



# **'Positive About Our Future' Kent's Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011**

## **Second Annual Review 2009-2010 Executive Summary**

**Final Version  
15th July 2010**

## Contents

Introduction to set the context from the Chair of the Kent Children's Trust	3
Key Findings	5
Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011: Summary of Review Findings	6
• Consistently Strong Performance	6
• Improved Performance	8
• Improvements in Outcomes identified by Children and Young People	9
• Areas for Improvement or Development	10
• Summary of Review Findings by Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 Priorities	11
Kent Children's Trust Review: Continuing the Transformation – Partnership for a Purpose	29
Developing the Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014	31
Emerging Themes and Challenges Ahead	33
<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix A: Our Focus for Next Year - Action to Address Areas of Improvement or Development	36
Appendix B: Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 Priority Performance Indicators	39

Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 is available at [www.kent.gov.uk/education\\_and\\_learning/plans\\_and\\_consultations/education\\_plans/children\\_young\\_peoples\\_plan.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/education_plans/children_young_peoples_plan.aspx)

# 1) Introduction to set the context from the Chair of Kent Children's Trust

Since our first annual review date we have seen some significant changes and developments, locally and nationally.

Our Vision builds on the original 2008-11 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP):

In Kent successful achievement exceeds aspiration, diversity is valued and every child and family is supported. Children and young people are positive about their future and are at the heart of joined up service planning. They are:

- nurtured and encouraged at home,
- inspired and motivated by learning,
- safe and secure in the community and
- living healthy and fulfilled lives.

This vision will be renewed to ensure consistency with the emerging Vision for Kent ambitions;

- For Kent to be 'open for business' with a growing, prosperous economy and full employment
- To ensure no one in Kent is disadvantaged because of where they live and all have confidence in public services
- For Kent residents to be responsible citizens, taking pride in making themselves, their families and communities healthy, safe and strong.

A thorough review of Kent Children's Trust (KCT) last year has led to a significant change programme to meet new economic circumstances. It was facilitated independently by the national Commissioning Support Programme through an extensive period of challenge and consultation. The full review document is available at

[http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_change\\_for\\_children.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_change_for_children.cfm)

The KCT review promoted better links between the Children's Trust and local partnership working, by moving from September 2010 to 12 district based teams and 12 local Children's Trust Boards, from the 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs.) These partnerships have laid the foundation for more cohesive and coherent work with communities, and many excellent programmes and projects will be continued wherever possible.

Partner agencies will work alongside the KCC district based teams to improve integrated front line service delivery to children and young people, and their families, and provide strong support for our early year's providers and schools. Multi-agency and multi-disciplinary services for children will be coordinated and managed by 12 Preventative Services Managers. They will ensure high quality, while also ensuring that teams around the child and teams around the school will enable children to receive early and rapid additional support when needed.

Our model insists that early years settings, schools, colleges and youth services are at the heart and centre of communities, focusing on universal services with targeted services and specialist support when needed. This links strongly to work with families in line with the Kent Partnership priorities, including better links with our Local Strategic Partnerships.

There is strong commitment in Kent for shared planning, commissioning and delivery. In addition we are working to fully connect with adult services so that we can best respond to families, through a full “Think Family” and Total Place approach.

Our analysis in this review of “how things are going” is an honest picture of what is going well and, how we are targeting those areas where improvement in outcomes and impact is most needed. KCT’s commitment for workforce development, shared resources and congruent priorities will be sustained and redoubled.

While this document is a review of the current CYPP, we are developing a new resourced and commissioned plan for 2011-14. This plan is developing in the light of current performance and needs assessment, to secure positive impact despite the financial pressure on public services. Emerging priorities are being tested out with the KCT Board and the wider public as well as partners, children, young people and families. We know that these priorities will need to address major issues including increasing referrals to social care and increasing numbers of Looked After Children and those with child protection plans. In addition, concerns about housing for children and young people have been brought to the fore, and are being prioritised through Supporting People and partnership with our District Councils.

All Local Authorities are in testing times and Kent is no exception. The KCT Board, supported by its high level Executive Group will need to continue to be strong and resolute in championing the needs of all children, young people and families, ensuring that there is equity and consistence in delivering services. In particular, the Board will challenge and respond to evidence from monitoring and evaluation, and customer feedback.

I believe that the structural reorganisation of local authority services into 12 district teams , and the development of the 12 Local Children’s Trust Boards will create greater collaboration between services to enable the resolution of some stubborn and persistent problems. Forty thousand children and young people in Kent have told us through the NFER Survey what is going well and what needs improving. Through listening and understanding and hard work we can live up to their expectations.

**Rosalind Turner**  
**Chair Kent Children’s Trust**

## **1) Key Findings**

During the review we have identified some key findings. These will influence the work of the Trust during the coming year.

**The original priorities agreed in the 2008 plan are still relevant for improving the lives of children and young people in Kent. However, sufficient progress has been made on a number of outcomes enabling us to refocus on a smaller number of priority areas as we move forward into the development of the CYPP 2011-2014. (See page 31)**

**Some areas of the plan need additional improvement or development to ensure that we achieve the desired levels of improved outcomes. (See page 6)**

**The impacts of living in poverty/with low income are evident across all the Every Child Matters Outcomes for children, young people and their families. This review has identified narrowing gaps as a key area for focus.**

## 2) Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011: Summary of Review Findings

The review highlights a number of areas where Kent Children's Trust has **consistently strong performance** and areas of **improved performance** where a number of performance indicators have improved to a point that is above or in line with national performance. A key area for celebration, not yet measurable through formal performance indicators, is the **significant improvement** in certain levels of positive perceptions of children and young people. It is expected that this will lead to improved results in performance indicators when the time lag in the availability of data has lapsed.

### √ Consistently Strong Performance

The review has confirmed that Kent continues to improve outcomes for children and young people through the implementation of the CYPP. The review has confirmed that Kent is performing well with evidence of **consistently strong performance** in:

- Obesity among primary school children in reception year (Priority 2)
- Reducing the change rate of the countywide under 18 conceptions (Priority 2)

#### **Dartford** - Under 18 Conception Rates

*The Dartford under 18 conception rates are falling at a faster rate than nationally and across Kent. In 2005-7 Dartford under 18 conception rates performance was below the Kent average and national average at -7.0%. By 2006-08 a -6.3% improvement in Dartford (Kent improvement -1.3%) saw performance improvement to a rate better than the Kent average and equal to the national average.*

- Low birth weights, low infant mortality rates and countywide immunisation rates (Priority 3)
- Reducing the number of households living in temporary accommodation (Priority 4.) This means that families and vulnerable people are spending less time in unsuitable accommodation such as bed and breakfasts.

#### **Tonbridge and Malling** - Temporary Accommodation

*Between 2007/08 and 2008/9 the number of households in temporary accommodation in Tonbridge and Malling almost halved from 77 to 39 respectively; and then again to 19 at the end of 2009/10. A housing working party has been established in partnership with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The Borough Council officers have very immediate information on the factors related to homelessness in their locality, as do practitioners in a variety of settings. A housing scoping meeting between Malling and Tonbridge LCSP representatives has also taken place in order to take forward a common action plan.*

- Looked after children benefiting from permanence in their lives with fewer moves and longer placements (Priority 5)
- Improving the educational attainment of the majority of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds at the end of Key Stage 2 (Priority 5)

- Improving the educational attainment of the majority of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds at the end of Key Stage 4 (Priority 5)
- Participation in PE, school sport and competitive school sport (Priority 2 and 6) including continuing the nationally recognised biennial Kent School Games.
- Reducing rate of proven re-offending (Priority 6)

### **Dover and Shepway** – Services and support are available to give young offenders the best opportunity not to reoffend

*The Children and Families Enterprise Project (CAFE) is one of only 11 groups across the country to win this year's Butler Trust award. The award recognises the best of those working in the correctional system. CAFE works with offenders and their families across the Dover and Shepway districts, giving them support on community orders through practical support with housing needs, debt, substance misuse problems and parenting. The scheme has worked with more than 200 families in Kent. Around 70 of these are still being seen on a regular basis. Re-offending rates on the project are around ten percent, compared to around 60 percent for offenders serving jail terms.*

- Many young people making a positive contribution to others, their community or school (Priority 6)
- Narrowing the Early Years Foundation Stage achievement gap (Priority 7)
- Reducing the number of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in employment education or training. (Priority 7)
- Achievement of 5 or more A\*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Mathematics (Priority 7)
- A large percentage of young people participating in vocational programmes who agreed this was having a positive impact on their lives (Priority 7)
- Strong arrangements for agencies to work together in keeping children and young people safe (Priority 8)
- Good performance by Children's Social Services on assessments, referrals and reviews. (Priority 8)
- Strong commitment from all partners, with a shared vision of improving outcomes, to work together at strategic and local level to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Good progress on Extended Services and Children Centre's developments.
- Informed commissioning through the sharing of multi-agency data across the partnership.
- Development of ambitious and innovative Trust structures and inter agency governance arrangements.
- Many opportunities for young people to have their say and get involved.

### **Maidstone and Malling** – Young People have their say

*Kent International Student Voice Network (ISVN) provides regular opportunities for international students to gather and share their thoughts, and to get acquainted. In Maidstone and Malling there are 6 schools who participate in the ISVN events and 18 different languages are spoken. A number of the children and young people are from Poland, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Lithuania, Nepal, Portugal and France. The ISVN have been involved in producing a Participation Commitments and Standards Document, UK induction booklets in schools, completing the NFER survey as well as a range of community activities, including the members of the network planning their own trip to Thorpe Park.*

## √ Improved Performance

A number of additional outcomes for children and young people in Kent have improved since the first annual review (2008/09) of the CYPP. Indicators that have **improved performance** and are now at a rate comparable to the national average include:

- Care leavers in employment education and training (Priority 5).
- Health checks and dental checks for LAC (Priority 5)
- Reducing the number of first time entrants to the youth offending system as recorded by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and Kent Police (Priority 6)
- Young offenders engaged in employment, education or training (Priority 6 and 7)
- Achievement in the Early Years (Priority 7)
- Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (Priority 7)
- Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19 (Priority 7)

Kent's performance on CYPP priority indicators is available at **Appendix B**.

