

Children and Young People

	No. of indicators	On course to achieve target (or establish baseline)	Some progress, but data not available to determine whether the target will be achieved	Not on target / no activity reported
Corporate Plan (including LAA and HCS)	13	4	8	1
of which				
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	6	1	5	0
Herefordshire Community Strategy (HCS)	4	1	3	0
All reported indicators	42	18	9	15

Direction of Travel	
Improving	14
No real change	2
Deteriorating	15
Total	31

Headlines

- A generally positive picture in respect of Corporate Plan, LAA and Community Strategy indicators
- But a significant number of reds against the wider basket of indicators, including those relevant to Direction of Travel assessment, e.g. timely core assessments, referrals going to initial assessment, foundation years achievement, youth work outcomes and a number of PIs in respect of looked-after children
- Currently projected end-year over-spending of some £300K will have to be retrieved. The directorate is carrying out work to stay within budget, whilst minimising the impact on services.

Children's and Young People's Director commentary

'Performance overall is on track across the range of Local Area Agreement, Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan children and young people related indicators. Data for many of the indicators are not available in Quarter 1 because they relate to examination results and the

outcome of the TellUs survey of children and young people; these outturns will be available in September (examination results in unvalidated form). However, provisional data for GCSE results this year show a significant improvement on last year with 69.5% of pupils achieving 5 A-C GCSEs, compared with 62% in 2007.*

A larger survey of children and young people, building on the previous Teenage Lifestyle Survey of 2006, will take place later in the year and will provide outturns for a number of the Community Strategy indicators.

In relation to children's social care, the focus on improving the timeliness of initial assessments and the percentage of referrals going on to initial assessment continues. In the first quarter, 64.7% of initial assessments were completed in 7 working days, an improvement on the 2007/2008 outturn (57.4%) and ahead of the 2008/2009 target (60%). Current practice is being reviewed and revised in the light of comparative information from our statistical neighbours to ensure there is good referral taking to enable effective decision making about the need for assessment.'