

# AGENDA

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Friday 19 March 2010**

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Time: **10.00 am**

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Place: **The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,  
Hereford**

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Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Paul James, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260460 or e-mail [pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

# Agenda for the Meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

## Membership

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Councillor WLS Bowen</b>	
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Councillor ME Cooper</b>	
	<b>Councillor WU Attfield</b>	
	<b>Councillor BA Durkin</b>	
	<b>Councillor P Jones CBE</b>	
	<b>Councillor G Lucas</b>	
	<b>Councillor JE Pemberton</b>	
	<b>Councillor SJ Robertson</b>	
	<b>Councillor RV Stockton</b>	
	<b>Councillor AM Toon</b>	
	<b>Councillor WJ Walling</b>	
	<b>Mr PF Burbidge</b>	Roman Catholic Church
	<b>Mr T Leach</b>	Church of England
	<b>Mr N Parker</b>	Secondary School Parent Governor
	<b>Mr T Plumer</b>	Primary School Parent Governors
<b>Non Voting</b>	<b>Ms K Berry</b>	Connexions
	<b>Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins</b>	Secondary School Headteachers
	<b>Mrs OR Evans</b>	Special School Headteachers
	<b>Mr M Harrisson</b>	Teacher Representative
	<b>Mr C Mutton</b>	Primary School Headteachers
	<b>Ms H Tank</b>	The Alliance

## **GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS**

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

## AGENDA

		Pages
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>NAMED SUBSTITUTES</b> To receive details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
4.	<b>MINUTES</b> To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2009.	1 - 10
5.	<b>SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY</b> To consider suggestions from members of the public on issues the Committee could scrutinise in the future.	
6.	<b>YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION</b> To update Members on the remit of the Youth Service and the range of provision across the County.	11 - 40
7.	<b>SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN HEREFORDSHIRE - TOP TEN QUESTIONS FROM IDEA/CFPS</b> To inform Councillors of safeguarding arrangements for children within Herefordshire using the I&DeA/CfPS top ten questions to ask.	41 - 50
8.	<b>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10</b> To report the capital budget position for 2009/10 for the Children & Young People's Directorate.	51 - 58
9.	<b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10</b> To report on the monitoring of the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10 at the end of quarter three. To provide comparisons to 2008/09 budget and outturn so that Scrutiny Committee can assess and comment upon the budget management of Children's Services.	59 - 70
10.	<b>PERFORMANCE DIGEST - QUARTER 3 2009/2010</b> To present the Performance Digest for Children's Services for the third quarter of 2009/2010 (April – December 2009) and to highlight key performance issues.	71 - 76
11.	<b>COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</b> To consider the Committee's work programme.	77 - 86



## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The Council has established Scrutiny Committees for Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing, Children's Services, Community Services, Environment, and Health. An Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinises corporate matters and co-ordinates the work of these Committees.

The purpose of the Committees is to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Council's decision making process.

The principal roles of Scrutiny Committees are to

- Help in developing Council policy
- Probe, investigate, test the options and ask the difficult questions before and after decisions are taken
- Look in more detail at areas of concern which may have been raised by the Cabinet itself, by other Councillors or by members of the public
- "call in" decisions - this is a statutory power which gives Scrutiny Committees the right to place a decision on hold pending further scrutiny.
- Review performance of the Council
- Conduct Best Value reviews
- Undertake external scrutiny work engaging partners and the public

Formal meetings of the Committees are held in public and information on your rights to attend meetings and access to information are set out overleaf

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **Public Involvement at Scrutiny Committee Meetings**

You can contact Councillors and Officers at any time about Scrutiny Committee matters and issues which you would like the Scrutiny Committees to investigate.

There are also two other ways in which you can directly contribute at Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committee meetings.

#### **1. Identifying Areas for Scrutiny**

At the meeting the Chairman will ask the members of the public present if they have any issues which they would like the Scrutiny Committee to investigate, however, there will be no discussion of the issue at the time when the matter is raised. Councillors will research the issue and consider whether it should form part of the Committee's work programme when compared with other competing priorities.

Please note that the Committees can only scrutinise items which fall within their specific remit (see below). If a matter is raised which falls within the remit of another Scrutiny Committee then it will be noted and passed on to the relevant Chairman for their consideration.

#### **2. Questions from Members of the Public for Consideration at Scrutiny Committee Meetings and Participation at Meetings**

You can submit a question for consideration at a Scrutiny Committee meeting so long as the question you are asking is directly related to an item listed on the agenda. If you have a question you would like to ask then please submit it **no later than two working days before the meeting** to the Committee Officer. This will help to ensure that an answer can be provided at the meeting. Contact details for the Committee Officer can be found on the front page of this agenda.

Generally, members of the public will also be able to contribute to the discussion at the meeting. This will be at the Chairman's discretion.

(Please note that the Scrutiny Committees are not able to discuss questions relating to personal or confidential issues.)

## **Remits of Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committees**

### **Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing**

*Statutory functions for adult social services including:*

*Learning Disabilities*

*Strategic Housing*

*Supporting People*

*Public Health*

### **Children's Services**

*Provision of services relating to the well-being of children including education, health and social care.*

### **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

*Libraries*

*Cultural Services including heritage and tourism*

*Leisure Services*

*Parks and Countryside*

*Community Safety*

*Economic Development*

*Youth Services*

### **Health**

*Planning, provision and operation of health services affecting the area*

*Health Improvement*

*Services provided by the NHS*

### **Environment**

*Environmental Issues*

*Highways and Transportation*

### **Strategic Monitoring Committee**

*Corporate Strategy and Finance*

*Resources*

*Corporate and Customer Services*

***Human Resources***

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- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
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## **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.**

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Friday 11 December 2009 at 10.00 am**

**Present:** Councillor WLS Bowen (Chairman)  
Councillor ME Cooper (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: WU Attfield, BA Durkin, Brig P Jones CBE, G Lucas, SJ Robertson, RV Stockton, AM Toon, WJ Walling,

Co-opted Members: Mr PF Burbidge, Mr N Parker, Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Mrs OR Evans and Mr C Mutton, Mr C Lewandowski.

**In attendance:** Councillors: PJ Edwards, JA Hyde (Cabinet Member - Children's Services) and AT Oliver

**28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr M Harrisson, Mr T Leach, Councillor JE Pemberton, Mrs H Tank.

**29. NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Mr C Lewandowski substituted for Mr Harrisson.

**30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Councillor WLS Bowen	Personal	Governor – Kingsland CE Primary and Luston Primary schools.
Councillor M Cooper	Personal	Governor - John Masefield High School
Councillor B Durkin	Personal	Governor - Kings Caple Primary School
Councillor Brig. P Jones CBE	Personal	Governor – The Minster, Leominster
Councillor G Lucas	Personal	Governor – Brampton Abbots CE Primary School
Councillor SJ Robertson	Personal	Governor - Burghill Community Primary School
Councillor RV Stockton	Personal	Governor - Colwall CE Primary School
Councillor AM Toon	Personal	Governor - Whitecross High School and Trinity Primary School.
Mr PF Burbidge	Personal	Governor – St Mary's RC High School

**31. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**32. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY**

No suggestions for areas of scrutiny were received from the public.

**33. SAFEGUARDING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN SEMINAR TO MEMBERS 9 NOVEMBER 2009**

The Committee noted a summary of the Member's seminar held 9 November 2009 concerning Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children and considered issues arising.

The Director of Children's Services presented the agenda report which summarised a number of questions and answers from the seminar. She commented that officers in the Safeguarding Team had worked hard to improve the delivery of service.

Responding to questions on whether there were adequate cross border procedures in place to protect Children in Need when they moved home, the Committee were informed that procedures were in place and no problems were being experienced.

Arising from questions concerning 16/17 year olds looking for housing it was suggested that the Cabinet Member (Children's Service) consider approaching the Registered Social Landlords in Herefordshire to encourage them to further engage in accommodating 16/17 year olds who, for family reasons, cannot live at home.

Questioned on the level of service, number of carers and funding available through the Kinship Care system the Committee agreed to being advised by briefing note.

Responding to questions on Corporate Parenting the Cabinet Member (Children's Services) responded that the Corporate Parenting Panel was being refreshed and further focused work would be undertaken. Continuing the theme it was acknowledged that members may benefit from further training on their Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities.

Responding to whether the local member should be involved in individual care cases the Director of Children's Services responded that issues arose over confidentiality and whether the child, parent or foster parent wanted the involvement. An opposite view was expressed that members should focus on ensuring that procedures were correct at a strategic level. It was suggested that the parent or carer should be given the contact details of their local member should they wish to contact them.

The Cabinet Member (Children's Service) suggested that if members wanted to meet with local carers then members could be invited to attend the Annual Care Awards.

Questioned on the introduction of ICT enabled mobile working the Committee were informed that currently work was focused on the implementation of the Frameworki system. The Director reported that further investment across the Council would be required to introduce the technology needed to enable staff to work on-line while away from the office.

The Committee noted that while a good working relationship existed between the various partner child protection teams it was suggested that even greater efficiencies could be obtained through a closer integration of the various teams.

The Committee had concerns about the transition procedure to adult care and requested that a briefing note on the procedure be supplied which included details about whether the young person received help in accessing further education and housing.

The Chairman referred to a new CfPS publication entitled 'Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Guide' and requested that the Director of Children's Services provide the Committee with a report answering the 'top 10 questions to ask' contained in the document.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) **The Director of Children's Services discuss with the Cabinet Member (Children's Services) whether the Herefordshire Registered Social Landlords (RSL) be approached to encourage their further engagement in accommodation provision for under 18 year olds who cannot live at home.**
- b) **That a report on the programme and timetable to roll out mobile ICT working systems to Social Workers be presented to a future meeting;**
- c) **To enable further efficiencies in working practices The Director of Children's Services consider the further integration of the Police and Social Services Teams;**
- d) **The duties as Corporate Parents be made clear to all Council Members, and further training be carried out;**
- e) **A report responding to the 10 questions set out in the CfPS publication 'Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Guide' be presented to the March 2010 meeting;**
- f) **A briefing note be provided to Committee members on the transition procedures in place, (including their further education and housing opportunities), that ensures that children in need/ vulnerable children undertake an efficient transfer to the Adult Social Care system.**
- g) **A briefing note be provided to Committee members on the Kinship Carers provision including the number of carers and funding thereof.**
- h) **A briefing note be provided to Committee members on the range of services offered to children and families when relationships are at breaking point.**

**34. INTRODUCTION AND IMPLICATIONS OF NURSERY EDUCATION FUNDING (NEF) AND SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA**

The Committee noted the background information on the scheme for Free Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds – also known as Nursery Education Funding (NEF) and received an update on recent local and national developments.

The Manager Early Years and Extended Services reported that the delivery of Nursery Education Funding was a statutory requirement from the DCSF. Herefordshire was asked to implement additional hours to meet the Extended Entitlement for the 25% most deprived children in Herefordshire from September 2009. The full extension of the extended entitlement from 12 hours to 15 hours will be a universal provision across Herefordshire from September 2010. The introduction of 2 year funding for the 15% most deprived Children, 10 hours per week, was a direct request again from the DCSF, to commence September 2009. This project is funded for 2 years until September 2011. The implementation of a Single Funding Formula is also a statutory directive from DCSF to be in place in all local authorities for April 2010. Herefordshire is also piloting 2 year old funding from September 2009 to the 15 % most deprived children. Funding has also been allocated for a second year 2010/2011. The identified target group for Herefordshire is some 50 places. A place equates to 10 hours per week. It may be that parents do not wish to take up the full 10 hours. In this instance the offer will be available to more than 50 children hence allocated as places. Further detail on the schemes was provided in the agenda report.

The Manager for Early Years and Extended Services reported that the DCSF were concerned about the impact of the new formula on authorities with nursery schools but because there are no nursery schools in Herefordshire she considered that subject to confirmation with Government Office, that the single funded formula was ready for implementation in Herefordshire. The Committee supported it's implementation from April 2010.

Opportunities had been offered for settings to meet and discuss the changes and proposals, however, there had been minimal responses to the third and final full consultation undertaken in October 2009.

The level of funding per setting was dependant on the total number of settings, the figures in the report were indicative only. However, it was highlighted that while the basic 'fixed rate per child' reduced per year this was to a greater degree offset by the application of 'disadvantaged' and 'deprivation' supplements. The Committee noted that settings with high numbers of vacancies would have reduced funding. It was further noted that a number of settings already topped up the funding by seeking other sources of funding.

Noting that the funding was already with the Council as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding, it was questioned what happened at the end of the two year funding period. The Committee were informed that the current expectation was that funding would continue to be provided through Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in future.

A comment was made that if the schemes involved increased levels of administration then settings may not be willing to take up the schemes.

Questioned why Herefordshire paid one of the highest sessional rates for NEF the Committee were informed that the payment level was historical and that it had been agreed with Schools Forum to reduce the payment so that it would be comparable with neighbouring authorities.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) **The report be noted and based on the information presented the Committee supported the introduction of the funding schemes detailed;**
- b) **The Committee considered that the administration of the schemes, especially for schools, be made clear and as efficient as possible.**
- c) **Schools be reminded that other funding sources may be available.**

**35. HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOL TASK GROUP CONSULTATION - UPDATE**

The Committee were appraised of progress with the work undertaken by the Herefordshire Schools Task Group (HSTG) and noted the decision of Cabinet on 26 November 2009.

The Director of Children's Services reported that the HSTG, under an independent Chair, had been established to recommend to the Council a set of criteria to underpin the future of education and learning provision in the County, providing a framework within which decisions will be made. On 28 November Cabinet considered a report, a copy of which had been included in the agenda, setting out the feedback from the HSTG formal consultation and a number of recommendations for consideration. She reported that Cabinet had approved the recommendations contained in the report as presented.

The Director of Children's Services commented that the HSTG had considered future housing issues as part of its deliberations. Further work was needed to produce a more detailed analysis of a 'small school by design'. Against the challenging circumstances of the future economic climate and schools with falling rolls the productive dialogue established between the various parties needed to be continued.

Work would continue to consider facts and data against which further proposals would be formulated and a further report would be presented to Cabinet in September 2010.

The Chairman highlighted that this work would guide major changes to the way education was provided in the County and this message needed to be emphasised to schools and cluster groups. He also emphasised to the Cabinet Members that the Executive and Scrutiny needed to work together on this important issue.

The Committee were assured that monitoring was in place to ensure that capital investment in school sites was linked to future planning needs. Certain funding from government could only be used for specific projects and the Council had been successful in a number of funding bids. Sharing resources was an important factor in reducing costs and schools themselves should take the lead in this. A point was made that greater use of school premises by other services could make a school viable.

The Committee congratulated the Schools Task Group for the clarity of its report.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) **The Schools Task Group be commended for their work and the clarity of their report;**
- b) **The Cabinet Members be encouraged to work closely with Scrutiny concerning future proposals in this matter;**
- c) **The Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) encourage schools and cluster groups to be innovative in their working and approach to the future of education and learning provision in the County.**

**36. CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2009/10**

The Committee considered the capital budget position for 2009/2010 for the Children and Young People's Directorate.

The Schools Planning & Access Manager presented the agenda report and highlighted that the overall capital programme was being delivered on time and to budget. The final business case for The Hereford Academy had been approved. Herefordshire had negotiated a further £419,000 to deliver accommodation for alternative provision in each of the 14 High Schools. Details of other capital projects were set out in the report.

On scrutinising the report the following principal points were noted:

- That learning points encountered from working with the National Academies Framework would be fed back to the Partnership for Schools. Issues had arisen around the wording of the contract and, as a consequence, this had delayed contractors getting on site.
- Questioned on parking arrangements at the Hereford Academy the Committee were informed that residents had been consulted on the whole project, however, attendance at meetings had been poor. The inclusion of a 6<sup>th</sup> Form had been a mandatory condition of getting an academy.
- The Head of Access and Capital Commissioning confirmed that a further £102,000 developer contribution had been received from the Bradbury Lines development which was ringfenced for schools in the local area. Responding to

criticism about the time taken in using the Sec 106 monies the Director of Children's Services commented that schemes needed to be assessed against the priorities set out in the Asset Management Plan and it was anticipated that proposals on the use of the funding would be put to the Cabinet Member in the near future.

- The handover of the Riverside Primary School was due to take place on 15 December 2009 ready to accommodate pupils in the spring term.
- Questioned on the use of spare capacity or staff resources at high schools, particularly at the Minster College, Leominster, and a suggestion that it could have been used to provide post 16 diploma courses, the Director of Children's Services commented that the County had been slow over the 14-19 agenda and agreed more work was needed in this area. The capacity of the new high school at Leominster had been set by the DCSF.
- In relation to the capital maintenance programme the Committee questioned the methodology for assessing school property and the likely cost of the identified maintenance. The Head of Access and Capital Commissioning reported that these details were identified through the Condition Survey, Schedule of Works and Asset Management Strategy. The Committee requested a briefing note covering the above issues.
- Members requested to be kept informed of the location of the second Hereford City co-located Children's Centre site north of the river.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) The report be noted and a briefing note be provided to Committee Members on the condition of school properties (as identified through the Condition Survey, Schedule of Works, Asset Management Strategy) and an indication be given of budget requirement / allocation to meet maintenance needs.**
- b) Members be kept informed by briefing note of progress concerning the location of a co-located Children's Centre north of the City.**

**37. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10**

The Committee considered the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10 for the period to the end of quarter two. The Committee were provided with comparisons to the 2008/9 budget and assessed and commented upon the budget management for Children's Services.

The Assistant Director Planning, Performance and Development, highlighted that the projected overspend of £755k, reported to the September meeting, had been reduced to a projected overspend of £533k. The Directorate Leadership Team had actioned several cost saving measures largely responsible for reducing the over-spend being projected. Despite escalating pressures within safeguarding services further cost saving measures to minimise the impact whilst not jeopardising service delivery had been introduced. Work was progressing on the detailed review of current services and staffing requirements for the Directorate. Further budgetary details were provided in the report and appendices.

On scrutinising the report the following principal points were noted:

- Questioned on the expenditure of circ £95k for providing Bed and Breakfast to homeless 16/17 year olds the Committee were informed that Children's Services were working with a range of officers and service providers to address the issue, however, the service was responsible for the expenditure, an issue that would also need to be addressed in next years budget. The Committee requested a briefing note on how the various providers were addressing the accommodation issue.