## √ Improvements in Outcomes identified by Children and Young People

In addition to improvements in performance indicators the results from engagement with children and young people are also demonstrating improvements. The views of children and young people are important for KCT to understand what works, what does not work and what could work better.

**Priority 2** (Improve resilience and healthy/safe choices.) This year an increased proportion of children and young people have reported that they;

- Never drink alcohol
- Never get drunk
- Have never smoked
- Never feel sad and depressed

**Priority 5** (Improving achievement and quality of life for young carers) Young carers reported that (Kent Young Carers Strategy Consultation with Young Carers);

- They receive the information they need to support them
- The support that they receive from the young carer's projects is by far the most valuable
- They had developed through being a carer with better coping mechanisms, life skills and having an accelerated level of maturity than other young people their age
- They are better equipped for the future

**Priority 6** (Things to do and safe places to go) This year an increased proportion of children and young people have reported that they;

- Play outside
- Play with their friends or do things with their family after school

**Priority 7** (Engagement and participation in education, employment and society) A large proportion of children;

- Enjoy school at least sometimes
- Feel that they are doing well at school

This year an increased proportion of children and young people have reported that;

- Their school gives them very good careers advice

**Priority 8** (Feel safe in communities and at school) This year an increased proportion of children and young people have reported that they;

- Have not been bullied
- Receive enough information about internet safety

A large proportion of 'seldom heard' children (at focus groups) reported that they

- Would talk to someone when they needed help
- Feel safe getting to and from school
- Feel safe whilst they are at school.

The majority of these views are from the Children and Young People of Kent survey which can be found at: [www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_multiagency\\_info.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_multiagency_info.cfm)

## Areas for Improvement or Development

The review has also identified a number of areas that still require focus. Focused activity has made progress towards improving these outcomes for children and young people, but evidence cannot be provided to demonstrate that all of the activity is making a difference yet. This is a result of the time lag in the availability of data to prove that there has been a change, or because the activity has not had time to make an impact on outcomes yet.

Further work is required in 2010/11 to secure the desired levels of improved outcomes for children and young people. As we move forward we need to:

- Further **narrow the gap** in outcomes between children and young people who are eligible for free school meals/ come from low income families and their peers including the proportion of children from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education. We need to further improve the inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 and the take up of formal childcare by low income working families (Priority 1)
- Improve **Key Stage 2 attainment** (Priority 7)
- Continue to **recruit and retain social workers** to improve targeting of preventative services in order to reduce the high numbers of referrals and increasing numbers of children subject to **Child Protection Plans** (Priority 8)
- Improve the **emotional health of children** including the emotional and behavioural health of children in care, with a particular focus on developing the CAMHS service for disabled young people in Kent (Priority 2 and 5)
- Sustain the level of data coverage and further increase the percentage of mothers **breastfeeding** at 6-8 weeks and reduce **smoking during pregnancy** (Priority 3)
- Further reduce the number of **under 18 conceptions** in Thanet, Swale, Ashford, Maidstone, Shepway and Dartford (Priority 2)
- Further improve young offenders access to suitable accommodation, reduce the proportion of statutory **homelessness** acceptances accounted for by 16 and 17 year olds and increase the proportion of care leavers in **suitable accommodation** (Priority 4)
- Reduce the number of children in Kent that are **killed or seriously injured** in road traffic collisions (Priority 8)

**Appendix A** includes detailed action to address the areas that require improvement or development.

## Summary of Review Findings by Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 Priorities

### Priority 1: To reduce the impact of poverty (generational and situational) on children's lives by tackling the underlying causes and mitigating the effects.

#### What we are doing well:

Kent is already seeing a number of positive signs from early work to reduce the impact of poverty on families across Kent. The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 and the inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 have all made slight improvements this year.

The current recession has made it increasingly important to tackle the effects that living on a low income has on children's lives as more families are facing financial hardship. In response, Kent Children's Trust has increased the number and sustainability of childcare places in Kent, including the number of schools offering out of hours childcare.

Access to early year's provision has also been improved, which has meant that we are now reaching over 42,000 children, exceeding the government's target one year early, and increasing the take up of places by historically under represented communities.

Kent Freedom Pass has been rolled out countywide offering those in Years 7 – 11 the opportunity to have unlimited transport by public bus for a one off charge of £50 per annum. 22,057 passes were issued as of March 2010. Around 600,000 journeys are made each month with Freedom Passes. This greatly enhances opportunities for young people to access services, after school activities and lead more independent lives.

In 2009/10 the use of 'Your Choice' funding was piloted in 8 LCSPs in order to ensure that economically disadvantaged young people get the opportunity to take part in activities outside the core school hours in tandem with support and signposting for parents. During the year 6,203 children were supported by the funding.

Significant concessions for the use of leisure facilities are available to young people across the county who are living on low incomes. One example of this is the free swimming initiatives that are currently being offered universally to under 16 year olds in some districts and the targeting of free swimming initiatives at groups such as Looked After Children, disabled people, mothers and children in other districts.

Sport England's 'Sport Unlimited' programme has been used to provide low/no cost sport and recreational activities across the County for young people aged 5-19 years old. Over 10,000 young people have been involved in the programme between April 2008 and March 2010.

**Gravesend** - Ensure local services are equipped to offer a first line of support and signposting to debt counseling and welfare services

*A community solicitor visits Next Steps Children's Centre and King Farm School, Gravesend, on a weekly basis. Where necessary, parents are sign posted to appropriate services by the solicitor and staff from the children's centre. This includes supporting the users to attend arranged appointments, and assisting with resolving problems where they can.*

The Local Authority Innovation Pilot (2 year Poverty Pilot) has enabled us to test the use of enhanced support funds for families facing immediate difficulty, and has provided front line family support workers with the resources to alleviate situational poverty. Over 200 families have been supported.

Kent's Credit Union, Kent Savers, resulted in 600 loan applications and 700 membership applications within the first 6 weeks of operation. So far, Kent Savers has received an unprecedented demand for loans and saving accounts which have surpassed any previous credit union launch in the UK.

**LCSPs** - Ensure local services are equipped to offer a first line of support and signposting to debt counseling and welfare services

*137 offender families (cases) have received intensive support through the jointly commissioned St Giles Trust Project. This project supports offender families with issues around housing, employment, training, benefits and debts, as well as accessing services such as substance misuse and domestic abuse. A large percentage of families supported have not returned to crime.*

Kent Children's Trust is contributing to the development of the Margate Task Force Total Place Pilot. The Task Force is set up to develop new ways of multi-agency working, connecting strategic decision makers at a very local level to improve outcomes for residents in two of the most deprived wards in Kent.

**Areas for improvement or development:**

Further narrow the gap in outcomes between children and young people who are eligible for free school meals and their peers including the proportion of children from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education.

Further improve the inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.

Further improve the take up of childcare and funded two year old places by low income families.

**Priority 2: To draw on and improve resilience in Children and Young People to help them make informed and healthy/safe choices and develop coping strategies. To include a focus on Children and Young People with emotional and/or mental health problems.**

**What we are doing well:**

Children and young people in Kent have said that they are physically healthy and generally enjoy life, 92% of 7-11 year olds report that they usually feel happy. 79% of 11-16 year olds and 82% of post 16 year olds agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoy their life (Children and Young People of Kent Survey 2009.)

The 2009 survey has also identified an increase in the proportion of young people that report that they **“never drink alcohol, never get drunk, have never smoked and never feel sad or depressed.”**

Obesity in Kent in both the Reception year and year six is below the national average. In 2008/09 the improvement in the percentage of children classified as obese in reception year was sustained.

Over 90% of pupils are now participating in two hours of high quality PE and school sport per week compared to 64% three years ago. 50% of pupils are involved in inter-school sport competitions, which is well above the national average of 44%. 187 new or enhanced out of school sports activities on school sites have been funded and delivered both after school and during the school holidays, 24 of these during 2009/10.

Kent Children’s Trust is working hard to reduce the change rate of the countywide under 18 conceptions. The change in rate of under 18 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 years has improved from 37.3 in 2007/08 to 36.7 in 2008/09. This is slightly better than national and statistical neighbours averages of 40.4 and 37.1.

Through early intervention and prevention services Kent has increased the awareness of the damaging effects of smoking, alcohol, and early or unprotected sex.

**LCSPs** - Access to high quality Sex and Relationships Education and to confidential services delivered by trained professionals

*The ‘House’ campaign has run for a short-term period, approximately 1 month, in town centre shops located in each of the 12 Kent districts throughout the year. Over 13,000 young people have visited the “House”, allowing a wide range of young people access to sexual health, smoking cessation, substance misuse and other guidance and support from a range of professionals. The project has also led to some young people being tested and treated for sexual diseases.*

Kent is also providing training programmes, peer programmes and information to educate professionals and young people about teenage pregnancy, extending C Card access points (access to free condoms and sexual health information) and developing sexual health services in secondary school and communities. Currently there are 45 secondary schools and 26 sexual health outreach nurses delivering services across Kent.

## **Canterbury** - Access to high quality Sex and Relationships Education and to confidential services delivered by trained professionals

*All secondary schools in Canterbury have a two hour weekly health clinic, these have a strong sexual health element so young people can access advice and support. All secondary schools have received funding to develop drug and alcohol peer mentoring programmes. Canterbury's LCSPs are also working on a common PSHE curriculum across all Partnership schools.*

Within Kent's LCSPs, Young Active Parents Groups (YAPs) are well established. In March 2010, 30 groups had been created, with approximately 243 young parents attending. Of the young parents referred to the young parent's team, 44% are now in education, employment or training. There has been a 500% increase in referrals since April 2009, which means that 90% of young parents are being registered to ensure that they gain access to the wide range of opportunities that should be available to all young people.

