

Children and Young People

For comparison, September's figures are in brackets. Due to issues with SATS marking this year and the fact that many schools still have not had their scripts returned, all the examination indicators have been judged amber, recognising that the provisional outturns reported could alter when confirmed in January.

	No. of indicators	On course to achieve target (or establish baseline)	Some progress, but data / lack of data or analysis suggests that the target may not be achieved, but should be capable of achievement if remedial action is taken	Not achieved / not expected to be achieved / no activity reported
Corporate Plan (including LAA and HCS)	15 (15)	4 (5)	7 (7)	4 (3)
of which				
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	3 (3)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Herefordshire Community Strategy (HCS)	6 (6)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)
All reported indicators	63 (63)	19 (19)	30 (27)	14 (17)

Direction of Travel		
	September	December
Improving	12	13
No real change	1	2
Deteriorating	21	19
Total	34	34

Headlines

- It should be noted that, the new Frameworki system is not able to produce data for indicators connected with Adult and Children's Social Care until March; judgements have been made for 6 indicators based on the previous quarter's performance.
- Changes since September 2008:

Green from Red

- NI 89 'number of schools in special measures'

Amber from Red

- 2052SC 'percentage of children looked after in residential accommodation'
- 2016SC 'percentage of referrals that are repeat referrals within 12 months'
- 526SC 'percentage of children with disabilities aged 14+ who had a transition plan to support their move from Children's Services to Adult Services'
- A significant number of **Reds** remain, e.g. foundation years achievement, timeliness of placements, absenteeism in secondary schools, 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training, youth work outcomes and a number in respect of looked-after children.
- The projected budget outturn for Children and Young People's Services is an underspend of £136k. Although external placements have remained static recently, the number of future placements can vary and negotiations to obtain discounts for multiple placements with the same provider should help with future costs.

Children's and Young People's Director commentary

'Performance overall continues to be on track across the range of Local Area Agreement, Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan children and young people related indicators. Where performance is not on track, the directorate continues to focus on improving the services. However, the Children's Trust is very aware that the downturn in the economy is already having a knock-on effect on specific areas of work, including one of the Local Area Agreement targets (NI 117). Post 16 NEET provision will recommence in the county in February but it should be noted that businesses are cutting jobs, particularly casual and part time jobs, which have traditionally been filled by young people.'

The main area of work during the quarter was the Annual Performance Assessment inspection and feedback. The overall effectiveness of services in meeting the needs of children and young people maintained its rating of 2 (adequate). However, within that, improvements were made in the judgements for economic wellbeing and capacity to improve. Both improved from 2 (adequate) to 3 (good). The be healthy and enjoy and achieve outcomes maintained their rating of 3 (good) and the stay safe and positive contribution outcomes maintained their rating of 2 (adequate).

During the latter end of the quarter, an external consultant was commissioned to review the directorate's arrangements in respect of safeguarding, including the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board. The report was reported in January

2009 and the action plan will be approved in February but is likely to contain a number of actions to address key areas of performance, including timeliness of initial assessments. A subsequent audit of child protection arrangements, in the light of national events, has also been commissioned and will report at the end of February 2009 to the directorate leadership team.

The implementation of the new integrated social care system, Frameworki, from November 2008 has had an impact on performance as staff have adopted a new way of working and need to become familiar with a new system. Significant work is underway across children's and adult social care to refine the reporting capability of the system in anticipation of year end reporting and to ensure data quality.

The larger survey of children and young people, building on the previous Teenage Lifestyle Survey of 2006, will take place in February and March 2009 and this will provide outturns for a number of the Community Strategy indicators.

As reported in the previous Integrated Corporate Performance Report, results for Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be validated by DCSF at the end of January 2009.'