- Responding to a question on the budget for 'staff severance costs' the Committee were informed that the budget was for meeting the cost of redundancies in schools and this was the council's responsibility. The Director of Children's Services warned that in a time of falling pupil numbers some schools may face closure and this budget would inevitably incur additional costs.
- Following the bringing 'in-house' of the Travellers Children Team, formerly provided regionally by the West Midlands Traveller Service, concern was expressed that these children may be being neglected. The Director of Children's Services informed the Committee that a better service could be given, and financial savings made, by bring the service back within the Council. She assured the Committee that the service to these children was not being neglected. The Committee requested that a report be made to a future meeting on how this service was now being provided.
- Concern was expressed that if savings were being made in swimming (LEA pool £26k) the Committee requested assurances that adequate provision, particularly for Key Stage 2 pupils, was being provided by Halo. The Committee requested a briefing note on the level of support provided by the Council through Halo to pupils achieving Key stage 2 swimming.
- Noting the projected budget deficit in the Music Service the Chairman reported that Herefordshire Schools Forum had been given the opportunity to address a number of strategic issues, this being one, through their consideration of how to use the underspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant. In his view the Forum had missed an opportunity to address a number of strategic issues instead of deciding to allocate the underspend to school on a per pupil basis.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) the report be noted; and**
- b) a report be provided to a future meeting concerning the provision to Travellers Children following the bringing 'in-house' of the service from the West Midlands Traveller Service**
- c) A briefing note be provided to Committee members on how RSLs, the Council's Housing Team and HomePoint were providing accommodation for under 16/17 year olds who cannot live at home;**
- d) A briefing note be provided to Committee members on the level of support provided by the Council through Halo to pupils in achieving Key Stage 2 swimming.**

**38. PERFORMANCE DIGEST - QUARTER 2 2009/2010**

The Committee considered the performance Digest for Children's Services for the second quarter of 2009/10 (April – September 2009)

The Director of Children's Services circulated a copy of a letter from Ofsted indicating the Children's Services annual rating. She was pleased to report that the Service had recorded a third year of improvement and was now rated as 'performs well'. Full detail of the rating and commentary about the Service was contained in the letter, a copy of which has been placed with the agenda papers. She emphasised that while pleased with the rating the Service could not be complacent and would be striving for further improvement.

The Head of Performance presented her report and highlighted that the time taken to complete initial assessments had significantly improved; in overall terms exam results had improved but were below local targets, and educational attainment of looked after

children had shown good performance. Further performance detail was provided in the agenda report and separate Performance Digest.

Strategic Monitoring Committee on 2 December 2009 had considered the Integrated Corporate Performance Report and had expressed concern over National Indicators 72, 73, 75, 99 and 100 which related to Children's Services.

The Primary School Improvement Manager responded that:

- NI 72 – Although not achieving target, 45.8% represented a significant improvement on the 2008 outturn of 42%. The performance gap between boys and girls had closed and now reflected the national average.
- NI 73 – This was a new benchmark. This unvalidated outturn for 2009 had not achieved target and was 2% below the 2008 outturn. Results in Key Stage 2 had shown a continuing downward trend over the last three years and targeted improvement work was underway with schools. She reported that results from the two Academies (Hereford and Steiner Academies) were now included in the local authority results; as pupils/parents at the Steiner Academy had boycotted the examinations there was an inevitable impact on the overall results.
- NI 75 – Unvalidated results showed the same achievement as the 2008/9 outturn. She highlighted that while this cohort had a high number of boys, good progress had been made. Targeted work was underway in schools to address this outturn. As with NI 73 this included results from the Steiner Academy.
- NI 99/100 – These outturn results involved looked after children and consequently referred to a very small cohort. Schools were mindful of the needs of these children.

Questioned on why some indicators still had no targets, the Committee were informed that this may relate to new indicators where the targets had not been set until a baseline had been established. In some instances data was compiled from surveys that were only undertaken every other year in which case an indication of the outturn had been given.

**RESOLVED: that the Performance Digest report be noted and the Committee approved of the efforts of the Director of Children's Services and her staff in achieving a level 3 (performs well) in the Ofsted Children's Services annual rating.**

### **39. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its work programme.

Arising out of the external health check of the scrutiny function Strategic Monitoring Committee requested that this Committee give priority to the scrutiny of Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and Youth Provision which had been identified from the Herefordshire Quality of Life Survey 2008. It had also requested that all the scrutiny committees re-examine their work programmes to ensure that matters listed for future consideration remain appropriate.

The Committee considered that Safeguarding Vulnerable Children was being addressed through the seminar, committee report and the request for further information noted in Minute No 33. Any concerns regarding Youth Provision would be addressed through the Member seminar scheduled for 28 January 2009 and subsequent report to Committee.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) **As noted in Minute 33 a report on the programme and timetable to roll out mobile ICT working systems to Social Workers be presented to a future meeting;**

- b) A report responding to the 10 questions set out in the CfPS publication 'Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Guide' be presented to the March 2010 meeting (see Minute No 33)**
- c) as noted in Minute No.37 a report setting out the changes to the provision of services to Traveller Children be added to the work programme.**
- d) A further update on the future of education and learning provision in the County (the Schools Task Group Consultation) be reported to an appropriate future meeting. (see Minute No. 35)**
- e) Subject to the above the work programme be approved and reported to Strategic Monitoring Committee.**

The meeting ended at 12.54 pm

**CHAIRMAN**



<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDRENS SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To update members on the remit of the Youth Service and the range of provision across the county

### **Recommendation**

**THAT subject to any comment the Committee may wish to make the report be noted.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The Youth Service is charged with working with young people aged 13-19 to provide Positive Activities, Targeted Youth Support for young people identified as having additional needs as well as providing opportunities for young people to influence decisions and volunteer. (See Appendix 1 for more details)
- The Youth Service Budget for 2009-10 is £1,202,061.00 including contracts with external partners but excluding Youth Opportunity and Capital Fund Grants.
- The Service spends just over 70% of its budget employing 32.7 FTE staff
- Between April 2009 to the end of January 2010 the local authority Youth Service has worked with 2,855 individual young people aged 13 – 19 years (3,472 aged 11 - 25 years) not including external contracts.
- Between April 2009 to the end of January 2010 the local authority Youth Service has delivered Targeted Youth Support (TYS) interventions with 357 individual young people aged 13 – 19 years (471 aged 11 – 25 years)
- The Youth Service delivers Youth Work from ten buildings, including six local authority owned and two rented youth centres, two outdoor education centres 1 mobile, in seven secondary schools and on college campus sites.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Jon Ralph Community Youth Service Manager [jralph@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jralph@herefordshire.gov.uk) 01432 383377

- The Youth Service provides a Student Information Service (SIS) for Hereford 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, Hereford College of Technology (including the Holme Lacy campus) and The Hereford Art College.
- The Youth Service supports all Duke of Edinburgh Award activity in the county, as well as providing the statutory advice to schools and all Children's Services for all off site and adventurous activities
- The Youth Service has contracts valued at £141,751.00 (12% of total Youth Service Budget) with five local voluntary sector providers that support the key targets of the Youth Service and Children and Young People's Directorate.
- The directory of all Youth Service provision which includes: weekly diary of events, case studies and a summary of Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services work has been supplied separately to committee members. Copies are available to the public on request by contacting the Youth Service Manager.

## Introduction and Background

- 1 Within the **Every Child Matters (ECM)** Outcome framework the Youth Service work contributes primarily to the Positive Contribution Outcome area, within which the Youth Service key areas are: positive activities for personal and social development (youth work activities not leisure based provision), and the participation of children and young people in decision making.
- 2 The Youth Service is charged with working directly with young people to achieve a range of key targets in the following strategy areas these include: - **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)**, **Positive Activities**, the early identification of vulnerable young people through the **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**, strengthening the voice of young people through **Youth Involvement**, and increasing the opportunities for young people to **Volunteer**.
- 3 **Targeted Youth Support (TYS)** - The government wishes to ensure that the needs of vulnerable teenagers are identified early and met by agencies working together effectively, in ways that are shaped by the views and experiences of young people themselves. There are seven key elements of TYS.
  - a. **Identifying vulnerable young people early** in the context of their everyday lives
  - b. **Strengthening the influence of vulnerable young people** and their families
  - c. Building a clear picture of individual needs, shared with young people and the agencies working with them using the **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**
  - d. Enabling vulnerable teenagers to receive **early support in universal settings**
  - e. Ensuring vulnerable teenagers receive a personalised package of support, information, advice and guidance, learning and development opportunities. Co-ordinated by a trusted Lead Professional – the **Team Around the Child (TAC)**
  - f. Providing support for vulnerable teenagers across **transitions** – eg school to college, leaving care etc.
  - g. Making services more **accessible, attractive and relevant** for young people.
- 4 **Positive Activities** – The government and local communities want teenagers to have 'things

to do and places to go' this includes a wide range of structured sporting, cultural and recreational activities and experiences as well as opportunities for volunteering that should all contribute to achieving the ECM outcomes.

- 5 The Government introduced section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (which was inserted by section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006<sup>1</sup>). Section 507B ensures for the first time that a single body – working within the context of the children's trust -is responsible for securing young people's access to positive activities. The legislation also creates new requirements that place young people at the heart of decision making on the positive activity provision available to them.
- 6 Section 507B requires that every local authority in England must, 'so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to:
  - i. Sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
  - ii. Sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.
- 7 'Educational' and 'recreational' activities are referred to in the legislation as 'positive leisure-time activities' or in short positive activities. The Youth Service is particularly charged with delivering **educational** leisure-time activities as opposed to solely leisure activities eg sports clubs. Performance in this area is measured through the annual 'TellUs' survey carried out in schools, we have supplemented this data by our own research through the ECM Survey.
- 8 The Youth Service is the lead on the **Youth Involvement** agenda for the Children's Trust and it supports the:- Children's Trust Shadow Board, The Herefordshire Youth Council, The Youth Funding Panel, and has just secured funding for a new Youth Inspectors Team. This work is key to the future engagement of young people in the local, national and international governance and decision making bodies. It has both targeted and universal provision to ensure young people have opportunities to get their voice heard. Members will have seen some examples at the Youth Seminar on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

## Key Considerations

- 9 Members will be aware of the restructuring programme of Children's Services Directorate (No Wrong Door) and the timeline for implementation for integrated teams by September 2010. The Youth Service is part of that change programme and will become part of locality based provision; however final detailed decisions have not yet been made on the new structures for both localities and central services.
- 10 In response to the priorities of the Children's Trust the Youth Service is increasing its **Targeted Youth Work** with vulnerable young people through greater links with schools and other agencies. We are delivering TYS programmes in partnership with six secondary schools or colleges as well as providing programmes and activities within mainstream youth centre provision. We have delivered TYS interventions (up to Jan 2010) with 357 individual young people, these interventions normally take place every week for at least one term but are only counted as one person (not repeats).
- 11 The government has set a national aspiration target that all young people aged 13 - 19 should engage in **Positive Activities** at least once every four weeks. A new national indicator was

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<sup>1</sup> The Education and Inspections Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006. Section 6 was commenced on 8 January 2007.

created in 2009 to measure this (NI 110) which is collected through the school based TellUs surveys. The table below shows the results from this survey however it should be noted that the TellUs3 survey had a poor response rate (just over 100 young people) and there was concern that it is not statistically viable, therefore the same question was asked in the ECM Survey which had a very high response rate (6,500) and is therefore more statistically viable although will not be the governments measure for assessing performance or setting targets. The TellUs3 result put Herefordshire in the top 5 local authorities in the country; the ECM survey is broadly in line for the west Midlands average. We are currently awaiting the results of the TellUs4 (2009) survey.

Survey name	Result	Target for 2009 - 10
TellUs3 2008	86%	91%
ECM Survey 2009	63%	N/A

- 12 Whilst there is a strong drive to ensure that all young people take part in positive activities there is also a similar, if not stronger, drive to ensure that vulnerable young people are engaged in positive activities and particularly that their voice is heard in the design and delivery of activities. Vulnerable young people are statistically more likely **not** to be engaged, increasing the likelihood and length of their exclusion from the mainstream education, employment or training. The Youth Service through its TYS work in schools and in Youth Clubs leads on this work of supporting vulnerable young people to take part in positive activities and is further supported by its contract with Connexions to provide holiday period activities with young people referred from the Prevent and Deter Group for those who have entered the juvenile justice system.
- 13 The DCSF have commissioned an audit of all positive activity provision available for young people during the week 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010, including all local authority, community, voluntary and private sector provision available. The local authority is leading on the collection of this data. There is a particular focus on Friday and Saturday night provision following on from recommendations from the Youth Taskforce after examination of the national increase in crime rates on these nights. Further the Connexions CCIS (client monitoring system) will be used to ask similar questions about young people's uptake of positive activities.
- 14 The Youth Service has developed with the 14-19 Team a 'what's on guide' called 'Youth Zone' on the partnership [www.myherefordshire.com](http://www.myherefordshire.com) website to ensure that young people and their parents are aware of all the activities available to young people in Herefordshire. The website is searchable so young people can search by location, activity or date, it requires more development and regular inputting and updating of information and data. We are using the data collected from the February audit to populate the Youth Zone.
- 15 The Youth Service continues to work with a wide range of young people to ensure their **voice and influence** is heard at both strategic and personal levels. The continuing development of the **Children's Trust Shadow Board**, the **Youth Funding Panel** and **Youth Council** are possibly the most visible examples as they have impacts on the work of the Children's Trust. The Youth Funding Panel allocate over £160,000 each year to youth led projects to provide more positive activities and locations for young people. Young people from a number of these projects and activities regularly come together for joint conferences and events the first was called 'You Talk We Listen' conference in October 2007, and they have since organised two annual conferences: - in 2008 the Anti-bullying Conference (ABC) and in 2009 Sexual Health and Guidance (SHAG) conference. More recently we have been successful in receiving external funding to set up our first of a series of teams of **Youth Inspectors** who will be



trained and supported to go out and inspect a wide range of services in Herefordshire.

16 The Youth Service was last formally inspected by Ofsted in 2005 as part of the Joint Area Review (JAR) at which time we were graded adequate. Since this time Ofsted inspection of Youth Services have been incorporated into the Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA) and will only receive an inspection if there are indications of concern. The Youth Service has a quality assurance framework that includes, quality standards, observations and feedback of delivering, benchmarking and trend analysis, performance data collection, good practice sharing events and activities and a training programme for all levels of staff.

17 The quality of Youth Service buildings are summarised below and in more detail in Appendix 2

Summary of Local authority maintained centres		Summary of other locations (leased, hired, other)	
Good	4	Good	0
Adequate	1	Adequate	2
Poor	1	Poor	1
Very Poor	1	Very Poor	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

## Community Impact

18 The Youth Service makes a significant contribution to the local community particularly teenagers as it is in contact with over 3,700 individual young people each year some of whom receive significant and ongoing services. Through our wider partnerships and contracts with third sector organisation we support the work of a much wider range and number of services and organisations that work with young people; these include Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (HCVYS), Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (HFYFC) and others.

## Financial Implications

19 There are no financial implications to this report. The Youth Service in on track to achieve it's under spend target of £40,000 as requested in order to contribute to the percentage savings for the directorate.

## Legal Implications

20 Failure to provide sufficient Positive Activities (educational and leisure) as described under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (which was inserted by section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006<sup>2</sup>) could result in secretary of state intervention.

21 The local authority has a statutory responsibility to provide advice and guidance to schools on the management of all off site and adventurous activities. Failure to do so would expose both

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<sup>2</sup> The Education and Inspections Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006. Section 6 was commenced on 8 January 2007.

schools and the local authority to the risk of challenge particularly if an incident or accident were to occur had we not fulfilled this duty.

## **Risk Management**

- 22 All Youth Service staff have current enhanced CRB status and are provided with regular training on child protection and safeguarding issues. The Youth Services also provides a county wide training programme (levels 1-3) for all youth workers (local authority and voluntary sector) to ensure the quality of provision. The Local authority further supports staff to gain national level 5 qualifications in youth work through day release schemes. There are currently three youth workers on this training in different years of this 3 or 4 year course.
- 23 Youth Service provision is largely provided outside of normal office hours as most youth club run between 7 - 9.30pm as well as weekends and particularly for residential trips. These activities require additional support to be available in case of a serious incident; the service therefore has measures in place for on call cover and home base coordinators for residential. Residential trips can include multiple days and in some cases multiple weeks overseas doing adventurous activities. All adventurous activities as described by the Adventurous Activity licensing Authority (AALA) that are run by the youth service operate under the ALAA licenses that we hold for these activities, as part of these licenses our centres and provision are inspected every two years.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Community Youth Service Business Plan 2009 -10

Appendix 2 Community Youth Service Asset Summary Feb 2010

Copies of the Youth Service Provision are available on request from the Youth Service Manager.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.

**Children and Young People's Directorate  
Improvement and Inclusion**

**Community Youth Service  
Team Plan 2009-10**

*Making a positive difference to the lives of  
children and young people*



Working together for the people of Herefordshire



## **Section 1 The Role of the Service: What we do**

### **1.1 The Overall Purpose**

*The vision for children and young people in Herefordshire is set out in the Children and Young People's Plan:*

*"Our vision is to achieve the very best for our children and young people by ensuring all those involved with them, see them holistically and work effectively together to improve their life chances. We need to work closely together, with families and young people themselves to achieve this.... We have high aspirations for all our children and young people and want specifically to narrow the gap for those that are more disadvantaged..."*

*We want every child to grow to reach their full potential within a happy, healthy and secure environment both at home and during their learning. There should be opportunities for children and young people to explore their environment through stimulating play, outdoor adventure and social and cultural experiences. They need to develop their own skills so they are better prepared for adulthood, able to manage their own affairs and interrelate with others effectively. We hope our young people will want to continue their learning and development as adults, taking an increasingly active part as citizens."*

### **1.2 Main purpose of the team**

The Youth Service is charged with improving the lives of young people within the context of the Every Child Matters (ECM) five key outcomes and Herefordshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2009 - 11.

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic wellbeing

The Youth Service has a key role to play in the delivery of Targeted Youth Support (TYS) and this work will be clearly embedded throughout all areas of our work with young people through a wide variety of targeted programmes, positive activities and informal learning opportunities tailored to young people's individual needs and designed to support their personal and social development.

Youth Work will be both a universal service and targeted at groups or individuals who need additional support to achieve their potential. The Community Youth Service is leading on the engagement of young people in decision making processes across Herefordshire. The Community Youth Service supports the Herefordshire Youth Council, The Shadow Children's Trust Board, The Youth Funding Panel, the Herefordshire member of the national Youth Parliament (MYP), and The Shadow Safeguarding Board as well as other fora and councils of young people that are making and influencing decisions about services, facilities and their communities.