All LCSPs are supporting parents to promote wellbeing, self confidence and self esteem in their children and young people. All activity has involved parents and children and has covered topics such as my family, healthy me, emotions, anti bullying and internet safety. Family learning sessions and parenting classes are also being delivered through schools by Adult Education.

## **LCSPs** – Make sure children with mental health problems receive timely support and appropriate ongoing care

*Across Kent's LCSPs, the Support Service for Kids and Young People (SSKY) project offers support for young people who are within Tier 2 of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) four-tier strategic framework. The SSKY support workers provide emotional nurture and support for children and young people with emotional/challenging behaviour. In addition, they provide advice and support for the parents/carers of these children and young people in managing their behaviour at home.*

## **Areas for improvement or development**

There is considerable variation in under 18 conception rates between districts both in baseline rates and in the reduction achieved. Teenage pregnancy is highest in areas of deprivation.

We need to improve the emotional health of children including the emotional and behavioural health of children in care with a particular focus on developing the CAMHS service for disabled young people in Kent (Priority 2 and 5)

Work is also needed to ensure that the percentage of children who are obese in year six remains below the national average.

**Priority 3: To improve parenting by implementing Every Parent Matters and developing more effective multi-agency support and early intervention for families experiencing problems.**

**What we are doing well:**

Kent Children's Trust has maintained low birth weights and low infant mortality rates. Immunisation rates are generally above the national average and are particularly good in Dover, Gravesend, Maidstone and Canterbury.

The number of mothers that are asked if they are breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks after birth has rapidly increased from 78.6% at the end of 2008/09 to 89.0% in June 2009 and 95.4% in September 2009. This increased data coverage has meant that Kent's performance in this indicator has also improved, to 32.6% in June 2009 and 38.0% in September 2009.

This year Kent Children's Trust has engaged a broad range of mothers, fathers, carers and extended families from across all sections of the community by working in partnership with a range of parent groups. In 2009 the KCT produced its Think Family Implementation Plan for Supporting Parents. This outlines how KCT will deliver the Kent Children's Trust Strategy for Supporting Parents produced in 2008. Local Parents' fora across the county have begun to shape local priorities for parents and there are different models and priorities emerging. Actively seeking the views of, and developing services in partnership with parents has ensured that local provision is needs led.

The co-ordination of parenting support in Kent has been centralised in order to improve the quality of programmes on offer to parents and to engage a broad range of mothers, fathers, carers and extended family. This year, we have built the potential to reach an additional 1350 parents and this will increase as we develop our offer of evidence based programmes across the county.

Kent has continued to promote family learning opportunities, encouraging parents to learn along with their children. In 2009/10 over 10,000 adults were enrolled on family or parenting based programmes.

**Tunbridge Wells and Paddock Wood - Parental Involvement**

*Parents in Paddock Wood have worked with the Extended Schools team to plan and run some summer holiday activities for children and young people in the local area as volunteers.*

*In Tunbridge Wells the local partnership has worked with parent's fora to arrange a training course for parents about improving communication skills.*

Kent is delivering the "Your family matters" service in Kent in four districts through the Parenting Early Intervention Programme and the Respect Agenda. This is for parents of children who are at risk of anti social behaviour and negative outcomes. This service delivers Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities which is an evidence based, structured, parenting programme designed for parents and carers with children aged 3 to 18 years. All sessions are based on a facilitative, development model and cover three key areas; positive discipline, enhancing parent/child relationships and community interaction. So far, the programme has achieved very good results, with both parents and children reporting improvements in family relationships, children's social skills and self discipline. The districts involved are Ashford, Maidstone, Shepway and Thanet.

Kent has also worked with the Fatherhood Institute to develop Father Inclusive Guidance for the commissioning, planning and delivery of services in Kent. Fathers are becoming increasingly engaged with schools, play and out of hours activities, children's centres, family learning, and parenting programmes. There has been an increase in the number of dads accessing evidence based parenting programmes.

Domestic abuse is a priority for all agencies and partnerships across Kent. All of the Community Safety Partnerships in Kent include domestic abuse targets within their action plans, focusing on repeat victimisation rates. Kent Police have established the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) across each police area. This was a key part of the Kent Policing Plan and has been a high priority. The introduction has been very successful.

The Kent Hidden Harm Strategy was developed in 2009/10, led by Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team. This strategy focuses on helping children of substance misusing parents and links with the Kent Alcohol Strategy.

Drug treatment services in the county are increasingly focusing on improving quality and effectiveness of treatment and Kent has an above average rate of successful discharge from treatment (54%) as at May 2010.

Kent Children's Trust continue to support and guide teachers, parents and pupils on domestic violence issues through Domestic Violence Safe School officers and school Drug Education Advisors.

#### **Areas for improvement or development:**

Breast feeding. We will sustain the data coverage of the prevalence of breast feeding at 6 to 8 weeks and further improve the prevalence of breast feeding.

A reduction in smoking during pregnancy. Smoking during pregnancy in Kent is above national rates, and has increased slightly in line with the national trend. In 2008/09 17.9% of mothers in Kent smoked in pregnancy. 15.6% of mothers in West Kent PCT and 20.2% of mothers in East and Coastal Kent PCT.

**Priority 4: To improve the quality and stability of housing provision for vulnerable children & young people through to early adulthood.**

**What we are doing well:**

Kent continues to reduce the number of households living in temporary accommodation. This means that families and vulnerable people are spending less time in unsuitable accommodation such as bed and breakfasts.

Partnership work between the Supporting People Team, Kent Housing Group and Joint Policy and Planning Board for Housing has focused on housing issues and has produced a report on 'Young People, including Homeless 16/17 year olds' a sub theme of the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy that is currently being developed. This report will form the basis of the commentary on the sub-theme in the main Strategy document and includes innovative responses that maximize the value of the partnerships that exist across Kent and Medway.

There is considerable activity taking place across Kent which shares the ambition of CYPP priority 4 and in which key partners in the Kent Children's Trust are engaged. This partnership has recently been strengthened by the inclusion of the Chairs of both Kent Housing Group and Joint Planning and Planning Board (JPPB) on the KCT Board. Examples of activity include;

- The Social Innovation Lab for Kent is currently undertaking a very detailed, participative study on the housing needs of offenders including young offenders which will give valuable insight into the young people's experience.
- The Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015 has recently been published. This identifies Young People at Risk as a priority group. The current provision for young people at risk in Kent is 190 short-term accommodation-based units and 199 short-term floating support units with an additional 77 short-term accommodation-based units for young people leaving care. Accommodation-based units include supported lodgings, foyers, specialist voluntary sector provision and assured short-hold tenancies.
- Catch22 16plus operates a supported lodging scheme across Kent, which currently offers 141 places for young people aged 16 to 21 years. This year work has been done to further develop the skills and knowledge of the accommodators to enable them to provide suitable accommodation and support to the more vulnerable young people including serious offenders and those with more challenging behaviours, who find it difficult to access mainstream or specialist services.
- To improve the time taken to secure housing adaptations to meet the needs of families with disabled children, work has commenced on writing good practice protocols to be adopted across the 12 district councils and KCC. In addition, 3 more Occupational Therapists and assistants and 2 locums have been recruited to tackle the waiting list.
- Partnership links are being strengthened between the Catch22 16 plus service and housing departments.
- Information leaflets for homeless young people, and procedural guidance for housing and duty social workers, are being prepared.

It has been noted by all contributors that Priority 4 is unlikely to be achieved solely within the Trust's structure. Housing issues are complex and cut across regeneration, community safety and social care agendas. Statutory responsibilities are also divided amongst agencies and tiers of local government. A coherent, integrated approach to the agenda has been identified as a priority. In support of Priority 4, Kent Children's Trust need to

continue its work to become a strong influencer of housing strategy and a champion of the needs of children, families and young people.

### **Areas for improvement or development:**

Reduce the proportion of statutory homelessness acceptances accounted for by 16 and 17 year olds. Numbers vary by district, with highest numbers in Shepway, Dover and Dartford. Finalising the Young Person's Protocol is key to this improvement, as it will reinforce partnership working between Kent's housing authorities and Children's Social Services in order to address issues more consistently across the county, and in accordance with the Southwark Judgment.

Further improve young offenders access to suitable accommodation

Increase the proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation. Despite improvement in 2008/09, there is evidence that Kent is still performing less well than other areas in the provision of accommodation for young people leaving care. In April 2010 there were 1,236 'looked after' children (excluding asylum seeking children and children placed by other Local Authorities) in Kent, which could indicate a likely future need for housing-related support.

Address the shortage of available temporary accommodation, a lack of emergency accommodation and the shortage of suitable housing for disabled young people and families.

**Priority 5: Supporting vulnerable children to improve their life chances including improving the achievement and quality of life for young carers by implementing the Kent Young Carers Strategy.**

**What we are doing well:**

We want to make sure that those children and young people who face difficult circumstances or who are the most vulnerable in our communities are safe, happy, enjoy life and have hopes for a good future.

“You have the ability and knowledge as a carer and experiences that will help with work. I want to be a police officer. I am not judgmental and I understand different circumstances. *Young Carer in Kent*

This year the Partnership has consulted on and reviewed the Young Carers Strategy, ‘Invisible People.’ The key message shared by young carers was that they generally receive the information they need to support them from school and young carer’s projects. The young carer’s commented that the support that they receive from the young carer’s projects is by far the most valuable source of support and

information. There are approximately 2,800 young carers in Kent and the Partnership supports 6 young carers projects.

In July 2009 Kent County Council and the National Health Service signed up to Every Disabled Child Matters, a formal commitment to make life better for disabled children and their families. This campaign will ensure that disabled children and children with a learning difficulty have equal rights and opportunities.

Kent has continued to develop services to provide early and effective diagnosis and support for children who may have a learning difficulty and/ or disability. In 2009/10 an increased number of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency assessments were undertaken. Team Around the Child Meetings and Key Working have also resulted in high levels of parental satisfaction due to a more co-ordinated approach to supporting the child’s and family’s needs.

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) and non-SEN gap in pupils achieving Key Stage 2 English and Mathematics and in pupils achieving 5 A\* - C GCSEs including English and Mathematics in Kent are in line with national and statistical averages.

