted Youth Support

We aim to ensure that young people have the opportunity to access positive activities and be diverted from or reduce their anti-social and offending behaviour through the following actions:

- Map the existing provision and identify gaps
- Target those young people and communities most at risk
- Understand more clearly what interventions work in reducing anti-social behaviour and why
- Improve communications about what is on offer to children, young people and their parents and carers
- Ensure there is access to positive activities for all groups in our community
- Increase access to volunteering opportunities for all young people
- Engage with young people to develop services at every opportunity

Key Every Child Matters contact:
Carole Aspden, West Sussex County Council
3. PRIORITIES & KEY TARGETS 2008/09

Strategic priorities for 2008-2009 are to:

- Increase the percentage of young people leaving care at age 19 with access to suitable and affordable accommodation
- Improve access to out of schools hours activities for young people aged 11-19 through Extended Services on or near school sites
- Provide impartial information, advice and guidance on post-16 opportunities for young people
- Improve take up of childcare by low income families in order to support access to education, employment and training
- Increase the percentage of young people who are in education, employment and training

Key targets in the West Sussex LAA 2008-2011

- NI 117 – 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
- NI 147 – Care leavers in suitable accommodation

Decreasing the percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET

We aim to ensure that more young people stay on in education and training including work based learning through the following actions:

- Map the existing provision and identify gaps
- Develop additional learning opportunities to meet the full range of learner needs
- Continue to develop post-16 provision for vulnerable groups
- Extend the September Guarantee to 17 year olds
- Develop a NEET strategy, including prevention and intervention activities
- Improve information sharing, data and good practice

Key Every Child Matters contact:
Anne Parkinson, West Sussex County Council
4. PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Working better together

We recognise that partnership working is essential to improve joining up of services and to identify gaps in provision where services may need to be introduced. In order to improve the way that agencies work together to improve outcomes for all children and young people in West Sussex, Children’s Trust partners aim to:

- Improve multi-agency performance management arrangements for jointly delivered services and to support LAA/CYPP key targets
- Establish co-located, multi-agency integrated services shaped around the identified needs of children and young people in local communities
- Improve partnership working, with a particular focus on outcomes for children and young people in deprived areas of West Sussex and from potentially excluded groups
- Improve outcomes for children and young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds

Members of the **West Sussex Children’s Trust** include:

- West Sussex County Council
- West Sussex Primary Care Trust
- Sussex Partnership Trust
- Sussex Police
- Sussex Learning and Skills Council
- Borough and District Councils in West Sussex
- Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector
- Schools and Colleges
- Youth Offending Service
Statutory DCSF National Indicators mandatory in the West Sussex LAA 2008-2011 (Enjoy & Achieve)

NI 72  Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy

NI 73  Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)

NI 74  Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3 (Threshold)

NI 75  Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)

NI 83  Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3

NI 87  Secondary school persistent absence rate

NI 92  Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest

NI 93  Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

NI 94  Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

NI 95  Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

NI 96  Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

NI 97  Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

NI 98  Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

NI 99  Children in Care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2

NI 100  Children in Care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2

NI 101  Children in Care achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)
6. FURTHER INFORMATION

The following are a selection of useful documents relating to children and young people in West Sussex:

- Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009
- Children and Young People's Plan Update, 2007
- West Sussex Local Area Agreement 2008-2011
- Lifestyles of 14-15 year olds in West Sussex, 2007
- Critical Mass - Working Together to Tackle Obesity, 2008
- West Sussex Anti-Bullying Strategy 2008-2011
- Learning Improvement Plan, 2008/09
- West Sussex Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan, 2008/09
- West Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- West Sussex Housing and Support Strategy, 2005-2010
- West Sussex County Strategy 2005-2009

The following are useful Internet sites for information about children and young people:

- www.everychildmatters.gov.uk
- www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk
- www.wsgfl.gov.uk

7. CONTACT DETAILS

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