Youth work is a voluntary relationship between youth workers and young people and is led by the needs and ambitions of young people. Youth work helps young people to raise their aspiration and reach their full potential. Projects and activities are devised to engage young people and develop their skills, knowledge, attitudes and abilities. Projects and activities range from: - music and film, journalism, football coaching, arts,

gardening, cooking, jewellery making, homework clubs, discussion and debate and planning expeditions BUT all with the key elements of FUN and LEARNING. Our ethos is that the activities are less important than what young people learn and experience through participation - this is the core youth work offer to young people.

### 1.3 Services we provide

#### ECM: Positive Contribution

- **Positive Activities** – The Youth Service provides a wide range of ‘things to do and places to go for young people’ that are attractive, structured and promote personal and social development. Activities must promote wellbeing under the definition of the ECM outcomes framework to be ‘positive activities’. Positive activities are provided at times and locations suitable for young people, many are provided directly by the local authority Youth Service but additionally through contracting and partnership arrangements with the voluntary and community sector. Positive activities are available for all young people but are particularly targeted at those who are disadvantaged. The local authority has a legal duty under section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act (2006) to secure access to sufficient positive activities for all young people.
- **Targeted Youth Support** – The Youth Service provides an increasing range of programmes and activities that target individuals and groups of young people who need additional support. This need will be assessed through a pre CAF and work will be coordinated and planned through the use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), as part of Area Teams and local coordinators for services. This work is primarily delivered by local authority youth service staff in partnership with other agencies including Connexions, Youth Offending Service and third sector organisations.
- **Youth Involvement** – The Youth Service provides a wide range of opportunities for young people to be involved on decision-making bodies that provide services to young people throughout Herefordshire. This work is started in youth club programmes and activities and developed into countywide activity including representation on many levels (including making the decisions on the £430,000 of youth Capital and Opportunity Funding) and all the way up to The Children’s Trust and elected members of the National Youth Parliament.
- **Volunteering** – The Youth Service directly, and through both partnership and contracting arrangements, supports young people to volunteer their time and skills in unpaid activity in order to enhance their confidence and self esteem; and to generate positive role models, as well as to give something to the community. The definition of volunteering does not include any time young people give to their family or home eg baby sitting siblings or household chores or young carer’s responsibilities.

#### Other Services

The Youth Service through its programmes, activities and facilities also makes significant contributions to other strategies including:-

#### Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

The Youth Service contributes to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy through direct service provision to young people. Through all of its work the Youth Service raises the

aspirations of young people which have been proved to have a direct impact on teenage pregnancy rates. More specifically youth workers have been trained to identify young people early who are at risk of teenage pregnancy; provide RSE programmes in youth clubs and other settings as well as referral routes to other specialist providers. Youth workers provide condoms through the C Card scheme as well as Chlamydia testing in most youth centres. The Youth Service is also doing direct work with young men to challenge their behaviour and attitudes towards relationships, sex and pregnancy. Youth workers will seek to increase contact with the emerging 4US clinics in secondary schools. The Youth Service will continue to support with staff time the YMTB group that supports pregnant young parents back into education.

### **Substance Misuse Strategy**

The Youth Service provides a range of tier one services to young people as part of the Substance Misuse Strategy incorporating both drug and alcohol use. These range from information and support and opportunities to discuss the issues in youth clubs, schools and other settings to referral to other specialist agencies. These services are both universal and targeted at more vulnerable young people.

### **Children with a Disability or a SEN**

The Youth Service provides positive activities for young people with disabilities through both its mainstream provision and through direct work with specialist organisations. A significant amount of work is done in partnership with special schools as well as other third sector providers eg Kidz First and Deaf Direct. Recent local research by Barnardo's has indicated that young people with disabilities and their parents want more access to mainstream provision therefore the youth service will review its current offer over the next year.

### **CAMHS**

The Youth Service through its universal and targeted offer to young people contributes to the emotional health and wellbeing of young people by providing opportunities to improve self esteem and confidence as well as assessing and referring on to specialist services. Generic youth work and the Student Information Service is a focus point for self referrals by young people needing additional support. The three highest categories that young people seek support on are relationships, health and bullying.

### **Student Information Service**

The Student Information Services (SIS) is commissioned by the three Hereford colleges to provide information and support to its students, the service is located on both the Folly Lane campus and at Holme Lacy site. The service provides information and support on any subject that the students choose.

## **1.4 How and where is Youth Work delivered**

Youth work is delivered across the county in a variety of settings including: - six youth centres, a sailing centre, a canoeing centre, various outreach locations and one mobile provision as well as in schools, colleges, Pupil Referral Units (PRU's), and in a wide variety of other community managed locations e.g. village halls etc.

Youth workers employed directly by the local authority work with young people in these locations delivering youth work programmes and activities that encourage participation, develop esteem and confidence and can lead to nationally recognised certificates or qualifications. Youth workers encourage and support young people to take part in offsite visits and overnight residential locally, nationally and internationally. These activities are undertaken with the aim of increasing young people's opportunities for growth, and personal development.

The Youth Service has a Partnership Agreement (Contract) with Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (HCVYS). HCVYS is the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary youth work sector and provides support and information to its members, including distributing a range of grants to voluntary sector organisations. The partnership will deliver key aspects of the ECM agenda and specifically make services more integrated, efficient and effective in delivering local targets and DCSF four Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The partnership with HCVYS supports a wide range of delivery partnerships at a local level eg Teme Valley Youth Project, Herefordshire Young Farmers, and Ledbury Youth First. Work with our partners will be the key to the delivery of Targeted Youth Support.

Through the partnership arrangements with HCVYS the Youth Service is leading on improving the numbers of young people volunteering, this includes the 'v' programme but also a range of other volunteering opportunities in both youth organisations and other non related activity.

## 1.5 Customer/Service Users

The Youth Service target age range is 13 – 19 years olds (teenagers) however we do also work within the wider age band of 11 – 25 years olds in certain circumstances eg early prevention services, work with siblings and with young people with disabilities or Special Educational Needs (SEN).

## 2 The context within which we work

### 2.1 Current performance

The Youth Service is performing well against its four DCSF Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and is on track to achieve the national benchmarks in all areas. These indicators are for **Contacts**: the numbers of individual young people we are working with, **Participations**: the numbers of young people actively engaged in our programmes, and **Recorded** and **Accredited** outcomes: the numbers of young people who have their learning or developed validated either through internal or external systems eg AQA, Duke of Edinburgh Award etc.

**Positive Activities** – All Youth Service activities are positive activities but we have been set new national definitions for this work, and through the TellUs 3 Survey were due to have a benchmark established for this new national indicator (NI 110). This indicator was also selected as one of the LAA targets for the local authority as young people have consistently indicated through both surveys and the Youth Involvement agenda that they want 'more things to do and places to go' in Herefordshire. Previous surveys have indicated that the level of take up of positive activities was high in Herefordshire (although robust national benchmarks were not available) however the return rate to the TellUs 3 Survey was very low which has resulted in a score for Herefordshire which is the highest in the whole country at 86%. We are using the ECM survey in February 2009 to gather more information using the same question from the TellUs 3 Survey.

**Youth Involvement** – The Youth Service has a track record of increasing young people's involvement in decision making, with data going back to 2003, which have showed a continual growth of young peoples views that 'Herefordshire Council does enough to involve them in decision making' going from 13.2% agreeing in 2003, 19.8% in 2005 and 31% in 2007. The target for 2009 is that 35% of young people agree and the next survey will take place in February 2009. This success has been built through the increasing range of opportunities that we and our partners have provided for young

people to take part in the decision making processes. Eg Herefordshire Youth Council, The Children's Trust Shadow Board, and now the Shadow Safeguarding Board.

**Targeted Youth Work** – The development of systems for gathering information on targeted youth work has been delayed by a number of factors including:- the Council and PCT restructuring, the Children and Young Peoples Directorate restructuring and the planned move to area teams. Combined with the delayed role out of the CAF training programme these factors have all led to the delayed implementation of new multi agency area and countywide services. This will be major feature of work over the next year to improve the local coordination of targeted services within the new area team structures as they come into place. We will put in place a temporary arrangement to track our TYS and CAF work.

## 2.2 Staff

The Youth Service directly employees 53 staff (3 Management, 42 Youth Workers, full and part time, 4 Admin, 4 Cleaners. Total **£875,000** this is approximately 80% of our total budget.

Recruitment and retention has improved significantly during 2008-9 leading to over 95% recruitment at the year end, this needs to be maintained and greater efficiency and clarity will be sought in the recruitment process in the year ahead.

See staff chart in appendix 1

The Youth Service has identified its key staff development issues for the next year and has fed this into directorate workforce development plan. The key areas are:-

- Safeguarding procedures and practice
- Off site visits, trips and residentials
- TYS, CAF and lead professional role
- Multi agency working, information sharing
- Working with disability and SEN issues including communication

## 2.3 Budget

The Youth Service Revenue Budget is **£1,103,320 (2008-9)**

The Youth Service in line with national guidance has devolved the allocation of the Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds (YCF/YCF) to young people in the Youth Funding Panel. The allocation for **2009-10 is £166,000**

Additionally for 2009 -10 we applied for additional money from the Area Based Grant (ABG) under a number of headings:

- a) **Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)** in 2009-10 this totals **£85,981** for a range of programmes and activities that will target vulnerable or disadvantaged groups of young people
- b) Mainstreaming **Children's Fund** Activity – changes to the way this project work is managed will mean that **£78,278** worth of contracts to third sector providers will be managed by the Youth Service

## Partners

The Youth Service has a number of partners for the delivery of our services; these relationships have either formal contracts or partnership agreements in place to ensure clarity of roles and expectations.



Contracted Partners:

1. Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (HCVYS) – Provision of youth work and support to and for voluntary sector youth organisations
2. Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (HFYFC) - Provision of youth work and support to and for voluntary sector youth organisations
3. Herefordshire and Worcestershire Connexions Service – Provision of Positive activities (PAYP)
4. 2XL Projects – XLR8 programme to schools
5. Youth Support Service – mentoring and support programmes to young people identified through the Children’s Fund Panel or the Prevent and Deter group.
6. Music Pool – provision of music activities to children and parents at the Hollybush Children’s Centre

Other Partners:

7. Schools – a range of targeted and extended schools activities and programmes
8. West Mercia Constabulary – a range of joint work primarily with CSO’s providing services for young people
9. Ledbury Youth First – joint youth work programmes and planned shared office accommodation in Ledbury Area
10. Basement Youth Trust – joint youth work and shared facilities in the Ross on Wye area
11. Herefordshire Expedition Group – expedition training and development for young people culminating in an expedition to Borneo in 2009

**2.4 Strengths and weaknesses**

**SWOT analysis of the Youth Service**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<p><b>Staff</b> – experienced, qualified, trained, approachable, professional, proactive, creative, resourceful, credible and adaptable.</p> <p><b>Relationship with young people</b> – voluntary, choice, on the ground in the areas, direct contact, known by young people, really involve young people</p> <p><b>Services</b> – Informal learning, positive activities, targeted, across both universal, TYS and into specialist, meeting young person identified need, partnerships with other orgs, cost effective, frugal, VFM, already in the areas delivering, buildings and facilities, out of hours not 9-5.</p>	<p><b>Profile</b> – youth work is not clearly defined, image, publicity</p> <p><b>Resources</b> – too stretched, trying to be all things to all people, sustainability of some areas of work, patchy coverage.</p> <p><b>Clarity</b> – no one definition of youth work, no flagship building, no one measure of success, baby sitting, other using youth work skills but not youth work</p> <p><b>Other</b> – Youth work does not marry well with corporate side, bureaucratic and slow to respond</p>

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p><b>Influence</b> – direction of new services, what is on offer and how its provided, help get young peoples voice to be heard, be in at the start</p> <p><b>Services</b> – improve services, expand provisions, increase partnership working, reduce duplication, improve our profile with Young people and agencies</p>	<p><b>Networks</b> – lose current contacts, relationships and knowledge, dip in services during transition / change</p> <p><b>Staff</b> – change of staffing for Young people, loose professional line management, staff leave,</p> <p><b>Competition</b> – other organisations taking youth service ‘ground’, loss of youth work</p> <p><b>Other</b> – loss of buildings focussed on teenagers, increased workload / referral re CAF, loss of universal service</p>

### SWOT summary

- The Youth Service have a trained, committed and experienced workforce delivering a quality service that makes a real difference to young peoples across the whole county
- The profile and understanding of our work is low, and we are trying to do too much with too little, possibly spreading ourselves too thin reducing quality or impact
- Changes to the priorities of the service, structures and competition from other providers may impact negatively on the service unless we adapt and respond
- The Youth Service has an opportunity to improve and expand our work with young people if we lead the development of both TYS and positive activities.

## 2.5 What’s coming over the horizon

The significant organisation change for the Community Youth Service will be the consultation and introduction of Area or Locality Teams during the next year. The Youth Service staff team have been aware of these moves for some time and are pleased that there is a firm proposal that can be both consulted upon and implemented. This however does cause some uncertainty and this will need to be managed to ensure there is no dip in performance or focus on what the service needs to provide. The Employee Opinion Survey for the Directorate indicates there is a considerable amount of work to be done to improve staff morale, confidence and respect in systems, senior management and the expectations of staff.

During the year the Youth Service will be re-prioritising some areas of its work and this will involve a shift of its work from universal services to more targeted work with more vulnerable young people. This work sits within the Targeted Youth Support (TYS) offer and the service will be using both the pre CAF and CAF to assess young people’s needs and plan its services more effectively.

Through the Youth Taskforce agenda Friday and Saturday night provision has been suggested as something both young people want and that will help reduce youth crime during these times. In Herefordshire there is a marginal increase in youth crime across the county during on Friday and Saturdays, but when reviewed by location these are mainly focussed in Hereford City with a smaller element in Leominster. Through the ECM survey we are asking young people for their views on their priority times for

provision, as to increase Friday and Saturday nights will require resources to be relocated from other days of the week, possibly meaning opening less on weekdays.

As part of the changes to the machinery of local government the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is being dissolved and this funding will come through the local authority, this coupled with the changes to the Connexions contract and the 14 – 19 funding has meant that the arrangements for the Connexions Service is currently under review. The new delivery arrangements for Connexions may impact on how and where the Youth Service delivers particularly for TYS activities.

### 3. Work Plan

<b>Objective: 1</b>	<b>Increase young peoples participation in Positive Activities to achieve the NI 110 LAA target in 2010 (this target is currently being re-negotiated)</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>	Young peoples engagement in positive activities is a significant indicator in improved outcomes across all ECM outcomes

<b>Measures of success:</b>	<b>Targets:</b>
1. Youth Service Participation Target	15% (or 2,340)
2. NI110 annual survey TellUs and ECM	90.5% (refresh in 2010)
3. Connexions Survey Annual	New
<b>Monitoring arrangements:</b>	Participation targets are monitored on a monthly basis at service level and quarterly at directorate. NI110 is annual survey via TellUs, with additional evidence through ECM survey and Connexions Survey.

<b>Summary of actions:</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>Finish date:</b>	<b>Lead officer:</b>
1. Increase young peoples and parents awareness of all available positive activities via Youth Zone	4.09	Ongoing	A Preedy
2. Increase provision and range through commissioning arrangements with partners	4.09	2 year contracts	J Ralph
3. Increase uptake by vulnerable young people through TYS related activities and commissioning	4.09	2 year contracts	J Ralph

<b>Financial implications:</b>	<b>Staffing implications:</b>	<b>Any other implications:</b>
£85,000 for additional activities and programmes has been bid for from the ABG	New staff will need to be recruited for these activities, and additional commissioning contracting will need to be put in place	This is an LAA target.

<b>Objective: 2</b>	<b>Increase Targeted Youth Support (TYS) work with young people</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>	Research shows that the earlier young people's needs are

	identified and met the less severe and long term those needs will be. The youth service is ideally placed to identify and work with young people before their needs become entrenched.
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<b>Measures of success:</b>	<b>Targets:</b>
4. Numbers of individual young people (not repeats) supported by TYS intervention	366
5. Numbers of CAFs completed	46
<b>Monitoring arrangements:</b>	Quarterly through Youth base and via line managers

<b>Summary of actions:</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>Finish date:</b>	<b>Lead officer:</b>
4. Youth Service to review its offer to schools re TYS alternative / diversionary programmes	Sept 09	July 10	Asst Managers
5. To fully embed CAF and pre CAFs into Youth Service systems	March 09	March 10	Asst Managers
6. Work with other partners and providers to coordinate TYS and CAF delivery within area teams	March 09	Ongoing	SMT

<b>Financial implications:</b>	<b>Staffing implications:</b>	<b>Any other implications:</b>
Working with more vulnerable young people requires additional resources, without these other elements of service delivery will be reduced	Staff training and Development requirements for staff have been fed into workforce strategy	Members and public may have concern about possible reduction in universal services

<b>Objective: 3</b>	<b>Increase the participation in decision making by Young People</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>	Young people's involvement is essential to ensure that services are relevant and accessible as well as meeting the good practice requirements of services and the local authority.

<b>Measures of success:</b>	<b>Targets:</b>
6. % of young people feel that Herefordshire Council does enough to involve them in decision making	2009 35% 2010 40%
<b>Monitoring arrangements:</b>	This is only monitored every 2 years through the ECM survey

<b>Summary of actions:</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Lead</b>
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	<b>date:</b>	<b>date:</b>	<b>officer:</b>
7. Increase the range and number of opportunities for young people to influence decisions	April 09	ongoing	AP
8. Support the wider development of youth involvement by all partner organisations within the Children's Trust	Sept 09	Ongoing	AP
9. Review the processes for recruitment, selection training and performance appraisal of staff to ensure young people are more involved	April 09	Dec 09	AP

<b>Financial implications:</b>	<b>Staffing implications:</b>	<b>Any other implications:</b>
This will need to be managed within budgets or additional activity will need to be commissioned	Staff will need to be able to respond to more user involvement	Training and awareness raising for partner organisations may be required.

<b>Objective: 4</b>	<b>Increase the number of young people who volunteer</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>	Young people who volunteer increase their skills, knowledge and future prospects, provide roles models for other young people and help to improve the media and public image of young people

<b>Measures of success:</b>	<b>Targets:</b>
7. % of young people engaged in volunteering	35%
<b>Monitoring arrangements:</b>	This is monitored through the TellUs survey and the ECM survey. The 'V' steering group meets every Quarter.