**Maidstone – SEN/ Non SEN Achievement Gap**

*LCSPs, Maidstone 1 and 2, have reduced the SEN and Non SEN gap of pupils achieving 5 A\* - C GCSEs including English and Mathematics to a much greater degree than the Kent average. In Maidstone 1 the gap reduced by 11.6% from 58.8% in 2007/08 to 47.2% in 2008/09. Similarly, in Maidstone 2 the gap reduced by 10.4% from 57.3% in 2007/08 to 46.9% in 2008/09. Both Maidstone 1 and 2 improved from the lower quartile in Kent in 2007/08 to average performance in 2008/09.*

In 2009 the Lead School Implementation Pilot commenced in Ashford, Shepway, Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley. The lead school model represents a new way of working for specialist provision and support to children with Special Educational Needs in mainstream schools.

Multi-agency transition protocols have also been implemented in Kent. These set out the clear commitment to every disabled young person in Kent that they will get co-ordinated support to help them move from adolescence to adulthood. This year 77% of young people and carers asked were happy or very happy with the support that they currently receive.

A full range of activities are in place to develop and extend the suitable range of services for disabled children that provide access to respite, community and recreational activities through the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme. The Short Breaks Pathfinder Programme has been further developed this year and 9,600 short breaks were delivered, an increase of over 100%.

The partnership continues to implement Kent's pledge to children and young people in care including ensuring that Looked After Children (LAC) receive their personal education allowance and by extending the Kent Freedom Pass scheme to all LAC and care leavers aged 16-21 years (24 years if in Higher Education).

Looked after children are benefiting from permanence in their lives in Kent, with fewer moves and longer placements. An increasing number of LAC are receiving regular health and dental checks and more care leavers are in employment, education and training.

**Swale** - Looked after Children are fulfilling their potential and have the help and support that they need

*A multiagency event for Looked After Children (LAC) has taken place in Swale. This identified planning priorities and re-invigorated the LAC steering group across Swale to drive priorities for Kent LAC children. The LAC team recently supported young people in producing a DVD highlighting their experiences, wishes and feelings.*

The educational attainment of the majority of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 has improved to at least as well or better than all Kent pupils.

Kent Children's Trust has continued to ensure access, inclusion and equality of educational outcomes for whom English is an Additional Language. Rates of educational progress for children with English as an Additional Language (EAL) are currently slightly higher than for children without EAL.

**Areas for improvement or development:**

Maintain and improve the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and non-SEN gap in pupils achieving level 4 in English and Mathematics at Key Stage 2 and the SEN/ non-SEN gap in pupils achieving 5 A\* - C GCSEs including English and Mathematics.

Improve Kent's performance in relation to children in care reaching level 4 in English and Mathematics at Key Stage 2.

**Priority 6: To ensure more young people have things to do and safe places to go in their leisure time and improve outcomes for adolescents at risk to themselves and potentially others, through for example implementation of the Integrated Youth Support Services Strategy.**

**What we are doing well:**

Participation in PE, school sport and competitive school sport has continued to increase in Kent schools above the national average (see Priority 2.) Schools, children and young people across Kent are actively engaged in a range of London 2012 related sporting events and learning programmes with Kent being recognised as the most proactive Local Authority in the UK. Kent school's 20in12 learning programme received national recognition with the award of an education 'Inspire Mark' by the London 2012 education team.

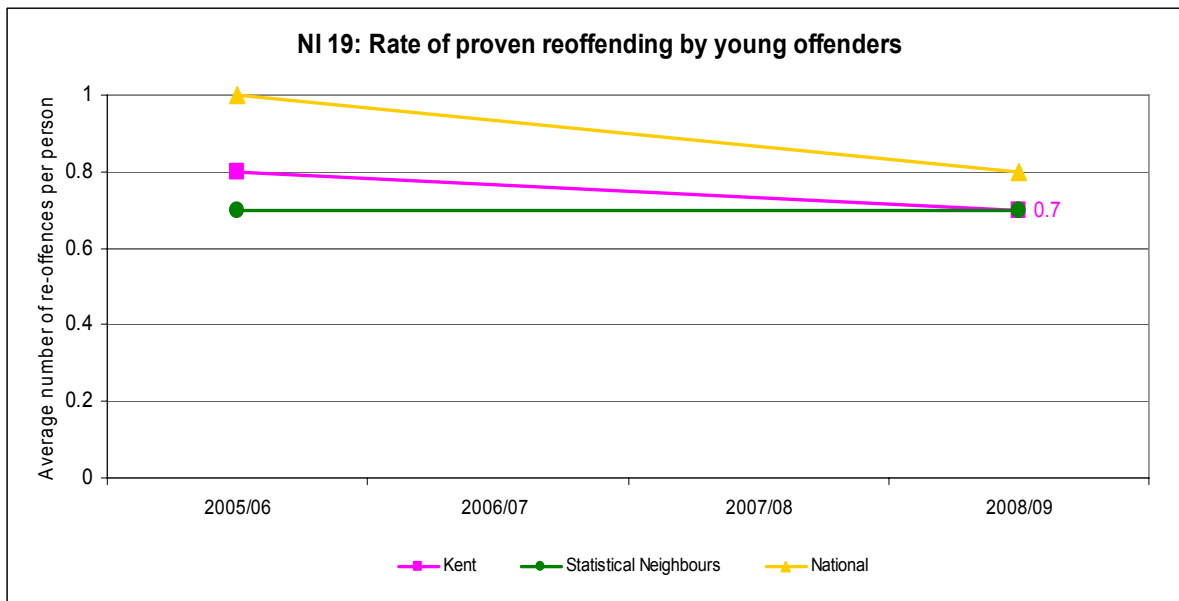
The highly successful Kent School Games which is a biennial event involving 30,000 young people and 550 schools attracted National interest and is being put forward by the Department of Media, Culture and Sport as a model from which a new national school's Olympics is to be introduced prior to the London 2012 Games. Both the Kent School Games and the Kent 20in12 Learning programme formed an integral part of the successful application for Kent to receive 'Beacon' status for its outstanding Olympic and Paralympic Legacy programme.

Kent Youth Service are now providing in excess of 70 full-time youth projects across the county and have been awarded the National Youth Agency's Quality Mark for Youth Services as recognition of the continuing high quality of delivery taking place for young people at a county-wide and local level. The Voluntary and Community Sector are also providing 33 youth projects. During 2008/09 more than 3,800 young people took part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award across the county, with higher than ever completion rates including, for the first time ever, 100 young people completing their Gold Award.

The partnership has also supported the transforming of local areas into innovative, adventurous and safe recreational spaces. There has been significant investment across the county in new play areas, ball courts and all weather pitches.

The number of first time entrants to the youth offending system as recorded by the Youth Offending Service and Kent Police for 2009/10 was 1908. This is a reduction of 617 entrants compared to the 2008/09, figure of 2526. This 24% reduction far exceeds the 2% target.

Kent Children's Trust has also been working hard to reduce the rate of re-offending and, this year, Kent has achieved their best performance with respect to the percentage of young people in education, employment or training at the close of their intervention at 78%.



Activity towards these improvements include;

- Embedding of the Youth Inclusion Support Panel process in each of the twelve districts.
- Extending the use of restorative processes by schools and Kent Police as diversionary measures from the youth justice system.
- Continuing the Drug Intervention Support Programme (DISP) which diverts young people from formal youth justice disposals and from school exclusions.
- Increasing the number of children and young people which have been assessed by a multi-agency Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP) in Kent.

### Areas for improvement or development:

KCT will continue to ensure that young people have things to do and safe places to go in their leisure time. Further investigation is needed into the sharp rise in the reported lack of local activities by national indicator data, as there has not been a reduction in activities delivered and it does not match the headline increase in engagement identified through both the Tell Us Survey and the Children & Young People of Kent Survey.

KCT will also pilot the volunteering project 'Kent Youth Community Action Pilot' for 14 – 16 year olds to promote and deliver a wide range of local volunteering opportunities.

**Priority 7: To increase engagement and participation by young people in education, employment and society in order to prevent disaffection and improve security**

**What we are doing well:**

Children and young people across Kent achieved excellent academic results in 2009, racing ahead compared with national figures. 73% of Kent students achieved five A\* to C grades, around five percent above the national average, and an improvement of 5.6% on 2008. In addition 52% of Kent students gained five A\* to C grades (including English and Maths), an increase of 2.3% on 2008 and has surpassed all previous records.

"We are already seeing an improvement in the "What has all this meant for the children? They are articulate, confident and independent in their learning. How do we know? They tell us it through their play. Our observations of the children are showing them using their imagination as they build, investigate and enquire" *Teacher in the "Buddying" project in Gravesham.*

Improvements have been made in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy) for the third year in succession. In the thirteen aspects of learning that are assessed at the end of the reception year, all thirteen demonstrated improvement in 2009.

There was a significant improvement for children in the lowest 30% Super Output Areas (SOAs) and the gap was reduced between these children and those in the rest of Kent.

**Cranbrook and Paddock Wood - Improving the learning environment for our youngest learners**

*Communication Friendly Spaces is a two year project in the Cranbrook and Paddock Wood area. All schools and pre-school settings across Early Years Foundation Settings are involved in the project to improve the environment for learning and communication. "The course was very inspiring! It has made me evaluate my classroom layout and environment and the areas that I have developed so far have already had an impact on the children's speaking & listening." Primary School Teacher.*

The capacity of LCSPs to improve reading has been enhanced this year by training 70 reading recovery teachers as part of the 'Every Child a Reader' programme. Sixty eight schools have implemented the programme in Kent, for 382 children. 78% of children on the programme have made accelerated progress.

A pilot 'numbers count,' part of the 'Every Child Counts' programme also began this year. This is aimed at improving achievement in mathematics for 7 year olds. Statistics from the pilot, 37 children, indicated that children's progress was accelerated by average gains of 14.4 months from 20 one to one sessions.

**Ashford and Thanet - Kent's Early Talk projects**

*Kent's Early Talk Project's have been accepted by the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) as a Validated Local Practice example for their early intervention and prevention and disability themes. Two projects, in Thanet and Ashford, have CFE, NHS and I-Can charity working together to support children with speech and language difficulties and reduce the need for specialist unit placements.*

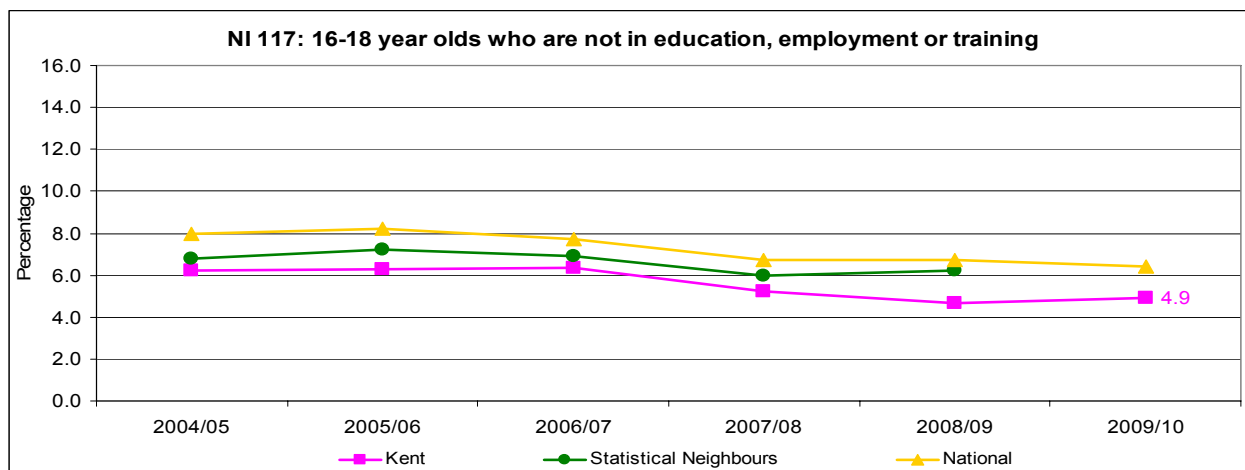
Pupil progress has been tracked and monitored across primary schools during the year to ensure schools are on track to reach agreed targets and to track progress of individual pupils and particular groups. 4,324 Key Stage 2 places were funded for One to One Tuition during the academic year 2009/10. 394 primary and 4 special schools took up the offer.

The Children and Young People of Kent Survey 2009 identified that 85% of children, aged 7-11 years, reported that they enjoyed school at least sometimes and 68% of 7-11 year olds felt that they were doing well at school.

**Sevenoaks** - Work with parents to promote well being, self confidence and self esteem in our children and young people

*Sevenoaks South has launched the Buddy Bear Project to assist parents and children with the challenges and pressures of school transition. All children and parents are completing a 'Going to Big School' booklet to enable information sharing between parents, children and reception teachers.*

The partnership has maintained good performance in relation to the proportion of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) despite being pressured from the downturn in the economy.



Kent achieved their DCSF target of 5.5% persistent absence from secondary school a year early, in 2008/09. The Local Authority is described by the National Strategies Regional Adviser as being 'on trajectory' to meet the national target of 5% persistent absence from secondary school by 2010/11.

The percentage of secondary school pupils (aged 11 to 16) who think that their school gives them very good careers advice, has increased from 43% in 2008 to 55% in 2009, exceeding the 2009 target of 50%. A universal Kent Careers and Guidance programme has been piloted including a Kent Careers Education Curriculum Framework.

**Areas for improvement or development:**

Improve Key Stage 2 attainment in English and Mathematics.

Further reduce - secondary school persistent absence.

Focused work with particular groups within the NEETs cohort for example, learners with additional needs and young carers.

**Priority 8: Children and young people are safe and feel safe in the communities where they live, go to school, play and work – with a focus on taking action to reduce the incidence and impact of bullying in school and the community.**

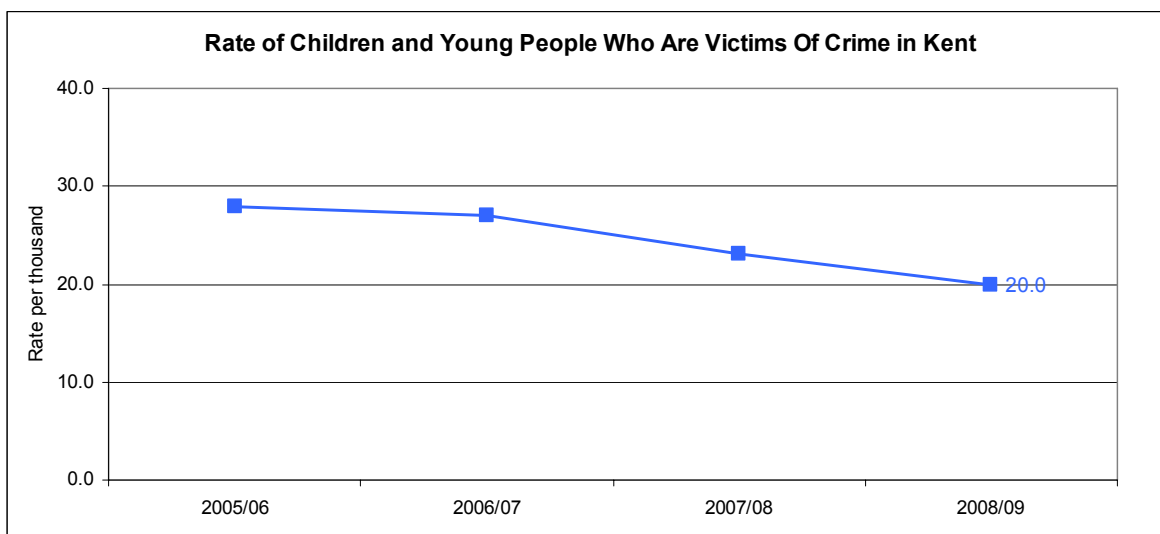
**What we are doing well:**

The percentage of children and young people who have ever been bullied in Kent has reduced. This coincides with an increase in the proportion of 7 -16 year olds who feel safe at school and that would talk to an adult at school when they need help. The proportion of 11-16 year olds who report that the following concerns are not a problem in the area that they live has also increased; people on drugs, people carrying knives, and travelling on a bus or train.

**Swanley and District - Tackling racism and promoting race equality**

*Swanley and District LCSP are 'showing racism the red card'. A free training programme has been developed to tackle racism and promote race equality. The training enables delegates to develop programmes of citizenship education by providing knowledge and accessible resource, meet legal obligations under the race relations act and the educations and inspections act and promote equality and tackle discrimination in line with the new Ofsted framework. The partnership also has four faith tents for promoting diversity in schools.*

There has been a reduction in the rate of children and young people who are the victims of crime from 27.9 (rate per 1,000) in 2005/6 to 20.0 in 2008/9.



The partnership has continued the Restorative Approaches (RA) pilot in educational settings across Kent. Evidence that the pilot has improved outcomes is beginning to be accumulated through changing the culture in schools.

“This (restorative approach) is beneficial to most people and we are proud to be part of this. It has helped our school, the students and us. We now look at situations with a wide mind and can think of many choices and paths to choose from when we are troubled and can view things in a different way. It has also helped us from day to day as we realise peer mediation can tackle many issues such as prejudice and can help us with our own problems.” *Year 11 pupil, Mid Kent Secondary School*

Children's social services have maintained a low initial assessment rate in Kent despite increased referral rates. There has been a reduction in the number of social worker vacancies through USA and European recruitment drives. In February 2010, 27 social workers from the USA joined Kent children's social services.

Kent Children's Trust and Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) are committed to developing a strong, constructive and mutually challenging relationship that will promote the safety and well-being of Kent's children. KSCB appointed an independent Chair in December 2009, and during beginning of 2010 reviewed its existing business plan and identified key strategic aims and specific objectives for the next three years. Both Boards agree that there needs to be robust tie-in of their business planning processes to ensure they are both bringing added-value to shared goals. This includes delivering the recommendations identified through the 'Safeguarding children in Kent: Defending and Developing the Service' assessment and report.

Kent's resident's confidence in the Kent Children's Trust partners, including Kent Police, to deal with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter locally has increased from 24.7% in 2007/8 to 48% in 2009. In March 2010, Kent Police Crime and Victimisation Survey identified 77.5% of victims of anti-social behaviour as being satisfied with actions taken to tackle anti- social behaviour following reporting it.

### **Dover, Deal and Sandwich - Community Safety**

*There is an ongoing community safety project in East Kent in partnership with Dover, Deal and Sandwich Community Safety Partnership, St Edmund's Catholic School of Performing Arts and Sandwich Technology School, KCA, Community Wardens, School and Sexual Health Outreach Nurses, Kent Fire and Rescue and Kent Ambulance service and Kent Police. The aim is to produce a resource for parents which addresses issues around alcohol, drugs and community safety. Every family in the Dover, Deal and Sandwich area will receive a copy.*

The proportion of young people who report that they receive enough information about internet safety has increased from 60% in 2008/09 to 73% in 2009/10. E-safety has been promoted to schools, parents and children and young people and training has been made available.

### **Areas for improvement or development:**

We need to continue to understand why road safety is a concern, focusing on reducing the number of children who are killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. Cyclists and young people who walk to school report feeling less safe than those who travel by car.

Continue to recruit and retain social workers to improve targeting of preventative services in order to reduce the high numbers of referrals and increasing numbers of children subject to Child Protection Plans. A key objective for 2010/11 is to further reduce the social work vacancy rate to 10 - 15% across the county.

Develop a stronger focus on the outcomes that services and arrangements designed to protect children are achieving.

## Enabling measures to support delivery of the 8 Kent Children's Trust Priorities

The review has confirmed that there is a strong commitment from all partners and a shared vision of improving outcomes. Partners are working together at strategic and local level to achieve this vision. This was highlighted in the KCT commissioning and delivery review.