<b>Summary of actions:</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>Finish date:</b>	<b>Lead officer:</b>
10. Support the V programme in Herefordshire by being part of the steering group	April 09	Feb '11	SMT
11. Provide more volunteering opportunities within the Youth Service	Ongoing	Ongoing	SMT
12. Support commissioning and contracts that increase volunteering opportunities	April and Sept 09	March '10	JR

<b>Financial implications:</b>	<b>Staffing implications:</b>	<b>Any other implications:</b>
Resources will be required to support and train additional volunteers	Staff will need to adapt practices to include volunteers	None

<b>Objective: 5</b>	<b>Support the change management process, the move to area teams and the development of TYS to improve outcomes</b>
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	<b>for all young people</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>	The move to areas teams needs to be managed well otherwise performance and further morale reductions will be experienced.

<b>Measures of success:</b>	<b>Targets:</b>
8. Maintain the KPI performance	Achieve targets set
<b>Monitoring arrangements:</b>	Through regular staff meetings and 121s support and encourage staff to engage.

<b>Summary of actions:</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>Finish date:</b>	<b>Lead officer:</b>
13. To ensure youth service staff are informed and engaged in the change process by regular inputs into staff meetings and support to attend change workshops etc	March 09	April 2010	SMT
14. Through the Workforce Development Group provide training and development opportunities in both managing change and the new multi agency arrangements	April 09	March 2010	AP
15. Ensure all managers actively support the change process and the benefits it will bring	Ongoing	Ongoing	All SMT

<b>Financial implications:</b>	<b>Staffing implications:</b>	<b>Any other implications:</b>
Increased time on change matters may reduce levels of service in some areas	The level and significance of change is likely to cause uncertainty and may increase vacancy rates	Staff morale and confidence in senior management will be further reduced if the change process is not well managed

## **Appendixes**

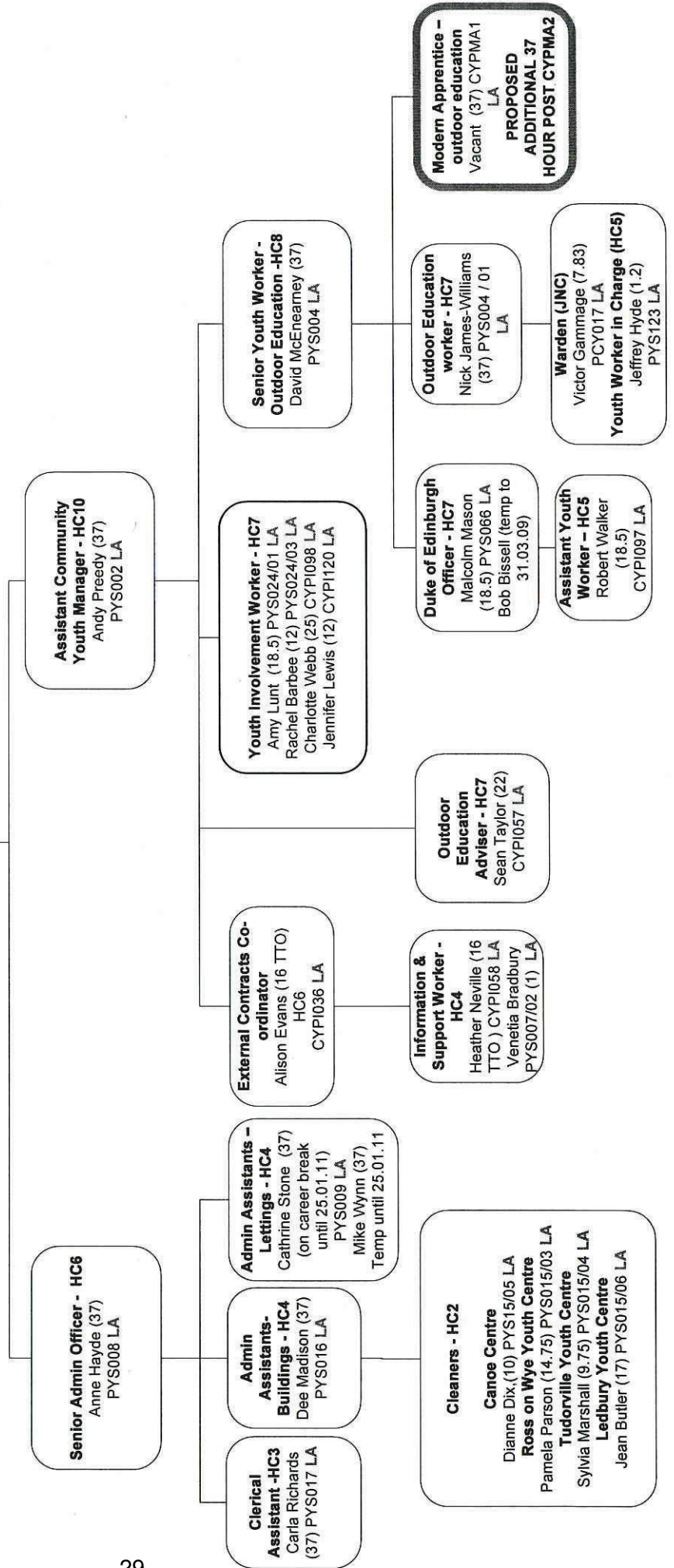
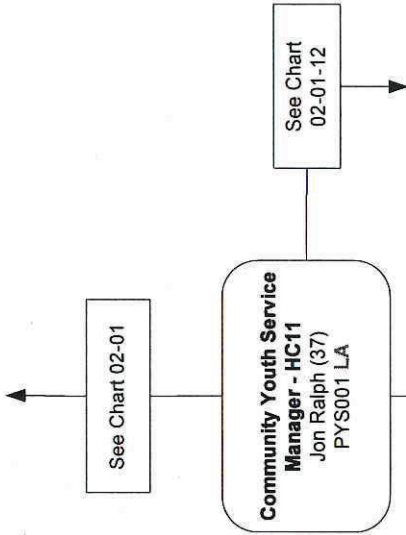
1. Staffing Structure
2. Groups of vulnerable young people Updated March 07
3. Project management and ICT requirements
4. Youth Service Risk Register
5. Equalities Impact Assessment - Action Plan
6. Community Youth Service Targets 2009-10

**Children & Young People**

Chart 02-01-11  
Chart updated 17.02.09

**FUNDING KEY**

- LA - Local Authority
- CC - Childcare Grant
- SF - Standards Fund
- DS - Dedicated Schools Grant
- LS - Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA)
- LAA - Local Area Agreement
- CSG - Included in LAA 07/08, transferring to LA Budget 08/09
- PCT - Primary Care Trust
- TP - Teenage Pregnancy Grant
- ABG - Area Based Grant
- TDA - Training and Development Agency
- LSC - Learning & Skills Council
- HR - Central Human Resources

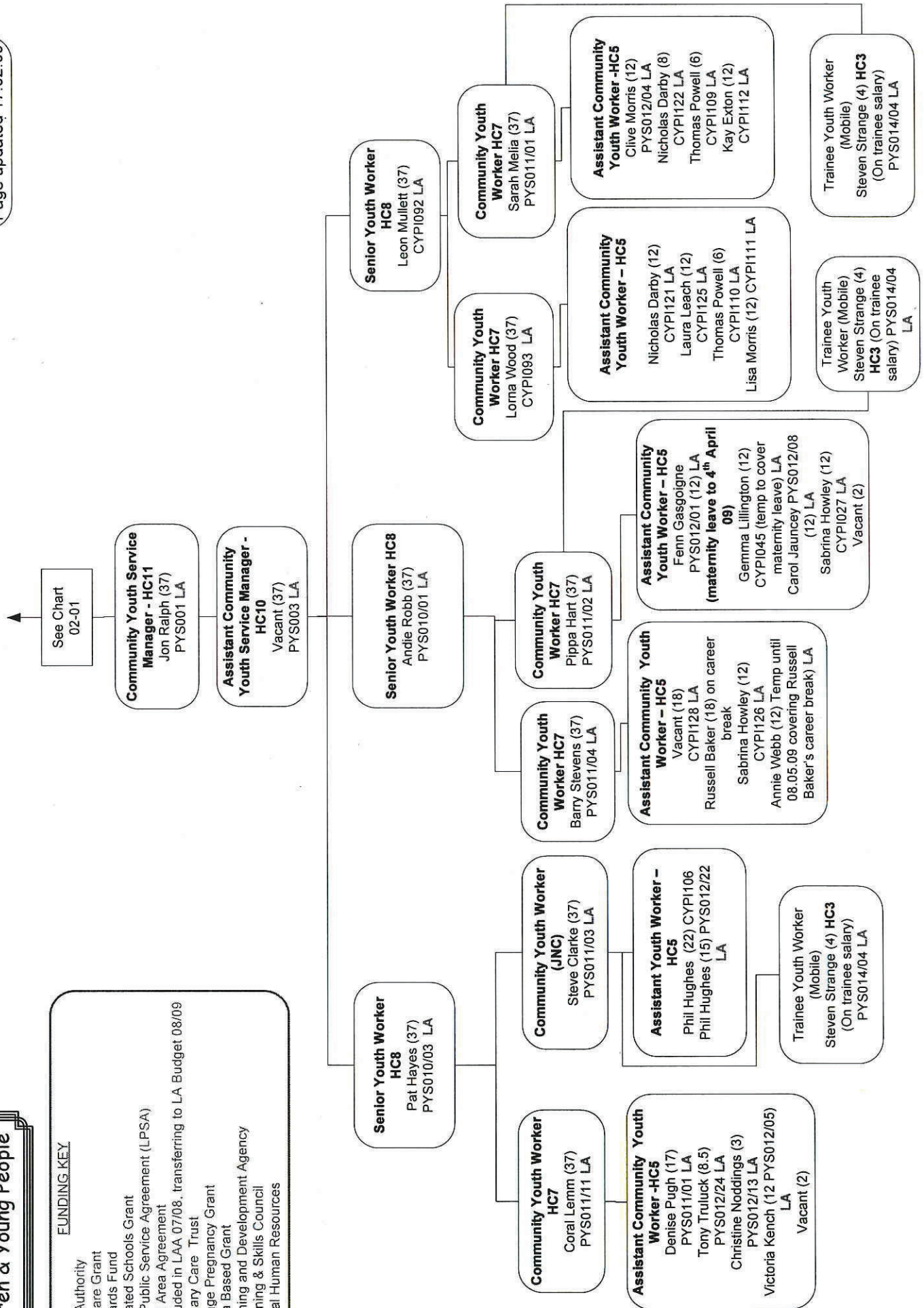


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**Chart 02-01-09**  
Page updated 17.02.09





## **Appendix 2 - The Vulnerable Young People's Group Groups of vulnerable young people Updated March 07**

1. Those in looked after system including aftercare
2. Pregnant teenagers and young parents
3. Those excluded from school – permanent and temporary
4. Home educated young people
5. Those out of education system / 'local' arrangements
6. Those in receipt of hospital education
7. Young offenders and those at risk of offending
8. Substance misuse including alcohol
9. Homeless (including those in temporary accommodation)
10. Young carers
11. Learning difficulties and disabilities and 'statemented'
12. Those with difficult home circumstances including those on Child Protection Register and those identified as part of Child Concern Model
13. Non English speaking young people and those with English as a second language
14. Minority ethnic groups including migrant working families, and those form the travelling community.
15. Disaffected young people
16. Lower ability young people requiring access to provision other than mainstream including those needing access to pre E2E (Entry to Employment) provisions
17. Young people subject to bullying
18. Truants / non-attenders
19. Young people with mental health issue
20. NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training)
21. Young people who are rurally isolated
22. Vulnerable young people in further education and in work based learning
23. Young people who Self harmers
24. Young people who have been sexually abused

**Appendix 3 – Project management and ICT requirements for the Youth Service 2009-10**

Project name	Brief description	Estimated costs (where known)	Director / Head of Service	Contact name	Yr /Qtr Project required
Publicising Positive activities	LA has a duty to promote, publicise and complete gap analysis for all positive activities for young people. Web based solution using MyHerefordshire.com	£35,000 PAYP funding ABG	HoS I&I	Jon Ralph	Current
Youthbase replacement	New client monitoring system required for the Youth Service linked to framework-i	£ to be identified	HoS I&I	Jon Ralph	2009-10
Youth Inclusion	Increase web based system so that video conferencing, online voting, group txt, smart cards can help deliver service more efficiently. This should also include social networking and music and video abilities for YP	£ to be identified	HoS I&I	Andy Preedy	Qtr 4 09
Building Lettings and Service booking system	The service lets out its buildings and vehicles for hire, and also charges for aspects of its delivery (particularly Outdoor Education) online booking and invoicing system is required	£ to be identified	HoS I&I	Anne Hayde	2010 Qtr 1

#### Appendix 4 – Youth Service Risk Register 2009-10

Risk ref	Risk details				Mitigation Strategy		Assessment of residual risk		
	Risk description	Likelihood	Severity	Rating	Summary of mitigation actions	Risk owner	Residual likelihood	Residual severity	Residual rating
CYS1	Change Management process reduces services ability to meet targets	3	4	12 HIGH	Directorate restructure project management process and workforce development plan	Director Children's Services	3	4	12 HIGH
CYS2	Inability to recruit sufficient trained and experienced staff to deliver targets	2	4	8 HIGH	Increased recruitment activity, JE re-grading, and additional training in place	Jon Ralph	2	4	8 HIGH
CYS	Increased TYS work reduces ability to deliver universal services	2	3	6 MED	Monitoring systems being developed and KPIs being revised	Jon Ralph	2	3	6 MED

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#### Appendix 5 Equalities Impact Assessment - Action Plan

Diversity strand	Action identified	Timescales (when this work is to be completed)	Who is responsible?	Improvement aim/outcome
Disability	Increase knowledge and promotion of positive activities for young people with disabilities	March 2010	A Preedy	More young people with disabilities accessing short breaks and PAYP
Income, Linked to age, gender and race	Increase targeted work with those most vulnerable young people	Delivery to start in April 09 PAYP ABG funding	J Ralph	Improved outcomes for individuals and reduction of harm

## Appendix 6 – Community Youth Service Targets 2009-10

Youth Population Mid year estimate 2009 15,600 ONS (16,000 last year), all targets relate to individuals not repeats.

### Service wide Targets

Target Area	Methodology	Target
<b>Contact</b>	24% of 15,600 will be in Contact with Youth Services	<b>3,744</b>
<b>Participation</b>	15% of 15,600 will Participate in our services and activities	<b>2,340</b>
<b>TYS</b>	20% of Youth Service element of the Contact target will have a TYS intervention	<b>366</b>
<b>Accredited</b>	30% of those who Participate (2,340) will achieve and accredited outcome	<b>702</b>
<b>CAF</b>	2% of those who Participate (2,340) are likely to need a CAF	<b>46</b>
<b>Positive Activities</b>	NI 110 the percentage of young people who engaged in a positive activity led by an adult	<b>90.5%</b>
<b>Youth Involvement in decision making</b>	Proportion of 13-19 year olds who feel they can influence decisions affecting local services	<b>35%</b>

### Service Area breakdowns of Targets

#### Target: Contact

Service Area	Comments	Target
Area based workers (per area)	6 area workers will be in contact with 180 individual young people throughout the year (6x180)	<b>1,080</b>
Outdoor Education	Young people not registered to other areas of the service	<b>400</b>
Duke of Edinburgh	Young people not registered to other areas of the service	<b>600</b>
Youth Involvement	Young people not registered to other areas of the service	<b>50</b>
Student Information Services	Young people attending SIS at any site.	<b>300</b>
Third / other sector contracted suppliers	All work done through contractual arrangements including HCVYS, HFYFC, 2XL, YSS, Music Pool	<b>1,314</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24%</b> of 15,600 will be in Contact with Youth Services	<b>3,744</b>

### Target: Participation

Service Area	Comments	Target
Area based workers (per area)	140 young people will participate in 6 Area workers curriculum programmes (6x140)	<b>840</b>
Outdoor Education	350 young people (not registered to areas) will participate in outdoor education curriculum programmes	<b>350</b>
Duke of Edinburgh	600 young people will participate in D of E Award.	<b>600</b>
Youth Involvement	40 young people (not registered to areas) will participate in youth involvement curriculum	<b>40</b>
Student Information Services	100 young people will participate (visit more than once) in the youth information offer.	<b>100</b>
Third / other sector contacted suppliers	410 young people will participate in the curriculum offer provided by third sector and contracted suppliers	<b>410</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15% of 15,600 will Participate in our services and activities.</b>	<b>2,340</b>

### Target: Targeted Youth Support

This is a new area of monitoring and additional guidance will be provided on the definition and tracking arrangements

Service Area	Comments	Target
Area based workers (per area)	Area based youth workers will deliver a TYS intervention with 36 individual young people (6x36)	<b>216</b>
Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education youth workers will deliver a TYS intervention with 24 individual young people	<b>80</b>
Youth Involvement	youth workers will deliver a TYS intervention with 10 individual young people	<b>10</b>
Student Information Services	youth workers will deliver a TYS intervention with 60 individual young people	<b>60</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20% of 1,830 (the Youth Service element of Contact target) will have a TYS intervention</b>	<b>366</b>

**Target: Accredited**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Target</b>
Area based workers (per area)	40 young people per area will achieve an Accredited learning outcome (6x40)	<b>240</b>
Outdoor Education	80 young people (not registered to areas) will achieve an Accredited learning outcome	<b>80</b>
Duke of Edinburgh	310 young people will achieve an Accredited learning outcome	<b>310</b>
Youth Involvement	10 young people (not registered to areas) will achieve an Accredited learning outcome	<b>10</b>
Student Information Services	It is not possible to currently deliver this in this service	<b>0</b>
Third / other sector contacted suppliers	62 young people will achieve an Accredited learning outcome through our contracted services	<b>62</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30% of those who Participate (2,340) will achieve and accredited outcome</b>	<b>702</b>

**Target: CAF**

This is a new area of monitoring and additional guidance will be provided on the definition and tracking arrangements. CAFs are needs led and therefore these targets are for indicative purposes only.

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Target</b>
Area based workers (per area)	6 young people per area are likely to require a CAF (6x6)	<b>36</b>
Outdoor Education	6 Young People (not registered to areas) are likely to require a CAF	<b>6</b>
Youth Involvement	2 Young People (not registered to areas) are likely to require a CAF	<b>2</b>
Student Information Services	2 Young People are likely to require a CAF	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2% of those who Participate (2,340) are likely to need a CAF</b>	<b>46</b>

## Appendix 3

### Herefordshire Council Community Youth Service Capital Asset Summary and Planned Developments June 2009

#### 1. Hinton Community Centre

Condition: Good

Capital Programme: £300,000 refurbishment in 2006-7 through Capital Programme, SRB, and European Funding.