### **Dartford** - My Place Initiative

*Through the My Place initiative partners will be providing a vibrant and accessible youth provision in Dartford. Work between a variety of partners has offered support and challenge to solve some of the long standing issues in the area, including the engagement of voluntary and community groups, Total Place in action.*

There has been increased evidence of the improved joint working through the Local Children Service Partnership's (LCSP) and multi-agency front line services, with many LCSPs working together to pool resources and focus on local issues that require a district wide response.

Good progress has also been made on Extended Services and Children's Centre developments. We now have 97 children's centres, with 72 providing the full core offer of services including out of hours childcare and 25 that are currently developing their services in line with local needs.

### **Thanet** – Extended Services

*Following the success of the Quartet group of Extended Schools in Margate, Extended Schools Development Managers (ESDM) have been in discussion with all Thanet schools to agree mini Extended Schools groupings across the Thanet LCSPs. Thanet ESDMs have drawn up plans to allocate Standards Fund for Sustainability 2008/11 to these mini groupings. These plans include the appointment of an Extended Schools Co-ordinator (ESCO) to each grouping. The ESCOs have been in place from the start of 2009, their initial remit being to determine schools' priorities for developing their extended school provision and to assess local community need. The mini groupings will include local Children's Centres and special schools and will be expected to make links with local services and voluntary organisations. This is a very exciting development that should enable Extended Schools to meet the needs of families and their children from 0 to 18 years.*

Informed commissioning is taking place through the sharing of multi-agency data across the partnership. The KCT Multi-agency Data Group, including the KCT Planning Toolkit, has featured at a recent national Children Service's Network as a model of good practice.

The review has provided evidence of increased integration of processes including the Common Assessment Framework and Lead Professional function. 1,122 children and young people are supported with a lead professional in place. Over 4,800 practitioners and managers have been trained in integrated working and processes, information sharing, CAF and lead professional.

The proportion of children and young people who feel that they have a say on issues affecting the area where they live has increased in Kent. A considerable amount of work has taken place to involve children and young people. Examples include focus groups to engage children not able to complete the Children and Young People of Kent survey,

Ipsos-Mori groups to obtain the views of vulnerable young people, the introduction of a Children in Care Council, the introduction of community representatives onto the Kent Youth County Council, involving disabled children in developing the Aiming High Short Breaks programme, District Council's Youth Forums, consultation with young carers groups, International Student Voice Network events. Partners are also routinely involving young people in the recruitment process.

There has also been increased parental involvement in the design, delivery, evaluation and development of services. A considerable amount of work has taken place for example, Voice4Kent parents, parental surveys, KCT reference panels, local parent forums, Parent Participation Strategy and parent friendly communication templates.

This year, KCT have developed one inter-agency Workforce Strategy for Kent. This has been agreed as a high level framework document. An outline development programme for workforce strategy implementation is also in place. Further information is available at [http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_cypstrategy.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_cypstrategy.cfm)

### **Areas for improvement or development:**

Implement the 7 key actions for change identified by the KCT review including building on the progress and strengths of the LCSPs as we move to 12 Local Boards (see page 29.)

Embed strategic priorities within Kent's Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014. This will be supported by 12 Local Children's Trust Board Plans that will outline how each local area will deliver the priorities, supporting the approach for the new Sustainable Communities Plan and the total place approach at the local level. These local plans will be developed with local communities to ensure that local expectations and aspirations are achieved (see page 31.)

Implement the KCT 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy through the Workforce Integration Strategy Executive Group.

Continue to ensure that any new strategies and policies have taken the views of children, young people and families into account and have provided feedback to children, young people and families to tell them how their views have influenced service planning and provision.

### **3) Kent Children's Trust Review: Continuing the Transformation** **– Partnership for a Purpose**

During 2009 the KCT Board agreed it needed to build stronger commissioning arrangements that really make a positive difference, and to realise the benefit from integrated delivery. This particularly applies in priority areas where we need to make more progress.

Kent Children's Trust Review: Continuing the Transformation – Partnership for a Purpose, supported by the national Commissioning Support Programme, gathered views on progress to date from a wide range of groups and individuals and developed options to strengthen commissioning and delivery arrangements at county and local levels. The review highlighted good progress and has confirmed several strong areas of partnership working.

**This second annual review of the CYPP has also identified strong areas of partnership working. Some of these have been a direct result of the KCT review and include:**

- *Strong commitment from all partners with a shared vision of improving outcomes.*
- *The sharing of multi-agency data across the partnership.*
- *The re-establishment of the KCT Executive Group to provide a strategic commissioning lead with devolved responsibility to drive forward improving outcomes on behalf of the KCT Board. This group is meeting monthly with new terms of reference.*
- *The development and implementation of a KCT strategy for workforce development. Increased children, young people and parental involvement in the design, delivery, evaluation and development of services.*

Seven key actions were agreed as result of the KCT review and a multi agency Change for Children (C4C) team has been established to drive these actions forward. These partnership changes are being shaped within the context of developing local and national policy, and the challenging economic landscape. Most importantly we are continuing to prioritise the views of children, young people and families. You can read more about the KCT review and change process at:

[www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_change\\_for\\_children.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_change_for_children.cfm)

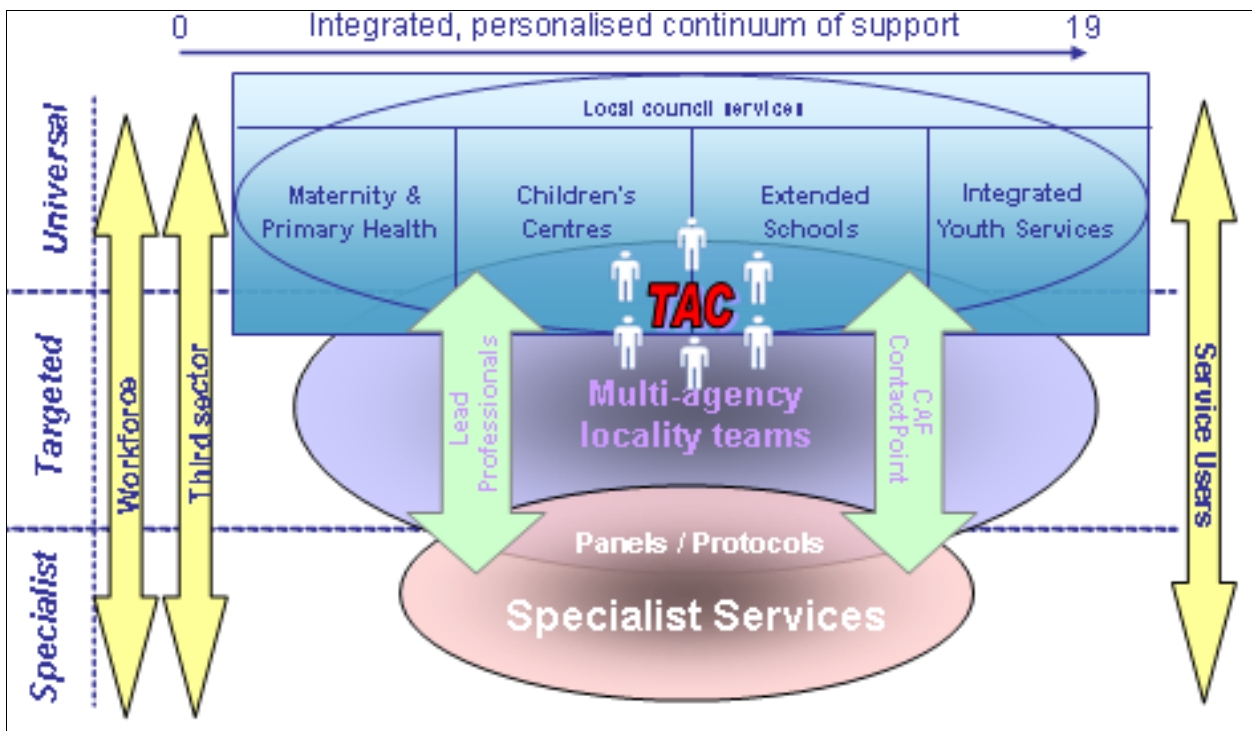
Through the Kent Children's Trust Review, partners (including LCSP Boards and managers) were invited to share their views about the operation of LCSP Boards. Key messages included that they Boards have enabled stronger partnership relationships across children's services and have improved sharing of data and a joint understanding of local needs.

**This second annual review of the CYPP has also identified:**

- *Increased evidence of the improved joint working through the Local Children Service Partnership's (LCSP) and multi-agency front line services.*
- *Increased evidence of LCSPs working together to pool resources and focus on local issues that require a district wide response.*

In order to build on and sustain the success of the LCSPs, one of the 7 key actions for change identified through the KCT review is to carefully manage a transition from 23 local boards to 12 to bring teams together around district boundaries. This will ensure closer alignment with other partner agencies/groups and will strengthen accountability and clarify partnership resources to support the effective operation of the Boards. Frontline delivery of

universal services will be integrated, multi-agency locality teams around the child will provide targeted support and comprehensive multi-agency assessments will ensure that specialist services are received where required.



The 12 Boards will refocus local priorities through the development of Kent's CYPP 2011-2014 which will allow each area to respond to local need.

The LCSP Board will carry forward many excellent examples of partnership working progressed during the first 18 months of LCSP operations.

## **4) Developing the Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014**

Kent Children's Trust is currently developing their third Kent Children and Young People's Plan (2011-2014.) The development of the plan will follow a commissioning cycle to ensure that services are commissioned and resourced, in light of the CYPP review and a thorough Every Child Matters Needs Assessment, in order to ensure that outcomes for children and young people in Kent are improved despite the potential impact of the economical downturn and the financial pressure on public services.

The new CYPP offers an opportunity to generate the real and rapid development of the Kent Children's Trust and delivery of the recommendations of the KCT review. This will enable us to draw on the strengths of all partners through shared commitment, resources, priorities and workforce in a challenging time, as the Trust has to provide more for less.