Comments: Local Community Association managing on full repairing 25 year lease. Youth Service have retained approx 18.5% of the building for office space and then rent other space youth work delivery.

DDA: Fully compliant

**Development Plans:** None currently

#### 2. The Y Zone (Ross on Wye Youth Centre)

Condition: Good

Capital Programme: £300,000 partial refurbishment in 2007 through European, Capital programme, National Charities

Comments: Refurbishment of 90% of building, work still required to Kitchen area and computer suite. Currently £25k identified for additional sound proofing as a requirement of the Premises licence and maintenance work to fabric of rear of building.

DDA: Fully compliant

**Development plans:** Finish refurbishment, and sound proof areas around the music facilities subject to funding being available

#### 3. Kington Youth and Children's Centre

Condition: Good

Capital Programme: Small refurbishment as part of the Children's Centre Capital programme in 2008.

Comments: Very well used centre based on schools site, often used as a good practice 'model' youth centre in both design, and space.

DDA: Fully compliant

**Development Plans:** New Intervention Centre and Locality team provision being planned adjacent to this building with a link into the Youth Centre.

#### 4. Ledbury Youth Centre

Condition: Poor – fabric of building run down, decoration, facilities and access  
Capital Programme: None.

Comments: Building was considered for demolition as part of Info and new library in Ledbury so limited work carried out in last 5 years.

DDA: Poor. Limited access requires lift, toilets and door widening minimally.

**Development Plans** This building requires refurbishment including work to make it more accessible and to improve office space.

#### 5. Tudorville Youth Centre (Ross on Wye)

Condition: Very poor

Capital Programme: None

Comments: Old building in very poor condition, not currently used by the Youth Service. Local Community Association want to take over. Feasibility study and outline plans in place no funding available.

DDA: Poor

**Development Plans:** This building has been declared surplus to requirements and if funding was available would be transferred to the Community Association. Disposal should be considered if not other use can be found. It is currently used minimally by local groups.

#### 6. Bodenham Sailing Centre

Condition: Adequate in most areas, except for condition of storage buildings which is poor due the inherent fabric of the building. Other buildings are 'portacabin' style current good condition but limited shelf life.

Capital Programme: None

Comments: Overall well used centre, operating from minimal capital asset, in a location that if lost would never be gained in the future.

DDA: Compliant.

**Development Plans:** Long term relocate to Wellington Lakes when gravel extraction finished.

#### 7. Hereford Canoe Centre

Condition: Good

Capital Programme: None

Comments: Downstairs part of the Castle Green Training Centre.

DDA: Very Poor. Access is poor to both building and river due to the steep nature of the banks and steps. This would not be 'reasonable' to adjust.

Canoeing provision for young people unable to access at Castle Green is available at the Bodenham Sailing Centre Site. We are currently waiting for replacement showers / wet room due to previous installation being faulty.

**Development Plans:** None although we are aware that this building has been muted for disposal as part of the Corporate Capital Asset Plan.

#### Summary of Local authority maintained centres

Good	4
Adequate	1
Poor	1
Very Poor	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

We also deliver from a range of other locations that we have lease arrangements in place, as well as delivering from a range of other locations eg schools, village halls, mobile provision,

#### 8. Leominster Youth Centre

Condition: Very Poor

Comments: Damp in the building and poor building layout

DDA: Compliant.

Leominster Youth Centre is based in the John Kemble building in Leominster which houses SHYPP (young people supported housing scheme). The youth centres occupies the ground floor, the building is listed and is not well laid out for youth work and is difficult to manage additionally because of its location. Currently the rented accommodation is costing £15,000 pa

**Development Plans:** As part of the Minster BSF rebuild we are seeking to refurbish the D Block as part of the Intervention Centres development.

#### 9. Close House Hereford City North

Condition: Poor

Comments: Office space is very limited, layout of building not good for youth work delivery.



DDA: Very poor access via steep rickety staircase.

The Youth Service in N Hereford City is 'renting / sharing' office and delivery space as part of a partnership agreement with Close House (a voluntary sector provider of youth services) at £10,900 pa. The LA led on a bid to the Big Lottery through the myplace funding from DCSF to redevelop the whole site at St Peters Church and Close House totally £4.2 million, however this was unsuccessful.

**Development Plans:** The application to Myplace was unsuccessful leaving the area very poorly served by youth facilities. There is £170,000 allocated to Youth or Community Building in the College Hill area from the insurance claim from the College Hill Youth Centre fire, however no suitable building has been identified. A pilot project is being run at St Barnabas Church to assess the needs of the area and this buildings suitability for investment.

#### **10. Bromyard Youth Centre**

Condition: Adequate

Comments: Inadequate space for youth work.

DDA: Fully Compliant

This is a small and inadequate space on the back of the Bromyard Centre managed by Halo but with the Youth Service running service delivery.

Physical access and condition good but not suitable location or space for youth work delivery. Service charges for being at the location cost approx £10,000 pa however there have been some significant cost increase in recent year which we are currently contesting.

**Development Plans:** In partnership with QE School and the Intervention Centres funding a joint use facility has been agreed on QE School site, building work should start in 2010 with a likely open date in September.

#### **11. Secure Vehicle Storage Sweetman Yard Hereford**

Condition: Adequate

Comments: Adequate for function ie no client access

DDA: Poor

The Youth Service stores its minibus and a mobile (large transit van size vehicles) as well as a number of canoe and bike trailers and other kit for the delivery of youth work eg mountains bikes, archery equipment and Duke of Edinburgh Award kit pool.

Jon Ralph  
Community Youth Service Manager  
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[jralph@herfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jralph@herfordshire.gov.uk)



<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 MARCH 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN HEREFORDSHIRE - TOP TEN QUESTIONS FROM I&amp;DEA/CFPS</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>SAFEGUARDING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide.

### **Purpose**

To inform Councillors of safeguarding arrangements for children within Herefordshire using the I&DeA/CfPS top ten questions to ask.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT Children's Services Scrutiny Committee consider the information provided.**

### **Key Points Summary**

None.

### **Alternative Options**

None.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

None.

### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 The I&DeA/CfPS has produced a draft guide for Councillors to assist in the proper scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements for children in their area. This report gives key information to Herefordshire's Children's Services Scrutiny Committee based on the I&DeA/CfPS ten

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Kim Drake, Assistant Director – Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children, Children and Young People's Directorate, Blackfriars, PO BOX 185, Blackfriars Street, Hereford, HR4 9ZR. Tel: 01432 26 1603. Email: [kdrake@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kdrake@herefordshire.gov.uk)

questions to ask.

## Key Considerations

The top 10 questions to ask

**1. How effective is the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in holding individual agencies to account and ensuring multi-agency working through the safeguarding procedures and operational performance oversight?**

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board-(HSCB), holds agencies to account in the following ways:

- It has a Quality Assurance sub group which has a rolling audit programme and oversees action plans from Serious Case Reviews.
- Annual Section 11 audit is undertaken by the Board which holds agencies to account for a range of Safeguarding activities. Action plans are developed and monitored to improve practice across the Board partners.
- HSCB has a Policy and Practice Sub group which ensures that a comprehensive set of policies procedures and guidance is available to all staff across Board agencies in delivering safe services to children and young people.
- HSCB acts as the Stay Safe Outcome Group for the Children's Trust providing a report card on 5 key priorities and is accountable to the Children's Trust Board for its performance on these.

**2. Does your LSCB have sufficient resources, both financial and human, to undertake its role effectively and deliver the LSCB business?**

Resources for HSCB are tight and we try to keep this work efficient with the Board having a Business Manager, an administrator and a part time training officer. The Director of Quality and Integrated Commissioning has offered a part time Project Officer in kind for the next financial year and West Mercia Police have offered in kind support from an officer to help with audit activity. The subgroups are 'staffed' by constituent members of the Board and the work of these groups is undertaken by partners across the professional spectrum of the Board.

In order to maximise resources we are looking at two possible models around combining the Board business unit with that of the Children's Trust or the emerging Adult Safeguarding Board.

**3. Is the relationship between the LSCB and the Children's Trust clear and working effectively to improve outcomes for children?**

Yes. The newly agreed Constitution of the HSCB ensures that accountability and challenge is built in to its relationship with the Children's Trust. The recent consultation on the new The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 clarifies the relationship between the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Children Board and we have referred to this guidance when developing local arrangements. The Independent Chair of HSCB sits on the Children's Trust Board and reports monthly on the progress of the Stay Safe outcome group priorities. The Vice Chair of the HSCB sits on the Children's Trust Management Group and leads on the Stay Safe outcome priorities.

Quality and performance

**4. What kind of case audit, performance management and quality assurance activity does your LSCB perform to improve the quality and effectiveness of local multi-agency practice and any lessons to be learned?**

The Quality Assurance and Evaluation Sub Group have conducted a number of specific audits for HSCB. These include multi agency audits on themes from safeguarding practices, single agency audits on child protection, and a section 11 safeguarding audit on statutory agencies. The HSCB will progress as part of the Business Plan 2010-11 bi monthly multi agency practice audits. The

HSCB will incorporate the lessons learned from these audit into the level 2 safeguarding multi agency training.

**5. How is the LSCB gathering and using the experience of children, young people and families to inform improvements to safeguarding arrangements?**

The HSCB is developing its participation with children and young people in partnership with the Children's Trust Board. A participation strategy is being developed across the two which will be ready by April 2010. The Board has regularly consulted young people through specific surveys, research and running a shadow board.

The HSCB has completed a questionnaire with young people to establish individuals' knowledge of safeguarding procedure, their attitudes, and their likely behaviours if they became aware of a potential safeguarding issues.

This survey indicated that further awareness training is required and this is part of the HSCB Business for 2010-11.

**6. Is there a robust needs assessment for safeguarding and are the trends in demand and performance monitored and well understood?**

The primary focus of safeguarding accountability in the Children and Young People's Plan will be found as part of the improvement priority. It set out strategic safeguarding activities and allocates them to the Children's Trust or Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board; by doing this the respective roles are clearly defined as to the safeguarding responsibility.

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board will lead upon evaluating the impact in particular of integrated data set, its work on Serious Case Reviews and Child Deaths, it's monitoring of inter-agency procedures and its assessment of individual agencies' performance.

From this work Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board will prepare its annual report on Safeguarding and will recommend Safeguarding improvements priorities to contribute to the needs assessment for the Children's Trust and for the Children and Young People's Plan.

**7. Are there adequate early intervention or prevention services in place for those children and families before a crisis is reached or harm occurs?**

Yes there is a range of services across agencies. These will be better coordinated once the No Wrong Door locality teams are up and running. Appendix B shows a range of services provided to children and families in crisis.

**8. Are these services reaching the most vulnerable groups e.g. children with disabilities, children in families affected by substance misuse, domestic violence or parental mental illness and children from refugee and asylum seeking communities?**

Yes in many cases. We have dedicated Children With Disabilities service which aligns with a range of associated health services at the Kite Centre. Herefordshire has a Hidden Harm strategy and Group which reports into the HSCB which coordinates responses to children affected by parents who misuse substances. The multi agency DASH team use CAF on all cases with children and young people to identify need and assess risk.

**9. Do all Child Protection Plans contain specific, achievable, child focused outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. Are these measurable and are those protection plans routinely reviewed?**

We aim for all Child Protection Plans to have SMART actions which focus on key issues and what needs to change to minimise harm. All CP plans are regularly reviewed in Herefordshire by independent child protection professionals. Quality and timeliness are monitored through a QA process and reported up to the Assistant Director for Safeguarding.

**10. What is the quality and frequency of supervision and training given to frontline staff?  
Does supervision routinely address practice and performance?**

Supervision varies from agency to agency. The new Working Together 2010 (due to be published in March) addresses this by advising on core generic principles to be applied across agencies. In Social Care regular supervision is mandatory. We have just signed off a refreshed policy which outlines expectations and parameters. All front line staff will be supervised formally at least once more month on their casework by an experienced manager.

**Community Impact**

- 2 The Herefordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board (HSCB) works with Herefordshire Children’s Trust by reporting on a regular basis through the Stay Safe Outcome Group of Herefordshire’s Children’s Trust. The Children’s Trust has a Shadow Board made up of young people who are consulted on key issues around safeguarding.

**Financial Implications**

None.

**Legal Implications**

None.

**Risk Management**

None.

**Consultees**

None.

**Appendices**

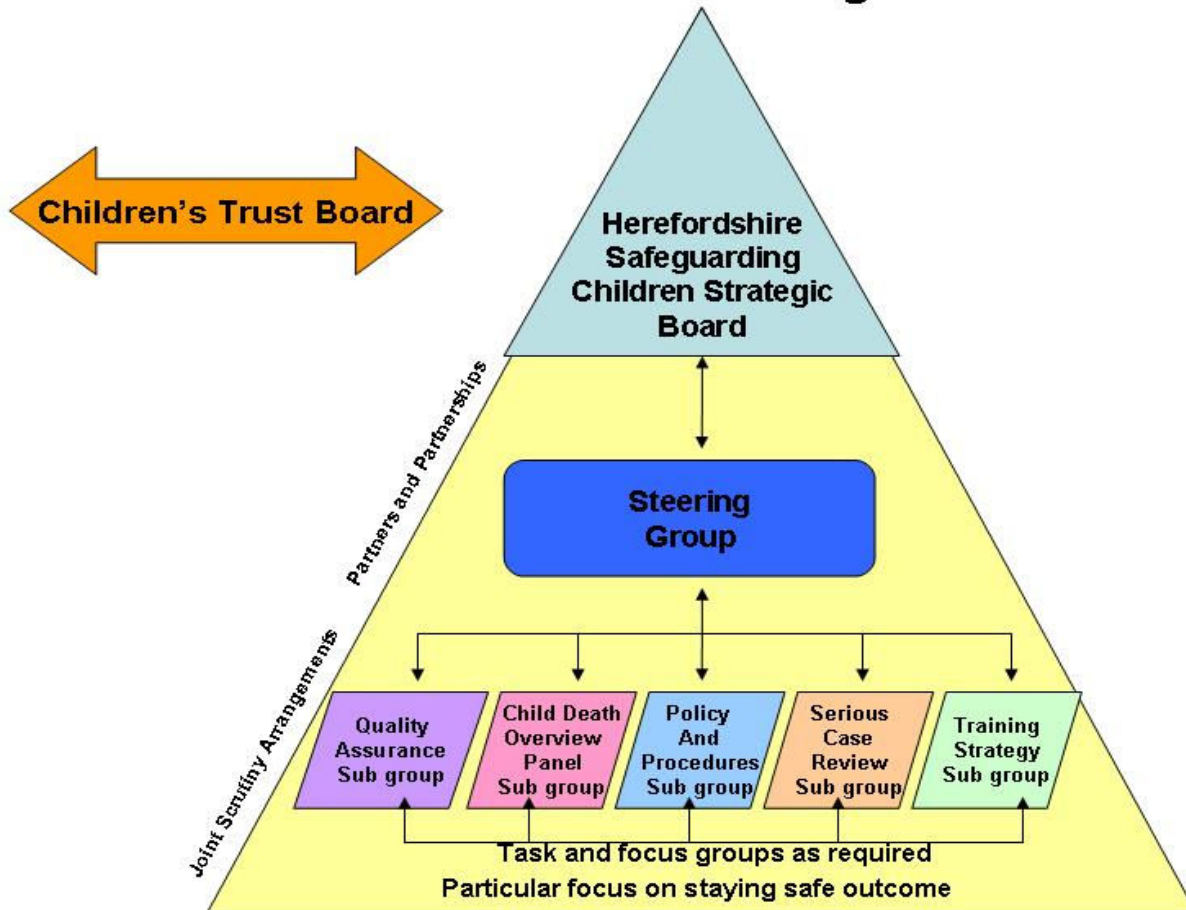
Appendix A – structure diagram for Herefordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board

Appendix B - services offered to children and families when relationships are at breaking point

**Background Papers**

- None identified.

## Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board Arrangements



### Stay Safe Outcomes from the Children's Trust

- To reduce domestic abuse on the lives of children in Herefordshire
- To improve the quality of referrals and responses to vulnerable children.
- To Promote e-safety for the children Herefordshire
- To reduce bullying of children in Herefordshire
- To ensure safer recruitment practices across all agencies working with children in Herefordshire





**Appendix B**

# **Services offered to children and families when relationships are at breaking point**

## Early Intervention

A range of family support services is offered to children and families when relationships are at breaking point. The need for these services is identified through the Common Assessment Framework to provide a range and level of services appropriate to meet children and families needs. Family support may include:

- **Practical help** in the home, including support with daily routines and managing family life
- **Family mediation** and a range of support (including **couples counselling**) for families at risk of breakdown and those who are in the process of or have already separated
- **Emotional health and well-being** support for parents and young people
- Guidance on **child development**
- Practical support to enable parents to improve their **children's behaviour**
- **Signposting to universal positive activities** and services for children and young people
- Broker **access to education and employment opportunities** for children, young people and parents
- Interventions and advice to **engage fathers** in the development and education of their child(ren)
- **Advice, training and support** to universal family and parenting services in effective interventions around emotional health and well-being, behaviour management and relationship work in particular
- Initiate and **ensure appropriate involvement from targeted and specialist provision**, such as parenting programmes, Family Intervention Project, CAMHS, Drug and Alcohol Services, diversionary activities (Targeted Youth Services), adult services, health services, specialist counselling services
- To facilitate and contribute to multi-agency (CAF and Team Around the Family) **assessment and packages of support** for those with multiple needs

In addition to this Parent Support Advisers will engage and work with parents and carers to help increase parenting skills, to encourage positive involvement in their child's learning and to work with parents on attendance and behaviour issues.

## Specialist help

The Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children's Service responds when children and families are under severe strain and where this affects the development or welfare of the child.

To access services, a referral needs to be made to the Referral and Assessment team for new cases, or for existing cases this would be picked up during routine visiting and/or reviewing of the child or young persons plan.

This plan is produced following either an initial assessment or a more in depth core assessment. The aim of the assessment is to identify the needs of the

child or young person, what the desired outcome is and what services will be put in place to produce these outcomes.

All children on the brink of entering the Care system, have an allocated Social Worker, whose first aim is to explore the possibility of them remaining at home, and the provision of coordinated and effective services, if not.

Social Workers and Family Support Workers can offer support, guidance and direct work with children, young people and their families to try to overcome difficulties in their relationships.