The outcome-based and evidence-led multi-agency needs assessment is a way of estimating the nature and extent of the needs of a population so that services can be planned accordingly. The purpose is to help focus effort and resources where they are needed most. KCT have developed a methodology for the needs assessment that will ensure a comprehensive assessment and that provides commissioners with a range of information that can feed into and inform the planning stage of the commissioning cycle. The assessment is being completed through a robust, multi-agency, shared process and will prioritise areas for joint work and help the trust to understand the underlying issues.

One source of information used for the Needs Assessment is this review of the current CYPP. To date, the needs assessment has identified 7 emerging areas of need. The transition of priorities from the CYPP review 2009-10 to the development of the CYPP 2011-2014 is shown overleaf.

Once strategic priorities are identified for the CYPP, robust commissioning plans for the priorities will be developed. These will set out how partners will continue to work together to improve outcomes through the commissioning and decommissioning of services to address locally identified needs. Focus will be on integrating provision, prevention and early intervention.

The strategic priorities will be supported by 12 Local Children's Trust Board Plans that will outline how each local area will deliver the priorities, supporting the approach for the new Sustainable Communities Plan and the total place approach at the local level. These local plans will be developed with local communities to ensure that local expectations and aspirations are achieved.

## The Transition of Priorities from the CYPP Review 2009-10 to the Development of the CYPP 2011-2014

Areas for Improvement or Development Identified in the Second Annual Review of the CYPP 2008-2011 to be considered in the development of the CYPP 2011-2014	The 7 Emerging Areas of Need identified for the development of the CYPP 2011-2014
Narrowing the Gap: improve the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers.	<p><b>Family Poverty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling root causes of poverty</li> <li>• Reducing attainment inequalities</li> <li>• Reducing health inequalities</li> </ul>
Reduce the number of under 18 conceptions	<p><b>Adolescent Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent Exclusions from school</li> <li>• Under 18 conceptions</li> <li>• Substance misuse</li> <li>• Lack of engagement in adult led activities</li> </ul>
Improve the emotional health of children.	<p><b>Emotional and Mental Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional health of children</li> <li>• Effectiveness of CAMHS</li> <li>• Higher risk in vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
Increase the percentage of mothers breastfeeding and reduce smoking during pregnancy.	<p><b>Healthy Start in Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mothers smoking during pregnancy</li> <li>• Initiation and continuation of breastfeeding</li> <li>• Uptake of MMR vaccine</li> </ul>
Reduce homelessness and improve housing	<p><b>Housing/ Accommodation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving accommodation availability</li> <li>• Improving housing quality</li> </ul>
Improve attainment at Key Stage 2.	<p><b>Primary Attainment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Stage 2 attainment</li> <li>• Individual schools</li> </ul>
Provide Safe Environments Recruit and retain social workers	<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front line staff capacity</li> <li>• Use and timing of Common Assessments</li> <li>• Feelings of safety in the community</li> <li>• Rate of hospital admissions due to injury</li> </ul>

## **5) Emerging Themes and Challenges Ahead**

Current national economic conditions and recent government decisions will result in rising demand for services from people facing financial difficulty alongside required efficiency savings. This increases the risk of children, young people and their families being unable to access services or facing a reduction in the quality of service provision. There will be a particular issue for specific grant funded services across the partnership as we move into the new Comprehensive Spending Review period in 2011.

### **a) National political context**

The Government's focus on freedom from the bureaucratic constraints of Local Authorities and the impact that this will have on KCT partners needs further clarification. A white paper on Education and Children is expected in the early Autumn.

### **b) Increasing pressure on public sector finance**

A number of factors are combining to drive up demand for children and family services notably the:

- a) Increase in referrals in Kent and new requirements on children's services to act and intervene earlier and potentially reduce their thresholds for intervention.
- b) National ECM agenda for prevention and early intervention meaning that potentially more children and families will be identified as requiring support at a lower level. For children in need, this is a significant issue as more unmet need has been identified which in consequence has seen a significant increase in the number of referrals.
- c) As the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan continues to rise in Kent, the recruitment and retention of social workers is as critical as ever. We need to build on the recent success of our international recruitment campaigns to further reduce family risks linked with child abuse and neglect as this is key to improving outcomes. It is critical that we maintain strong child protection practice in all Districts and work through the KCSB to reduce risks to safeguard children.

### **c) High profile changes for schools**

The Government's focus is diversity for schools and proposes to 'free schools' to focus on the core purpose – education, rather than the pursuit of duties such as community cohesion and partnership development. As a delivery function of the partnership this high profile change could result in difficulties delivering improvements in outcomes through the CYPP.

Additionally, the transfer of schools to the Academy sector will impact on Local Authority central service budget.

In order to continue to improve outcomes for children and young people in Kent during this challenging time the work of the Trust is now more vital than ever. Together we will draw on the strengths of all partners as we transform the partnership to further support and improve the lives of children and young people and their families. We will put aside our organisational boundaries to ensure children and young people are at the heart of what we do.

Activity to achieve a sustainable and accountable partnership include;

- Delivery of the 7 key actions for change identified through the KCT review, including reducing 23 LCSPs to 12 Local Children's Trust Boards.
- Adoption of the new KCT structure within partner organisation, including the current Children's Services restructure
- Development of detailed ECM needs assessment to identify priorities for the CYPP 2011-2014
- Development of robust resourced commissioning plans with a focus on integrating provision, prevention and early intervention.
- Development of detailed locality plans to deliver CYPP 2011-2014, providing a total place approach.
- Increased community involvement including children, young people and families.

Implementation of the KCT Children's Workforce Strategy to ensure that we have the right skills and experience to flexibly meet current and future needs, and to ensure that services are sustainable in the light of the current economic climate. The KCT Children's Workforce Strategy is available at [http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_cypstrategy.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_cypstrategy.cfm).

# **‘Positive About Our Future’ Kent’s Children and Young People’s Plan 2008-2011**

## **Second Annual Review 2009-2010 Executive Summary Appendices**

## **Appendix A: Area for Improvement or Development - Action to Address Areas of Improvement or Development**

### **Narrowing the gap in outcomes between children and young people who are eligible for free school meals (Priority 1)**

- Provide training activities to front line family support workers surrounding Kent Savers.
- Progress the Child Poverty Needs Assessment to inform Kent's Poverty Strategy, in line with the Child Poverty Act. This will include working with the beneficiaries of targeted support to understand how we can ensure the systems we put in place do not stigmatise their families
- Further develop the poverty innovation pilot projects and increased positive outcomes for families including, 100 additional families taking part in family learning, 50 will be progressing on a defined pathway to a recognised qualification or employability programme.
- Roll out of phase 3 children's centre's to ensure that parents across Kent get equitable access to signposting to debt and welfare support.
- Further Think Family development, to include whole family assessment of which welfare and debt support is included.
- Roll out funding for positive activities across all partnerships including 'Your choice' funding and Department of Health funding for Free swimming programmes.
- School focus on Free School Meals (FSM) students (and other vulnerable groups) being raised through School Improvement Partner briefings and visits.
- Continue good practice in raising FSM students' attainment through the Extra Mile programme and that is disseminated through the National Challenge Conference.

### **Reduce the number of under 18 conceptions (Priority 2)**

- Extend the operation of 'House' through a mobile facility that will be able to reach into local communities themselves, rather than town centres. Engagement with young people has produced a design brief for a mobile facility that will deliver 'House' directly into estates and other communities across Kent.
- Implement the revised Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, which will be led by a new Kent wide Teenage Pregnancy commissioner.
- Establish a co-ordinated package of support for teenage parents and their families with a view to embed support through mainstream services by March 2011.

### **Improve the emotional health of children including the emotional and behavioural health of children in care (Priority 2 and 5)**

- Develop multi agency action plans to ensure an increase in the number of referrals from GP's, Children and Family Services and CAMHS services.
- Implement the agreed CAMHS strategy group work plan for 2010/11. This includes a refresh of the CAMHS strategy for Kent. The key actions for the year are to review care pathways for CAMHS at Tier 2 and 3 and to implement a Kent-wide CAMHS service for disabled young people. The new Tier 4 service will also be delivered to provide a more consistent, high quality and local service for Kent which will reduce length of stay.

### **Breastfeeding and smoking during pregnancy (Priority 3)**

- Continue to work with Darent Valley Hospital to support breastfeeding through a Breastfeeding Support Midwife, midwifery staff training, peer supporters and antenatal breastfeeding input.
- Develop a 'supporting smoke free families' services through the 'Stop Smoking' service.
- Roll out of phase 3 children's centre's to ensure that factors that inhibit the parents ability to promote well being, self confidence and self esteem to children and young people will be considered as part of the assessment around the child or family member

### **Reduce Homelessness and Improve Housing (Priority 4)**

It has been noted by all contributors that Priority 4 is unlikely to be achieved solely within the Trust's structures. Housing issues are complex and cut across regeneration, community safety and social care agendas. Statutory responsibilities are also divided amongst agencies and tiers of local government. A coherent, integrated approach to the agenda has been identified as a priority. In support of Priority 4, Kent Children's Trust need to continue its work to become a strong influencer of housing strategy and a champion of the needs of children, families and young people.

KCT have identified the newly formed Kent Housing Group as the key group in this area and have supported the move to create a task and finish group to focus on the housing issues for children and young people and their families identified in the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy. Activity to reduce the impact of these issues includes;

- The development of preventative approaches which reduce vulnerability, including easy access to family mediation preventing young people becoming long term homeless.
- The development of a tenancy ready tool to support young people to acquire the skills to maintain their own tenancies
- An amended multi-agency protocol for homeless young people that incorporates the Southwark judgment
- Improved planning and service/ support delivery through more effective information sharing across local delivery partners
- Promoting the inclusion of homelessness awareness and tenancy sustainment as part of the school curriculum throughout Kent
- More strategic joint planning and commissioning of accommodation and support options available to care leavers and other young people.