We have commissioned a range of services for when more in depth work is needed.

Action for Children provide the following;-

### **Rapid Response and Family Support service**

A service which includes crisis intervention, Intensive intervention work and ongoing and enduring work.

They offer a limited same day response of up to two 2 hour sessions and then more planned work of 2 hour sessions designed to repair and improve family relationships. They also offer positive and diversionary activities for children and young people.

This service is offered to service users in their own homes.

### **Family Group Conferencing**

The aim of this service is to reduce the need for children at risk of family breakdown to become looked after by enabling families to find their own solutions to their family difficulties and improve the likelihood of positive outcomes for their children.

They operate by

- identifying and meeting family members
- arranging a meeting venue
- date when all those family members can get together

Aim is to discuss the difficulties the family are facing and coming up with family solutions for these problems.

Both services have proven to be very effective and usually produce good outcomes.

Children and their families can also be referred for counselling with various organisations and those with complex mental health needs can be referred to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) who employ nurses, psychologists and psychiatrists who use a range of techniques to offer help.

### **Mediation**

We also commission (through housing) a mediation service that specifically works with 16+ children who are likely to require accommodation, to attempt to reconcile them with their families and effect a return home

### **Children in Local Authority Care**

We commission a range of specialists to work with Children in the Care system, including teachers and a specialist CAMHS service and Nurse, who will all work together to try to ensure Children remain in a stable and appropriate placement and are enabled to return home wherever practical. Each Child in the Care system has an allocated Social Worker to ensure they have an appropriate care package and plan which is independently reviewed by our P&R managers to ensure our Young People achieve the most positive outcomes.

### **Children in Foster Care**

If the child is in Foster Care then support can be offered by the fostering support worker. Out of the last 5 in house placements facing difficulty, 4 have successfully continued.

STEPS can also offer a support package to the child or young person. This can be advice, support or diversionary activities on a sessional basis. This service has proved very effective.

### **Children who have been adopted**

For children who have been adopted there is a specific half time worker who provides adoption support.

There is also a Psychologist but they are only employed for 2 days per week and they have other duties, so access to this service is limited.

Additional support can be bought in from a specialist agency, Family Futures, who have a very good track record of supporting children in placements but their services are very expensive and a support package can cost up to £50,000 for a year. If this prevents a young person coming into the care system in an expensive residential placement, this becomes cost effective.

Briefing produced by:

Roger Lindsay, Service Manager, Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children  
Debbie McMillan, Head of Operational Development, Community Operations

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 MARCH 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/2010</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To report the capital budget position for 2009/10 for the Children & Young People's Directorate.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT Committee note and comment on the report as part of its scrutiny function.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The report contains updates on all major funding streams and capital developments. All are broadly on budget and to timescales.
- Riverside Primary School is now open, and work is underway on phase 2 of the scheme to complete the external areas. In February 2007, Cabinet considered a funding shortfall on the schemes to replace Riverside Primary School and Sutton Primary School. Cabinet agreed that the funding shortfall on both schemes should be met from a combination of Government grant, available to the Local Authority for modernisation of school buildings; a reduction to the scope of both schemes; and the use of capital receipts. Officers are pursuing the disposal of part of the Riverside Primary School site to realise the required capital receipt. The school and community are aware of this planned disposal.

In addition, officers are negotiating with insurers over the release of funding from a Performance Bond which was put in place at the start of the scheme to mitigate against the potential costs of the developer being unable to deliver the scheme. Since the original contractor went into administration, officers are seeking to reclaim, from the Performance Bond insurers, the additional costs incurred by the Local Authority.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Rob Reid, Head of Access & Capital Commissioning on (01432) 260920

## Alternative Options

- 1 This report is a monitoring report. There are alternatives in terms of the format if Scrutiny Committee wishes to have information presented in a different way.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Monitoring report

## Introduction and Background

- 3 This report provides a summary of the planned capital expenditure for the Children & Young People's Directorate in 2009/2010.

Planned capital expenditure for 2009/10 is around £30 million.

## Key Considerations

### 4. Update on capital schemes for 2009/10

#### 4.1 **The Minster College – Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder - £21,000,000 (£12,201,349 to be spent in 2009/10)**

This scheme continues to progress well and is on schedule to complete in the summer 2010. While the new school has been designed to accommodate the upper end of possible future student numbers within the catchment area and, in time, from new housing, the school will have significant spare capacity when it opens. The Local Authority continues to work with the headteacher and governors to mitigate this. An area of surplus capacity is being developed to accommodate a multi agency integrated children's services team within the new building and other accommodation is being adapted to provide a facility for alternative provision (see paragraph 4.7).

#### 4.2 **The Hereford Academy - £23,923,712 (£5,090,000 to be spent in 2009/10)**

This scheme programme has experienced some slippage during the ground works stage due to snow and ice, but there has also been a 3 weeks delay as a result of the grounds work contractor, appointed by Willmott Dixon Construction, ceasing trading. A new grounds work contractor has been appointed and is now on site. Under the National Academies Framework, additional costs in respect of this are borne by the main contractor, Willmott Dixon Construction and not the Local Authority. Officers are working with The Academy Trustees and the contractor to mitigate the affect on the programme.

#### 4.3 **Primary Capital Programme - £3,000,000 (2009/10) + £5,378,000 (2010/11)**

This is the national Government fourteen year funding programme for major investment in primary schools and primary age special schools. Herefordshire will receive its first year's allocation of £3,000,000 this financial year and £5,378,000 in

2010/11, giving a total of £8,378,000 over the two financial years. Funding amounts beyond this have not yet been announced by Government.

Cabinet has committed £7,378,000 of the first two year's funding to the building of a new all through primary school in Leominster, to replace the current Leominster Infant and Leominster Junior schools. A Project Team has been formed, comprising of the headteachers and governor representatives of the current schools and Local Authority Children's Services, Property Services and Human Resources officers, to deliver the new build school and to carry out the statutory school reorganisation process to establish the new school. Amey are providing the consultant architect and design service.

Herefordshire's Primary Strategy for Change identifies the balance of the funding from the Year 1 and Year 2 allocations, £500,000, as being available as a 'match funding pot'. Consultation with schools will take place this school term on a mechanism for primary schools to bid for funding for capital schemes from the 'match funding pot' and the criteria to be used to determine priorities for receiving funding.

#### 4.4 **Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) - £1,600,000**

Capital funds for Voluntary Aided schools are allocated to local authorities from the Department for Children Schools and Families. In conjunction with the Roman Catholic Diocese, the Anglican Diocesan and Staunton-on-Wye School, which is Herefordshire's only non-denominational voluntary aided school, the Local Authority coordinates the programme of investment. The works identified are either large maintenance schemes or improvement schemes, although certain ICT installations are also permitted. The figures quoted are always in 100% but 10% has to be found locally using School's revenue budget or the Trustees' own account. Bids are invited from aided Schools around June/July each year with submissions having to be made by the end of September. The Department for Children Schools and Families are advised of the programme by the end of November of each year. Any scheme approved requires competitive tenders to be obtained and submitted to the Department for Children Schools and Families for approval. Grants are paid on receipt of invoices and the final account requires receipted invoices and certificates of completion from the professional advisors.

The programme for 2009/10 is:

St Joseph's RC Primary – completion of new school hall -	£300,000
Pembridge C of E Primary – Remodelling of accommodation -	£300,000
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School – Boiler replacement -	£100,000
- Re-roofing -	£30,000
Staunton on Wye Primary School – contribution to school build	£300,000
St Paul's C of E Primary – Replacement roof	£55,000
St Michael's C of E Primary – kitchen conversion -	£17,000
Leintwardine C of E Primary – Admin/staff area remodelling -	£150,000
St Mary's C of E, Fownhope – replace rooflights -	£30,000
St Mary's RC High – Re-roofing	£40,000
- upgrade lighting to classrooms	£40,000
Whitchurch C of E Primary – Re-roofing	£60,000
Brampton Abbots Primary – remodelling	£128,000
Access contingency -	
(to meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements)	£50,000

All of the above schemes have either been completed or are on schedule to complete successfully before the end of this financial year.

#### **4.5 Capital Maintenance Programme - £1,767,780**

This allocation is managed by the Council's Asset Management and Property Services Team to address the highest condition issues. The allocation includes £250,000 specifically for work to prevent legionella and £100,000 to refurbish and re-site mobile classrooms where appropriate.

Members of the Committee have received a briefing note on the management of the Capital Maintenance Programme and school schemes being funded this financial year.

#### **4.6 14 to 19 and Special Education Needs Grant - £2,000,000 (2009/10) + £6,000,000 (2010/11)**

Priorities for spend are being determined through two avenues - the review of Special Educational Needs, where options drawn up by consultants are being developed by the new Head of Service for Inclusion, and through the 14-19 Consortium and other relevant providers to agree the highest priorities for the delivery of the Diploma streams and the wider 14-19 agenda. Overall options for this funding will be presented to Cabinet.

#### **4.7 Alternative Provision Capital Grant - £490,000 (2009/10) + £1,669,000 (2010/11)**

The Local Authority was successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families to acquire funding for a pilot project to establish alternative provision for children who would otherwise be excluded from school. The bid has attracted a capital grant totalling £2,159,000 and also some revenue funding.

The first school to benefit from this funding is John Masefield High School which opened its new provision at the beginning of the autumn term 2009. Provision at John Kyrle High School opened after half term last autumn. Work is progressing to provide dedicated facilities at all other high schools by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

#### **4.8 Playbuilder – £526,332 (2009/10) + £593,285 (2010/11)**

The Local Authority was successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families for capital grant funding totalling £1,119,617 from the Playbuilder scheme.

The Playbuilder scheme is about providing play sites for 8-13 year olds that are fully inclusive in terms of diversity and disability, have support from the local community, permission from the landowner, encourage risk and challenge and make the most of the natural environment.

This is a two year project to develop 22 play sites, 11 in each year. 11 sites have been identified for development this financial year and officers from the Children and Young People's Directorate have worked with colleagues from Parks, Countryside and Leisure and the third sector to consult communities, and in particular young people, on the facilities they would like to see developed in their area.



Play areas have already opened at Credenhill and at Peterchurch. Sites currently under constructions are Crooked Well, Kington, Sydonia and Baron's Cross, Leominster, King George V playing fields, Hereford, Prospect Walk, Hereford, Northolme, Hereford, Roman Way, Ross-on-Wye, Bye Street, Ledbury and Bromyard Recreation Ground.

Officers are working with communities in the following areas to benefit from the second year's funding: Llangrove, Sutton St Nicholas, Burghill, Bromyard Recreation Ground phase 2, Withington, Kingstone, Weobley, Kington Recreation Ground, Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury Deer Park, Grandstand Road, Hereford, Queenswood and Leintwardine.

The project is being externally audited on behalf of the Department for Children Schools and Families by Play England which provides a monthly 'Red/Amber/Green', or 'RAG' rating report to Ministers. Play England is very pleased with Herefordshire's progress to date and the project management arrangements. The latest 'RAG rating' is 'Green'.

#### **4.9 Riverside Primary School - £3,000,000 (2009/10)**

Phase 1 of this scheme was completed last autumn and pupils and staff moved into the new school building at the start of the spring term. Work is now underway on phase 2 of the scheme to establish the external areas. This scheme was delayed due to the original contractor going into administration. A contract has now been put in place with another contractor to complete the scheme.

Officers are currently negotiating with insurers over the release of funding from a Performance Bond which was put in place at the start of the scheme to mitigate against the potential costs of the developer being unable to deliver the scheme. As the original contractor went into administration, officers are seeking to reclaim, from the Performance Bond insurers, the additional costs incurred by the Local Authority.

In February 2007, Cabinet considered a funding shortfall on the schemes to replace Riverside Primary School and Sutton Primary School. Cabinet agreed that the funding shortfall on both schemes should be met from a combination of Government grant, available to the Local Authority for modernisation of school buildings; a reduction to the scope of both schemes; and the use of capital receipts. Officers are pursuing the disposal of part of the Riverside Primary School site to realise the required capital receipt. The school and community are aware of this planned disposal.

#### **4.10 Holmer Flood Alleviation - £179,419 (2009/10)**

Immediate preventative works have been carried out. The main work will be undertaken in the spring of 2010.

#### **4.11 Accessibility – Individual Pupil Needs - £389,560 (2009/10)**

This budget is used to address specific accessibility issues for pupils who would otherwise be disabled from accessing the curriculum. A number of schemes are in progress to provide for children starting primary school, or transferring to high school in September 2010.

#### 4.12 **Children's Centres - £1,440,353 (2009/10)**

South Meadow Children's Centre (formerly Hollybush Family Centre) and Peterchurch Children's Centre are now complete. Plans for the extension of Springfield Children's Centre are being prepared and options are being considered for the provision of children's centre services to the north of the County.

#### 4.13 **Quality & Access for early years provision - £1,324,268 (2009/10)**

This is grant funded by the DCSF and is aimed at improving the quality of, and/or access to quality early years provision, particularly in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. The Quality & Access Project Board has invited and evaluated bids from early years providers for grant funding aimed at schemes which will improve quality and/or access.

#### 4.14 **Section 106 - £320,661 of developer contributions to spend within time-scales which are specific to individual contributions.**

The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 allows a Local Authority to negotiate financial contributions from developers in respect of infrastructure and services. The Council's Planning Obligation Supplementary Planning Guidance document provides a framework for negotiating contributions for Children & Young People's Services, including schools.

Contributions are used to meet the highest asset management plan priorities of the individual school, or groups of schools/establishments in an area, if specific schools are not named.

The following Section 106 developer contributions are currently held by the Children & Young People's Directorate:

The Bradbury Lines, Hereford, developer contribution of £182,443 is provided for education facilities in the area. Possible beneficiaries are: St. Martin's Primary, Our Lady's RC Primary, Marlbrook Primary and Blackmarston Special School. While there is potential to spend this money at any one, or all of these schools, the highest asset management plan priorities are currently being assessed by officers in order to provide an objective analysis of the priorities for capital investment. Options will be reported to the Cabinet Member for consideration. The deadline for spend is 25th January 2011.

The Pentland Gardens, Hereford, developer contribution of £46,878 for Trinity Primary School has been spent on toilet refurbishments in 2009/10. This scheme was undertaken during the school summer holiday.

The Bullingham Lane developer contribution of £34,090 for St. Martin's Primary School will be spent on providing outdoor shade/weather shelter facilities and an extension to accommodate reprographics facilities, which currently occupy a corridor space.

The Withies Road (2) developer contribution of £39,407 will be spent upon agreement with Withington Primary School and Aylestone High School on the highest asset management plan priority(ies) to be addressed.

The Coughton, Ross-on-Wye, developer contribution of £9,000 has been spent in 2009/10 to help provide sufficient Year 7 places at John Kyrle High School for September 2009.

The balance of £8,842 from the Old Road, Bromyard development will be spent by St Peter's Primary School in 2009/10.

#### **4.15 Extended Schools Grants - £462,392 (2009/10)**

Extended schools providers are invited to bid for capital grants through a 2 stage process. The first stage is for the bidder to seek agreement in principle to grant funding towards their particular project. If bids are approved in principle, then the applicant is invited to submit a full business case. Upon approval of the business case, a grant is then made.

#### **4.16 Schools' Devolved Formula Capital - £3,663,535**

Devolved directly to schools to spend on their highest asset management plan priorities. The Directorate's Planning, Performance & Development Team restructured last year with part of the restructure aimed at providing schools with more support in making best use of, and developing, their school buildings and sites. Officers have been working with schools to help them identify their spending priorities and to develop and deliver capital projects that will improve outcomes for children. Feedback from schools has been very positive in terms of ensuring best value from schemes and support for Headteachers in managing projects.

#### **4.17 Co-location of services – £2,396,050 in total. £157,700 (2009/10)**

The Local Authority has, on behalf of Herefordshire's Children's Trust, been successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families for capital funding to provide co-located services. The full funding, over two years, is £2.4m. This will support the move towards the provision of integrated services through locality based teams. Sites for co-located services have been identified at The new build Minster College, Kington Youth/Children's Centre, Ledbury Primary School, Ryefield Children's Centre, Ross-on-Wye, Greencroft Children's Centre, and the Hope Centre Bromyard. Negotiations on a second Hereford City site, north of the River Wye, are at a delicate and commercially sensitive stage. For that reason, it has been agreed with the Chair of the Children's Scrutiny Committee that the detail on this will not form part of this report. If negotiations are no longer commercially sensitive when the Committee meets, the Head of Access & Capital Commissioning will provide Members with a verbal update.

## **Community Impact**

- 5 The capital investment programme of the Children and Young People's Directorate, including schools and early years settings, has wide ranging community impacts, benefiting children and young people and their families across Herefordshire

## **Financial Implications**

6 These are contained in the body of the report.

## **Legal Implications**

7 The use of capital funding including grants must comply with the legal requirements associated with each funding stream and the conditions of specific grants

## **Risk Management**

8 The risks are set out in the body of the report, in terms of project delays and the actions planned to mitigate the impact of these.

## **Consultees**

9 Not applicable.

## **Appendices**

10 None.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 MARCH 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2009/10</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>Children's Services</b>

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To report on the monitoring of the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10 at the end of quarter three. To provide comparisons to 2008/09 budget and outturn so that Scrutiny Committee can assess and comment upon the budget management of Children's Services.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision

### **Recommendation**

**THAT the Committee scrutinises and comments on the figures contained in this budget report.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The Directorate reported a forecast to overspend by £533k to Scrutiny Committee in December 2009. Due to increases in care placements and changes in the way services are being accounted for the current projection is an over spend by £772k for 2009/10. This represents an increase of £239k since the December report when the over-spend was projected at £533k. In the last Cabinet report an overspend of £660k was predicted. The key changes since then relate to the costs for new children which have to be funded from within the Safeguarding budget and not from within the JAM budget. As a result of the over spend reported to Scrutiny committee in September the Director of Children's Services and the Directorate Leadership Team have actioned several cost savings measures which have had an impact, however additional pressures have emerged which have counteracted the effect of the savings actions.
- The Music Service is a traded service with a net nil budget, but in December the Directorate reported an overspend of £199k due to the £123k deficit brought forward from 2008/09 and further income shortfalls anticipated for 2009/10. The current forecast is to broadly break even on trading in the current year and contribute to reducing the historic deficit. Further work is underway to address the historic deficit, including the issuing of a new service level agreement (SLA) with schools, selling off surplus resources such as instruments, raising the hourly rate by £2 and modernising service delivery such as group rather than individual tuition.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Chris Baird, Assistant Director, Planning, Performance and Development, Children and Young People's  
Directorate [cbaird@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cbaird@herefordshire.gov.uk), 01432 260264

- Additionally despite the escalating pressures within safeguarding services the Assistant Director has also introduced further cost savings measures to minimise the impact whilst not jeopardising service delivery.
- At the last Cabinet meeting the Director of Resources reported that he expected to achieve a balanced budget outturn for 2009/10 despite anticipated overspends by both Adult Social Care and Children's Services. The Cabinet report included a £660k over spend for Children's Services – it was reported that savings would be achieved as a result of recovery plans & efficiencies in some directorates together with the use of the social care contingency and a reduction in borrowing costs.
- The draft budget for 2010/11 for Children's Services recognises the increasing pressures and has allocated additional funds to cover court costs and the cost of caring for homeless 16/17 year olds. A central provision has also been made for the increasing cost of front line Safeguarding pressures.
- Work is now nearly complete on the development of the new structure for Children's Services. The restructuring of the Safeguarding team is progressing with staff consultations underway. Other changes will take longer to implement as they form part of the overall restructure of the Directorate to meet the cost pressures and service requirements of the future, including the move towards the integrated locality based model for delivering services across the county. All new senior management positions are now in post to support the changes and improvements to services across the Directorate.
- The move to the locality based delivery model is progressing with building work now underway or about to commence. It is anticipated that locality centres will be available from autumn 2010/11 onwards. Discussions are underway with partners to agree occupancy and revenue funding for the new centres.
- There has been further evidence of the increasing costs of child protection on Local Authorities. According to the Local Government Chronicle (LGC), child protection costs faced by children's services departments rose by an average of almost £800,000 per authority since the Baby Peter tragedy. The LGC also reports that referrals of children thought to be at risk were up by 28% in 2008-09 across the country, with many authorities reporting much bigger pressures in the current year.
- In Herefordshire in the 12 months to January 2010 there has been an increase of 27% in the numbers of children in agency (independent) fostering placements and residential placements (an increase from 33 to 42).

## **Alternative Options**

- 1 This report is a monitoring report for the committee to scrutinise and comment upon.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To enable Scrutiny Committee to carry out its function in relation to the Children's Services revenue budget for 2009/10.

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 Comparison of both the current projected outturn and those from the December report are

shown together with a variance to both budget and the December estimated outturn. Appendices A to C provide an overview of the budget sources and areas of expenditure. Some budget virements have been actioned since the last report and the Appendices reflect these changes

## Key Considerations

- 4 In the following figures it should be noted that the corporate recharges and the related budgets are only allocated at the end of the financial year. The tables in Appendices A-C show comparisons for 2009/10 versus 2008/09 reports last year excluding corporate recharges for ease of comparison. Please note that to ensure consistency with other corporate reports all overspends have been shown as positive figures and under spends as negative.

## Local Authority Expenditure

- 5 Appendix A shows the budget and projected Local Authority Expenditure for 2009/10 with 2008/09 comparatives. In summary this is currently showing a net over-spend of £772k This relates largely to expenditure within Safeguarding Vulnerable Children Services. Contributions to achieving the directorate wide target savings are coming from Inclusion & Improvement and Planning, Performance and Development teams. The directorate has held a significant number of posts vacant to contribute to savings during this financial year. The primary contributory factors are detailed below.
- 6 The numbers of external residential placements and agency fostering placements have both increased (from 14 and 22 respectively as reported in the December Scrutiny report to 16 and 26 respectively in the current report) and therefore costs are running significantly over budget (£693k at the present time and £627k higher than last year's spend) due to the increasing numbers of children coming into care. At the same time the Assistant Director of Safeguarding and her staff have been reviewing all placements and have identified some that are able to be moved to lower cost options without jeopardising the children's wellbeing. However, as contracts have to be negotiated any savings will not materialise until 2010/11.
- 7 The fostering and other looked after children costs are currently projecting an over spend of £164k. This is £78k higher than 2008/09 actual spend. The increase in court costs comprises a significant element of this increase. The Assistant Director for Safeguarding has implemented improved controls and robust challenge process in order to minimise the impact of legal costs which has resulted in a £10k saving since the last forecast The increase in referrals reported above combined with legislative changes has resulted in a 70% increase of court costs from 2008/09 (£111k) to 2009/10 (£189k).
- 8 The Family Assessment and Support line in Appendix A includes the provision of temporary accommodation to Homeless 16/17 year olds. This has arisen following a legal decision (Homeless 16/17 year olds re: R(G) v Southwark LB) resulting in a requirement for Children's Services to provide accommodation for homeless 16/17 year olds who are below the minimum age to be covered by adult housing provisions. This is a new requirement for all councils for which there is currently no budget. The forecast currently assumes that the Directorate is successful in its application to Supporting People to fund the additional costs.
- 9 The Children with Disabilities (non joint agency managed cases) forecast expenditure has been reduced since the last report and is now reporting a saving of £61k versus budget.

- 10 Safeguarding staffing costs show an over spend versus budget as although there had been success in recruitment of social workers – some start dates have been delayed resulting in the requirements to continue agency staff longer than previously planned to ensure continuity of service.
- 11 The latest JAM forecast estimates a saving versus budget which will be returned to the partners The LA saving will be £66k which helps to offset the increasing costs for non JAM cases within Safeguarding.
- 12 Education Welfare Service included an income budget (based upon a prior year one off income). The forecast is now adjusted.
- 13 Within the Special Educational Needs virements have reduced the budget by £44k but costs for payments for vulnerable children (payments to schools) have increased significantly since the last report and are now expected to overspend by £10k. However, there are savings from in year vacancies within the Educational Psychology service which contribute to the target savings for the directorate.
- 14 The School Improvement Service now shows an overspend to both budget and last forecast as a result of two factors. Firstly the income targets have not been met (and these are now being re-evaluated with new heads of service). The second element relates to payments to Courtyard from last financial year which have had to be paid from this financial year. The contract has now ceased, with schools working directly with the Courtyard, through service level agreements. The Enjoy and Achieve Outcome Group of the Children's Trust will be considering the service provision as part of their work in 2010/11.
- 15 The Youth Service is expected to make savings of £35,000 which will contribute to the target savings identified within the December forecast.
- 16 The Children's Service ICT budget has been adjusted to reflect the true cost of licences and to remove a budget anomaly following the centralisation of ICT costs as previously reported.
- 17 The PP&D Management budget has increased by £265k due to a realignment of posts from Inclusion and Improvement teams. Savings have been achieved across various teams as a result of the recruitment freeze and posts being held which contribute to the target saving (previously shown centrally).
- 18 Transport savings have arisen due to additional receipts in 2009/10 (circa £130k), plus the utilisation of grants (£50k) together with other staff savings and other transport savings £129k.
- 19 The Community Operations forecast includes the full year cost of the Assistant Director and also the commencement of activities (including the recruitment of tier 3 posts in year) in the lead up to the creation of the new locality based teams resulting in an overspend of £16k versus budget. The reduced forecast compared to December reflects the delayed start of one manager (March 2010).
- 20 The Music Service is a traded service which has been funded by the Local Authority and schools. The service operated at a loss in 2008/09 and this was carried forward into 2009/10. Work is underway to restructure the service in order for it to be self financing, actions already identified include a £2 per hour price rise in the service charge from 1<sup>st</sup> April (no price rise applied since September 2008) and a one off sale of surplus instruments.



## **Dedicated Schools Grant**

- 21 Appendix B shows the projected outturn for 2009/10 for Dedicated Schools Grant of £84,526k. This is subdivided between schools expenditure and centrally funded schools related expenditure.
- 22 In 2008/09 all banded funding was held centrally. For 2009/10, levels 1 and 2 banded funding were delegated to schools and only the higher requirements of level 3 and 4 are now centrally administered. There are increasing numbers of applications for band levels 3 & 4. The forecast overspend has been reduced as any future payments will be for two months (the remainder of this financial year), with the remaining commitment included in school budgets in 2010/11.
- 23 JAM forecast has been reduced based upon the current placements. Any new placements will not have a significant impact until 2010/11.
- 24 Savings are being made within the Special Educational Needs team (£64k) due to staff vacancies. The Travellers Children team is also costing less due to a change in delivery method to bring the service "in house". Previously the service was provided regionally by the West Midlands Traveller Service.
- 25 Interauthority recoupment charges (charges to / from other counties for cost of SEN places) have now been shown separately. There has been a reduction of pupils from other authorities that has reduced our income by £110k.
- 26 In 2008/09 rates rebates of £1,054k were received for charitable rates relief for voluntary aided schools going back to 2000. Legal advice is that the rates rebates must be distributed to schools on a per pupil basis. Schools Forum have agreed on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010, to distribute the £1,054k rates rebates to schools on a per pupil basis of £46.65 per pupil for primary and high schools and £208.79 per pupil in special schools and £183.47 per pupil in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). The higher per pupil amounts in special schools and PRUs reflecting the higher costs of educating pupils in these establishments.
- 27 There are further funds available for redistribution to schools from DSG carry forward (£1,280k) and Schools Forum in December agreed to distribute the under spend to schools at £58.50 per pupil. Schools have the choice of receiving their allocation in full in 2009/10 or split equally over the three years 2009/10-2011/12 to help with future years' budget planning.

## **Grant Funded Expenditure**

- 28 To provide members with a full overview of the use of grants by the Directorate Appendix C sets out the major grant funded activities.
- 29 The two principal funding streams for Children's Services (other than Council and DSG) are the Area Based Grant for which there is a budget of £4.438m and Standards Fund (DCSF) of £15.787m.
- 30 The DCSF is also providing £349,000 in various grants this year from its Think Family programme as well as other minor programmes.
- 31 Children and Young People's Directorate receives various grants from the Children's Workforce Development Council and the Training and Development Agency which encompass the development of both teaching and non-teaching staff totalling £261,000, together with £218,000 for the development of Contact Point.

32 In most cases any under spend on grants can either be carried forward for use in the following year or must be re-paid.

## **Community Impact**

The work of the Children and Young People's Directorate, including schools and early years settings have wide ranging community impacts, benefiting children and young people and their families across Herefordshire.

## **Financial Implications**

These are contained in the body of the report. The projected outturn is based upon results to the end of January 2010.

## **Legal Implications**

The use of budgets including grants must comply with the legal requirements associated with each funding stream and the conditions of specific grants.

## **Risk Management**

The risks are set out in the body of the report, in terms of the potential overspend. The report notes the actions planned to address this potential overspend.

## **Consultees**

Not applicable

## **Appendices**

Appendix A, B and C are attached and referred to in the body of the report.

## Appendix A

### Budget and Projected Local Authority Expenditure for 2009/10 with 2008/09 Comparatives

£'000	2008/09			2009/10					
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget* <sup>1</sup>	Dec Proj. Outturn * <sup>2</sup>	Dec Variance to Budget	Current Proj. Outturn	Variance to Budget	Variance to Dec Outturn
<b>Local Authority Net Expenditure (excluding corporate recharges)</b>									
External Agency Placements	2,956	2,893	(63)	2,827	3,276	449	3,520	693	244
Fostering & other Looked After Children costs (LAC)	1,855	2,006	151	1,920	2,100	180	2,084	164	(16)
Children with Disabilities (non JAM cases)	700	697	(3)	681	681	0	620	(61)	(61)
Family Assessment and Support	1,743	1,761	18	2,083	2,281	198	2,058	(25)	(223)
Safeguarding Staff Costs (including social workers)	4,235	4,223	(12)	4,318	4,220	(98)	4,376	58	156
<b>Sub total Safeguarding</b>	<b>11,489</b>	<b>11,580</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>11,829</b>	<b>12,558</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>12,658</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>100</b>
Children with disabilities Joint Agency Managed (JAM)	825	619	(206)	825	825	0	759	(66)	(66)
Early Years (non grant funded)	274	55	(219)	77	61	(16)	68	(9)	7
Education Welfare Team	184	184	0	188	190	2	205	17	15
Inclusion & Improvement Mgmt	476	421	(55)	362	458	96	362	0	(96)
Special Educational Needs	859	700	(159)	810	802	(8)	780	(30)	(22)
School Improvement Service	1,113	1,166	53	997	1,078	81	1,145	148	67
Youth Offending Team	341	307	(34)	341	331	(10)	331	(10)	0
Youth Services	1,096	1,136	40	1,123	1,113	(10)	1,088	(35)	(25)
<b>Sub Total Inclusion &amp; Impr.</b>	<b>5,168</b>	<b>4,588</b>	<b>(580)</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>4,738</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>(120)</b>
Children's Services ICT	10	65	55	(49)	49	98	50	99	1
Planning, Performance Mgmt	512	479	(33)	798	559	(239)	750	(48)	191
Property / Asset Management	847	1,100	253	746	743	(3)	748	2	5
School Admissions & Transport	5,285	4,901	(384)	5,261	5,008	(253)	4,951	(310)	(57)
<b>Sub Total PP&amp;D</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>6,545</b>	<b>(109)</b>	<b>6,756</b>	<b>6,359</b>	<b>(397)</b>	<b>6,499</b>	<b>(257)</b>	<b>140</b>
Community Operations	110	85	(25)	102	162	60	118	16	(44)
Central Management Costs	225	212	(13)	228	236	8	236	8	0
Inspection & Advisory Service	0	154	154	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Severance Costs	598	605	7	756	756	0	756	0	0
Target Saving	(159)	42	201	(152)	(279)	(127)	(109)	43	170
Misc Other Central costs	44	(85)	(129)	(344)	(219)	125	(226)	118	(7)
<b>Sub Total Central CYPD</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Total Local Authority Net Expenditure</b>	<b>24,129</b>	<b>23,726</b>	<b>(403)</b>	<b>23,898</b>	<b>24,431</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>24,670</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>239</b>
Music Service * <sup>3</sup>	7	130	123	0	199	199	119	119	(80)
<b>Total Traded Services</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>(159)</b>
<b>Total Local Authority</b>	<b>24,136</b>	<b>23,856</b>	<b>(280)</b>	<b>23,898</b>	<b>24,630</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>24,710</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>80</b>

\*<sup>1</sup> Budget adjusted to reflect 1% pay award - budget virements also completed for Business support

\*<sup>2</sup> Agency fostering costs reclassified into External Agency (from Fostering & Other LAC) all figures adjusted

\*<sup>3</sup> Music Service reclassified from DSG to Traded service - deficit from 08/09 carried forward to 09/10



## Appendix B

### Budget and Projected Dedicated Schools Grant Expenditure for 2009/10 with 2008/09 Comparatives

£'000	2008/09			2009/10					
	Budget	Actual	Variance *1	Budget	Dec Proj. Outturn	Dec Variance to budget	Current Proj. Outturn	Variance to Budget	Variance to Dec Outturn
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)</b>									
<b>Grant Income</b>	<b>(83,558)</b>	<b>(83,558)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(84,526)</b>	<b>(84,526)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(84,526)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Primary Schools	37,163	37,021	(142)	38,802	38,802	0	38,802	0	0
High Schools	36,293	36,121	(172)	36,162	36,162	0	36,162	0	0
Special Schools	3,580	3,623	43	3,777	3,777	0	3,777	0	0
Schools Related Expenditure (inc Contingency)	(461)	(572)	(111)	182	50	(132)	182	0	132
Less LSC Income	(2,750)	(2,806)	(56)	(2,750)	(2,750)	0	(2,750)	0	0
<b>Sub total Schools Spending</b>	<b>73,825</b>	<b>73,387</b>	<b>(438)</b>	<b>76,173</b>	<b>76,041</b>	<b>(132)</b>	<b>76,173</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132</b>
Special Needs Banded Funding	1,190	858	(332)	534	795	261	594	60	(201)
Special Needs Support (JAM)	878	619	(259)	878	825	(53)	759	(119)	(66)
Fees to Independent Schools (for Special Educational Needs)	341	332	(9)	341	341	0	341	0	0
Nursery Education Funding	2,900	2,923	23	2,884	2,884	0	2,884	0	0
Pupil Referral Units	895	895	0	924	914	(10)	910	(14)	(4)
Schools Admissions & Planning	173	184	11	163	166	3	166	3	0
Special Educational Needs Support Teams	1,501	1,376	(125)	1,504	1,440	(64)	1,440	(64)	0
Travellers Children	154	154	0	139	119	(20)	114	(25)	(5)
Early Years Support	465	165	(300)	469	469	0	469	0	0
Inter authority recoupment	(25)	45	70	(5)	(5)	0	120	125	125
Other Misc Expenditure	446	339	(107)	522	619	97	522	0	(97)
<b>Total DSG Central Expenditure</b>	<b>8,918</b>	<b>7,890</b>	<b>(1,028)</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>8,567</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>8,319</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>(248)</b>

\*1 DSG grant regulations require all underspends to be carried forward to 2009/10

\*2 £592k (comprising £168k rates rebates & £424k 08/09 underspend) will be allocated to schools in 2010/11 & 2011/12 as per Schools Forum.