### **Key Stage 2 attainment (Priority 7)**

- Continue focused school visits
- Support and challenge primary schools to set high expectations for all children including challenging targets.
- Work with schools to improve pupil progress tracking and assessment techniques to target students who are at risk of not achieving expected progress
- Implement the World Class Primary programme
- Support our most vulnerable schools to improve their performance
- Informally link our more successful schools with other schools to share their good practice

- Work with LCSPs to identify good practice and share it across all schools
- Increase the number of schools using Reading Recovery and the mathematics equivalent, 'Numbers Count'
- Support schools to develop a more creative curriculum while still maintaining standards in English and mathematics
- Further develop opportunities for children in care, from ethnic minorities and with additional educational needs
- Continue to implement a differentiated programme of support in targeted schools from September 2009 as part of Kent's Improving Schools Programme (KISP) including:
- Maintain a preventative approach in early childhood through our resources in children centres and early years' settings particularly in deprived areas. We will embed the key programmes and work that have brought about the improvements in early years into the core work of the early years team. In time, we expect that progress in the early years will contribute to children's outcomes through primary.

**Provide Safe Environments and recruit and retain social workers (Priority 8)**

- Continue to reduce the numbers of LAC through options outside the care system.
- Appoint a Virtual Head Teacher to improve achievement of our looked after children.
- Further targeted activity on recruitment with regards to final year students, recruitment fairs, and in northern Europe.
- Identify lessons that can be learnt from elsewhere to boost the capacity of our front line teams.
- Investigate why safety is a concern for children and young people and explore what else can be done to provide safe environments, including roads in Kent.

# Appendix B: Kent's CYPP Priority Performance Indicators

## Kent

The tables below provide a summary of performance against the indicators included within the 2008-2011 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This shows Kent's performance versus the National average and our Statistical Neighbours, and how County-level

### Key: Kent Position vs National

- Upper quartile
- Above Nat, but not upper quartile
- Below National, but not lower quartile
- Lower quartile

### Key: Direction of Travel

- Upper quartile
- Similar (i.e. between the lower and upper quartiles)
- Lower quartile

	County Position				Dir'n of Travel (Kent)	Kent v		
	Kent 2006/07	Kent 2007/08	Kent 2008/09	Kent 2009/10		Nat	Nat	Stat N
<b>Priority 1: Poverty</b>								
NI175 - Access to services - hospital within 30 minutes	54	54						
NI175 - Access to services - GP within 15 minutes	82	82						
NI81 - Inequality gap - Level 3 qualification by age 19	31.8	31.2	30.9				24.6	28.1
NI102 - Achievement gap - Expected level at KS2								
	(Home based)							
	(School based)							
NI102 - Achievement gap - Expected level at KS4	30	31	30				22	25
	(Home based)							
	(School based)							
NI106 - Low income backgrounds progressing to higher education	33.0	32.3	32.6				27.8	31.6
NI116 - Proportion of children in poverty	26.3						19.4	21.5
NI118 - Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	16.9	17.3					21.6	15.4
							17.8	18.4
<b>Priority 2: Resilience &amp; Health</b>								
NI51 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services	12	12	13	14			15	14
NI55 - Obesity among primary school children in reception year	9.4	9.0	9.0				9.6	8.7
NI198 - Children travelling to school - car usage	34.0	32.6						
NI50 - Emotional health of children			58.2				62.6	62.1
NI112 - Under 18 conception rate	-11.6%	-11.4%	-12.8%				-13.3%	-12.5%
NI113 - Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds - testing		4.3	3.8					
NI115 - Substance misuse by young people			9.7				9.3	9.8
CT_1 - Percentage feeling sad or depressed most days								
	(Home based)							
	(School based)							
CT_2 - Percentage getting drunk at least once a week	11	10		8				
	(Home based)							
	(School based)							
<b>Priority 3: Parenting</b>								
NI32 - Repeat incidents of domestic abuse								
NI40 - Drug users in effective treatment		0	299					
NI53 - Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	34.5	33.6	31.5				Below	35.9
KCC_2010 - No of parent contacts through CC and FLOs			20967					
CT_4 - Proportion having MMR immunisation by 2nd birthday	83	86	86				85	
CT_3 - Smoking during pregnancy	17.4	17.2	17.9				Below	14.4
<b>Priority 4: Housing</b>								
NI187 - Benefit recipients in homes with low energy efficiency			15.7					8.0
NI46 - Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	87.1	77.0	84.1				95.7	95.3
NI147 - Care leavers in suitable accommodation	79.4	85.8	82.9				89.6	88.9
NI156 - Number of households living in temporary accommodation	1244	925	720				64000	
<b>Priority 5: Vulnerable Children</b>								
NI99 - LAC reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	38	33	32				46	41
NI100 - LAC reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	31	28	32				46	43
NI101 - LAC achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs at Key Stage 4 (incl. English & Maths)			6.3				9.8	
NI54 - Services for disabled children			59				61	61
NI58 - Emotional and behavioural health of children in care			16.0				13.8	14.6
NI104 - The SEN/non-SEN gap - Key Stage 2								
	(Home based)							
	(School based)							
NI105 - The SEN/non-SEN gap - GCSEs	53	53					51	52
	(Home based)							
	(School based)							
NI107 - Key Stage 2 attainment for BME groups - White	48	48	47				47	47
NI107 - Key Stage 2 attainment for BME groups - Mixed	67	69	68				73	73
NI107 - Key Stage 2 attainment for BME groups - Asian	73	74	73				73	72
NI107 - Key Stage 2 attainment for BME groups - Black	75	72	73				70	69
NI107 - Key Stage 2 attainment for BME groups - Chinese	71	82	72				64	59
NI108 - Key Stage 4 attainment for BME groups - White	75	91	97				82	86
NI108 - Key Stage 4 attainment for BME groups - Mixed	48	49	52				51	50
NI108 - Key Stage 4 attainment for BME groups - Asian	59	58	61				52	51
NI108 - Key Stage 4 attainment for BME groups - Black	59	61	61				54	54
NI108 - Key Stage 4 attainment for BME groups - Chinese	46	55	64				45	45
NI148 - Care leavers in employment, education or training	81	82	82				73	64
PAF - Health checks and dental checks for LAC	53.4	54.7	62.7				63.0	57.4

All data is the latest available as of 31st May 2010.

Kent Continued...

Key: Kent Position vs National

- Upper quartile
- Above Nat, but not upper quartile
- Below National, but not lower quartile
- Lower quartile

Key: Direction of Travel

- Upper quartile
- Similar (i.e. between the lower and upper quartiles)
- Lower quartile

	County Position				Dir'n of Travel (Kent)	Kent v Nat		
	Kent 2006/07	Kent 2007/08	Kent 2008/09	Kent 2009/10		Kent v Nat	Nat	Stat N
<b>Priority 6: Things to do</b>								
NI110 - Young people's participation in positive activities			65.5				68.2	69.4
NI111 - First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	20.4	17.1	16.2				14.7	13.6
NI19 - Rate of proven reoffending by young offenders			0.7				0.8	0.7
CT_6 - Percentage who feel they have their say at school/college								
CT_6 - Percentage who feel they have their say in their local area	66	68		70				
CT_5 - Prevalence of barriers to activities - cost	36	36		41				
CT_5 - Prevalence of barriers to activities - availability	34	32		32				
CT_5 - Prevalence of barriers to activities - transport	28	24		37				
CT_5 - Prevalence of barriers to activities - transport	24	21		23				
<b>Priority 7: Engagement &amp; Achievement</b>								
NI117 - 16-18 year olds who are NEET	6.4	5.2	4.7	4.9			6.4	
NI78 - Schools with less than 30% of pupils reaching GCSE threshold	34.4	29.0	21.6				8.3	7.3
NI45 - Young offenders engagement in suitable EET	72.6	74.2	79.3				72.6	71.1
NI72 - Achievement of at least 78 points across EYFS including at least 6 points in both PSE and CLL	(Home based)						52	53
NI73 - Achievement at level 4+ in Eng and Maths at KS2	(School based)						72	73
NI75 - Achievement of 5+ A*-C GCSEs, incl E&M	(Home based)						49.8	50.2
NI79 - Achievement of a level 2 qualification by age 19	48.5	49.7	52.0				78.7	75.7
NI80 - Achievement of a level 3 qualification by age 19	72.0	75.1	76.2				51.4	48.4
NI87 - Secondary school persistent absence rate	47.6	48.5	48.8				4.9	5.2
NI92 - Narrowing the EYFS gap (lowest achieving 20%)	(Home based)						4.9	5.2
NI174 - Skills gap in the current workforce reported by employers	(School based)						33.9	32.3
	33.0	32.0	29.8	19.4			18.8	20.3
		14.6						
<b>Priority 8: Safety</b>								
NI21 - Dealing with concerns about anti-social behaviour		24.7					26.3	25.0
NI48 - Children killed or serious injured in road traffic accidents	0.0	9.5	6.0				6.8	6.3
NI69 - Children who have experienced bullying			51.7					
NI70 - Hospital admissions caused by unintentional/deliberate injuries	125.5	127.1	127.1				117.4	118.2
CT_7 - Percentage who feel safe in area where they live	(Home based)							
CT_7 - Percentage who feel safe travelling to/from school	(School based)							
CT_8 - Rate of CYP who are victims of crime	(Home based)							
	67	68		70				
	66	67		71				
	27.0	23.1	20.0	18.4				

All data is the latest available as of 31st May 2010.

Version 1.2 - 06/07/2010

Kent Children's Trust Toolkit provides an indicator-by-indicator summary of both past and current performance across all of the indicators contained within the KCT Performance Management Framework. For each indicator (and where data is available) analysis is provided of County performance versus national and statistical neighbours, individual LCSP performance and performance for key sub-groups.

The toolkit covers a total of 101 indicators, including the 58 indicators contained within the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). Many of the indicators are drawn from the National Indicator Set (NIS), but have been complemented by a number of additional measures that are felt to be of relevance. The data contained within the Indicator Toolkit is provided through the KCT Multi-Agency Data Group and is available at [http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct\\_multiagency\\_info.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/kct_multiagency_info.cfm)