**Appendix C**  
**Major Grant Funded Activities**

£'000	Funding / Source	2008/09			2009/10					
		Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget * <sup>1</sup>	Dec Proj. Outturn	Dec Variance to Budget	Current Proj. Outturn	Variance to Budget	Variance to Dec Outturn
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	ABG	100	82	(18)	126	126	0	126	0	0
Other Community Operations Support	ABG	0	0	0	91	109	18	91	0	(18)
Extended Schools Start Up	ABG	402	385	(17)	653	688	35	653	0	(35)
Other Schools Support	ABG	812	740	(72)	918	847	(71)	918	0	71
Connexions	ABG	1,548	1,548	0	1,470	1,470	0	1,470	0	0
Teen Pregnancy	ABG	99	92	(7)	96	96	0	96	0	0
Children's Fund	ABG	276	246	(30)	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Travel	ABG	32	73	41	111	111	0	111	0	0
Children & Adolescent Mental Health	ABG	208	203	(5)	202	202	0	202	0	0
Other Safeguarding Children	ABG	176	170	(6)	539	467	(72)	539	0	72
Other ABG	ABG	(13)	85	98	232	232	0	232	0	0
<b>Total Area Based Grant</b>		<b>3,640</b>	<b>3,624</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>4,348</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>
Children's Centres	DSCF / Surestart	1,872	1,652	(220)	2,512	2,502	(10)	2,512	0	10
Other Early Years	DSCF / Surestart	1,933	2,153	220	1,568	1,568	0	1,568	0	0
<b>Total Surestart Grant</b>		<b>3,805</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,080</b>	<b>4,070</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>4,080</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
Special & Beacon Schools	DSCF / Stds Fund	1,968	1,968	0	1,929	1,929	0	1,929	0	0
School Development Grant	DSCF / Stds Fund	5,415	5,415	0	5,183	5,183	0	5,183	0	0
Other Devolved Schools Standards Fund	DSCF / Stds Fund	1,215	1,215	0	2,059	1,915	(144)	2,059	0	144
Extended Schools	DSCF / Stds Fund	282	287	5	513	604	91	513	0	(91)
Support to Music Services	DSCF / Stds Fund	219	219	0	220	220	0	220	0	0
One to one tuition	DSCF / Stds Fund	50	50	0	383	383	0	383	0	0
Other non-devolved Standards Funds	DSCF / Stds Fund	1,200	1,366	166	1,307	1,216	(91)	1,307	0	91
School Standards Grant	DSCF / Stds Fund	4,141	4,141	0	4,193	4,193	0	4,193	0	0
<b>Total Standards Fund</b>		<b>14,490</b>	<b>14,661</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>15,787</b>	<b>15,643</b>	<b>(144)</b>	<b>15,787</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Community Ops (Think Family) various</b>	DCSF/ Think	<b>555</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>(352)</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(42)</b>
<b>Training &amp; Development *<sup>2</sup></b>	Various	<b>406</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>

\*<sup>1</sup> Budget includes virements made post December scrutiny in ABG & Surestart. Standards Fund Budget includes additional funding advised in year

\*<sup>2</sup> includes Contact Point





<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 MARCH 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE DIGEST – QUARTER 3 2009/2010</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ICT, EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To present the Performance Digest for Children's Services for the third quarter of 2009/2010 (April – December 2009) and to highlight key performance issues.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT Scrutiny Committee assesses and considers the levels of performance achieved for the third quarter of 2009/2010 and considers if further reports and/or action are judged to be necessary.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- The percentage of initial assessments completed within 7 working days has significantly improved and is now ahead of the target for the year.
- Unvalidated results show that the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths in the 2009 exams was the same as in 2008 at 52% which is ahead of the national average of 50% but still below the target. There has been significantly improved performance in relation to the achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, unvalidated results at Key Stage 1 continue to show a downward trend over the last three years. Of particular concern is the results performance in narrowing the gap for vulnerable groups which has declined significantly on last year's performance.
- Educational attainment of looked after children, particularly at GCSE, shows good performance again this year, ahead of national and statistical neighbour averages.
- Persistent Absence in High Schools fell for the second successive year to 5.3% which met the target for 2009-10 and was 1.2% below this year's target. The national average of persistent absence is 5.58%. Overall absence in High Schools has fallen for the third successive year. In terms of exclusions, the trend overall is down with 18 permanent exclusions in 2008-2009.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Hilary Hall, Head of Performance on (01432) 260801

Clearly improving performance in these two areas ensures that children and young people are attending schools which, in turn, will positively impact on their achievement and attainment.

## Alternative Options

- 1 There are no Alternative Options.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To ensure that progress against the indicators, for which the Children and Young People's Directorate is responsible, is understood and to ensure that the reasons for actual or potential under-performance are understood and recommendations made for remedial action.

## Introduction and Background

- 3 The Performance Digest is produced quarterly and is the mechanism for monitoring key performance indicators, covering service delivery captured in the Local Area Agreement, the Children and Young People's Directorate and the Children and Young People's Plan. The Digest has been issued to Committee members as a separate document. Copies are available to the public on request.

## Key Considerations

- 4 Key areas in each of the Every Child Matters outcome areas, to which the Committee's attention should be drawn, are set out below:

### ***Be Healthy***

91% of looked after children had a dental check and an annual health assessment which was slightly above the target of 90%. There had been some issues with the timeliness of notifications of children/young people becoming looked after which has impacted on the overall number receiving health assessments. This has now been addressed and resolved. The first outturn for NI 54 – services for disabled children – was published in the third quarter. It measures parental satisfaction with the services provided for their disabled children through a survey administered nationally by the DCSF. 60% of Herefordshire parents were satisfied with the services received which is line with the rest of the West Midlands.

660 young people, aged between 15 and 24 years, were screened for Chlamydia in the third quarter of the year, which is below the expected trajectory. The number is expected to increase in the fourth quarter due to changes in commissioning. The prevalence of Chlamydia in young people is currently 7.5% which is below the national prevalence rate of 12% (NI 113a).

The cumulative number of assessments undertaken under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is 303 which is just above the annual target of 300. 152 new CAFs were started in Quarter 3.

### ***Stay Safe***

At the end of Quarter 1, for the rolling year, there were 277 referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18. 73.8% of initial assessments were completed in 7 working days (NI 59) which continues the significant improvement in performance against this indicator. As previously reported, a large number of uncompleted core assessment which were already out of date had been identified. These have now been completed and performance in relation to the

timeliness of completing core assessments (NI 60) has improved slightly to 62% from 57% at the end of Quarter 2. The potentially negative impact of a large number of out of date core assessments has been mitigated by a focus on completing new core assessments in timescale.

There has been an increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan at the end of quarter 3 from 128 as at 30 September 2009 to 146 as at 31 December 2009. The percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time continues to maintain good performance at 7% (NI 65). 100% of reviews of child protection cases (NI 67) have taken place during Quarter 3 and all children with a child protection plan have an allocated social worker (DIS 1219). The number of looked after children has increased from 144 as at 30 September 2009 to 170 as at 31 December 2009. Performance in relation to the stability of placements for looked after children (NI 62 and 63) in terms of the number of moves and length of placement, continues to be very strong, ahead of national and statistical neighbour averages.

### ***Enjoy and Achieve***

Inclusion of the results for the two Academies has impacted on the results for the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs (NI 75). The outturn is 52.2% which is below the 2008/2009 outturn of 53.2% and below target. Excluding the Academies gives an outturn of 54.8%. Although the two Academies are not maintained by the local authority, we are required to include their results in our indicators.

Although not achieving the target for achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (NI 72), the outturn of 45.8% represents a significant improvement on the 2008 outturn which was 42%. Unvalidated data for Key Stage 2 shows that 70.8% of children achieved Level 4 in English and Maths (NI 73) which is 2% below the 2008 outturn. Results in Key Stage 2 have shown a continuing downward trend over the last three years and improvement work in the current academic year will focus on embedding specific strategies around reading and writing, focusing on tracking pupil progress and continuing universal support and training for school, together with targeted work with key schools.

As at the end of Quarter 3, 3 personal education plans for looked after children (CYPEA-6) have been carried forward to the New Year, giving an outturn of 97%. 100% of looked after children sat at least one GCSE examination (DIS 1406). 3 looked after children out of a cohort of 14 achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSE including English and Maths; a further 3 achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs not including English and Maths.

### ***Make a Positive Contribution***

There has been excellent performance in relation to the final warnings, reprimands and convictions of looked after young people (PAF CF/18) which is well below the target and last year's outturn. During Quarter 3, there were 44 first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17 years (NI 111), a cumulative total for the year of 108 which is below the year end outturn for 2008/2009. In relation to re-offending (NI 19), there were 0.39 re-offences per young person in the cohort after 6 months. The 2005 baseline figure for the same period was 0.73. 4% of young people were sentenced to custody having received a conviction in court (NI 43) which remains within the national target of 5% or less.

The percentage of looked after young people reporting that they have participated in their reviews is considerably down on the Quarter 2 outturn (PAF CF/63). This has been underreported. Investigation has shown that the box which feeds the report on Frameworks has not routinely been completed. This has now been addressed and we anticipate that the year end outturn will reflect the usual good performance in this area.

### ***Achieve Economic Wellbeing***

The impact of the recession and general downturn in the economy continues to impact on this outcome area. The percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NI 117) has risen to 5.8% which is above the target but in line with the 2008/2009 outturn. Additional NEET programme has been made available, together with E2E and 4U provision.

However, 90.5% of young offenders were engaged in education, training and employment at the end of Quarter 3, a significant improvement on the previous two quarters. 100% of young people of statutory school age and 80% (8 out of 10) of those above school age were in full time education, employment or training.

At 31 December 2009, one family was occupying bed and breakfast accommodation (CYP-AEW1) but they have since moved out and are now accommodated in temporary accommodation.

### ***Service Management***

Social worker post qualifying training- The General Social Care Council introduced the framework for post-qualifying education and training in 2007. This framework builds on the degree (or predecessor qualifications) in social work. The overall objective of the awards within the framework is to ensure that post-qualifying education and training improves the standard of social work practice. The framework is split into three levels, each corresponding to a different stage of professional development (Specialist Level, Higher Specialist Level and the Advanced Level). A student social worker studies for their degree in social work for 3 years. A newly qualified social worker is then expected to work in a practice setting for 12 months under a strict induction programme co-working cases before commencing the consolidation award (this award now replaces PQ1). This can take 12 months and they are then expected to work towards the next 5 modules of the specialist award taking a further 2 years. The focus of the Specialist Level is on consolidating, extending and deepening initial professional competence in practice.

Social workers can then move on to the Higher specialist and Advanced level awards taking a further 2 years each.

61% of children's social workers in Herefordshire have achieved PQ1 award/consolidation module, (DIS 3124) against a target of 60%. From June 2010 Herefordshire Council is implementing a retention incentive model that includes a mandatory expectation that all 12 month post qualified social workers will undertake the consolidation module. Therefore, Herefordshire Council's target will increase significantly to include all eligible social workers achieving the PQ1/consolidation module.

There were 17.5 assessed social work practice-learning days per full time equivalent social worker. 8.68 working days were lost to sickness absence per FTE within Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children Service (HR02), slightly ahead of the target of 8 working days. Managers, supported by HR, have been proactively managing short-term absence cases through the corporate policy and procedure and there has also been a corresponding reduction in the number of long-term absence cases. The social worker establishment, as at 31 December 2009, stood at 49.9 FTE against a target of 57 FTE (HR03). There are 4 more Social workers due to commence their posts between April and June 2010.

## **Community Impact**

5 None.

## **Financial Implications**

6 Remedial action in respect of the directorate's performance may require reallocation of resources within existing budgets. This is being addressed by the Directorate Leadership Team.

## **Legal Implications**

7 None.

## **Risk Management**

8 The risks to achievement of the indicators, for which the directorate is responsible, are identified by officers as part of the service planning process. Any significant risks are escalated to the directorate risk register, and corporate risk register, as appropriate. Day to day management of risk is undertaken by responsible officers, in conjunction with their Assistant Directors.

## **Consultees**

9 None.

## **Appendices**

10 Performance Digest circulated with the agenda as a separate document.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.





<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 MARCH 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Democratic Services Officer</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide.

### **Purpose**

To consider the Committee's work programme.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT subject to any comment or issues raised by the Committee the Committee work programme be approved and reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

### **Introduction and Background**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for overseeing, co-ordinating and approving the work programmes of the Committee, and is required to periodically review the scrutiny committees work programmes to ensure that overview and scrutiny is effective, that there is an efficient use of scrutiny resources and that potential duplication of effort by scrutiny members is minimised.
2. The work programme, set out at appendix 1, may be modified by the Chairman following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Director in response to changing circumstances.
3. Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
4. Should Members become aware of any issues they consider may be added to the scrutiny programme they should contact the Democratic Services Officer to log the issue so that it may be taken into consideration when planning future agendas or when revising the work programme.
5. To enable the Committee to track the result of previous recommendations Appendix 2 is attached for information only. Where possible this includes a comment by the relevant officer on the current position concerning the issue at the time of going to print.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Paul James, Democratic Services Officer, on 01432 260460

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.



**Children's Services Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme - 2009/10  
For consideration by Committee on 19 March 2010**

**Member Seminar**

**Note:** All Councillors will be invited to a seminar based on the ECM theme of 'Be Healthy' on 17 May 2010 (morning) (further details will be sent in due course)

**14 June 2010 at 9.30am**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Presentation by Cabinet Member (Children's Services)</li> <li>• Annual Presentation by Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement)</li> <li>• Issues for scrutiny raised from the seminar on 17 May</li> <li>• Mobile ICT working for Children's Social Workers – Result of pilot and timetable.</li> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring.</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Performance Digest</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme.</li> </ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	-- Pupil Achievement at swimming at Key Stage 2

**Member Seminar**

**Note:** All Councillors will be invited to a seminar based on one of the Every Child Matters themes on 5 July 2010 (morning) (further details will be sent in due course)

**1 October 2010 at 10.00am**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herefordshire School Task Group – Further Update</li> <li>• Issues for scrutiny raised from the seminar on 5 July.</li> <li>• Travellers Children Team – update following the bringing 'in house' of the Service.</li> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring.</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Performance Digest</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme.</li> </ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	--

**Member Seminar**

**Note:** All Councillors will be invited to a seminar based on one the Every Child Matters themes on 4 October 2010 (afternoon) (further details will be sent in due course)

**10 December 2010 at 10.00am**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issues for scrutiny raised from the seminar on 4 October.</li><li>• Capital Budget Monitoring.</li><li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li><li>• Performance Digest</li><li>• Committee Work Programme.</li><li>• Consider the draft revised Children and Young Peoples Plan **</li></ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	--

**Member Seminar**

**Note:** All Councillors will be invited to a seminar based on one the Every Child Matters themes on 7 February 2011 (afternoon) (further details will be sent in due course)

**11 March 2011 at 10.00am**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issues for scrutiny raised from the seminar on 7 February.</li><li>• Capital Budget Monitoring.</li><li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li><li>• Performance Digest</li><li>• Committee Work Programme.</li></ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	--

Possible future items on:

- \*\*Consideration and contribution to the review of the Children and Young People's Plan – current draft timetable indicates this could come to Committee either October or December 2010.
- The 14 – 19 Strategy
- Foundation and Academy Schools
- Governance arrangements for the Children's Trust and partnerships.
- Delivery plans to be submitted to Committee for the Children and Young People Plan.

**Suggested themes or Issues identified by the Director for future agendas**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
To be confirmed	Be Healthy: Substance Misuse
To be confirmed	Economic Well Being: 14-19 / LSC / Connexions Changes / Plans
To be confirmed	Positive Contribution: Targeted / Integrated Youth Services
To be confirmed	Enjoy and Achieve: Attendance

In consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Director of Children's Services is working up a programme of open seminars for Members based on defined themes.



**Progress in response to recommendations made and issues requiring action raised by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.**

**Committee date: 11 Dec 2009**

<b>Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Response/Action</b>
a) <b>The Director of Children's Services discuss with the Cabinet Member (Children's Services) whether the Herefordshire Registered Social Landlords (RSL) be approached to encourage their further engagement in accommodation provision for under 18 year olds who cannot live at home.</b>	Director and Cabinet Member for Children's Services discussed on 11 February 2010. It was felt that it needed further consideration as part of the Strategic Housing Review
b) <b>That a report on the programme and timetable to roll out mobile ICT working systems to Social Workers be presented to a future meeting;</b>	Listed in the Committee work programme for consideration.
c) <b>To enable further efficiencies in working practices The Director of Children's Services consider the further integration of the Police and social Services Teams;</b>	We are currently exploring possible structures, accommodation and ways of working with the police.
d) <b>The duties as Corporate Parents be made clear to all Council Members, and suitable training be carried out;</b>	Briefing note prepared and sent to Committee Members on 4 March 2010.
e) <b>A report responding to the 10 questions set out in the CfPS publication 'Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Guide' be presented to the March 2010 meeting;</b>	Report included in this agenda.
f) <b>A briefing note be provided to Committee members on the transition procedures in place, (including their further</b>	Briefing note prepared and sent to Committee Members 2 March 2010

education and housing opportunities), that ensures that children in need/vulnerable children undertake an efficient transfer to the Adult Social Care system.	
g) A briefing note be provided to the Committee members on the Kinship Carers provision including the number and funding thereof.	Briefing note prepared and sent to Committee Members 2 March 2010
h) A briefing note be provided to the Committee members on the range of services offered to children and families when relationships are at breaking point.	Briefing note prepared and sent to Committee Members 2 March 2010

<b>Introduction and implications of Nursery Education Funding</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Response/Action</b>
	.
b)The Committee considered that the administration of the schemes, especially for schools, be made clear and as efficient as possible.	We have now received formal authorisation to go forward as a Pathfinder for NEF – and the formula devised has been shared with schools and nursery settings. Schools Forum has recently considered a detailed paper on this and supported the proposal.
c) Schools be reminded that other funding sources may be available.	All grants and funding streams applicable for this area of delivery will be publicised to all settings.

<b>Herefordshire Schools Task Group</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Response/Action</b>
a) The Schools Task Group be commended for their work and the clarity of their report;	Letter sent by the Chairman.
b) The Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) be encouraged to work closely with Scrutiny concerning future proposals in this mater;	Cabinet Member has noted this request.

<p>c) The Cabinet Member (ICT, Education and Achievement) encourage schools and cluster groups to be innovative in their working and approach to the future of education and learning provision in the County.</p>	<p>This is ongoing.</p>
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<p align="center"><b>Capital Budget Monitoring</b></p>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>Response/Action</b></p>
<p>a) The report be noted and a briefing note be provided to the Committee members on the condition of school properties (as identified through the Condition Survey, Schedule of Works, Asset Management Strategy) and an indication be given of budget requirement / allocation to meet maintenance needs.</p>	<p>Briefing note prepared and sent to Committee Members on 4 March 2010</p>
<p>b) Members be kept informed by briefing note of progress concerning the provision of a co-located Children's Centre north of the City.</p>	<p>Options for the location of a second Hereford City co-located services site are still being explored and involve commercially sensitive negotiations which are at a crucial stage. Officers are mindful of the need to secure the best possible site and deal in the interests of Hereford residents and the County as a whole. For this reason, I ask that the requested briefing paper be deferred until the outcome of the commercially sensitive negotiations is known. If negotiations are no longer commercially sensitive at the time of the next Committee on 19 March 2010, I shall be very happy to provide Members with a verbal update at that time</p>

<p align="center"><b>Revenue Budget Report</b></p>	
<p><b>Additional Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Response/Action</b></p>
<p>b) a report be provided to a future meeting concerning the provision to Travellers Children following the bringing 'in-house' of the service from the</p>	<p>Item listed in the Committee work programme for a report to 1 October 2010 meeting.</p>

<p><b>West Midlands Traveller Service</b></p>	
<p><b>c) A briefing note be provided to the Committee members on how RSLs, the Council's Housing Team and HomePoint were providing accommodation for under 18 year olds who cannot live at home;</b></p>	<p>Briefing note prepared and sent to Committee Members 2 March 2010.</p>