

Children and Young People

For comparison, July's figures are in brackets. There are 19 additional indicators in this report, primarily because provisional data in respect of examinations is now available. However, due to issues with SATS marking this year and the fact that many schools still have not had their scripts returned, all the examination indicators have been judged amber, recognising that the provisional outturns reported could alter when confirmed in January. Because of the inclusion of a substantial number of additional indicators, percentages are included in the table below to illustrate the change in the proportion of indicators judged green, amber or red.

	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)	15 (13)	5 (4)	7 (8)	3 (1)
of which				
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	3 (3)	1 (1)	1 (2)	1 (0)
Herefordshire Community Strategy (HCS) ¹	6 (4)	2 (1)	2 (3)	2 (0)
All reported indicators	63 (42)	19 (30%) (18 (43%))	26 (41%) (9 (21%))	18 (29%) (15 (36%))

The increase in the number of indicators in the table below reflects the availability of data for 3 indicators not available in July.

Direction of Travel		
	July	September
Improving	14	12
No real change	2	1
Deteriorating	15	21
Total	31	34

¹ Indicators HCS 34 'absence in secondary schools' and HCS 60a 'activities for teenagers' were mistakenly omitted from the July report but are now included

Headlines

- Overall, the effect of amber rating all the provisional examination results is to reduce the proportion of both red and green indicators.
- There is a significant and increased 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, all of which were reported in July, with absenteeism and NEET indicators now being judged red.
- Positive improvements since July are shown in indicators NI 67 'child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales' (green from amber); NI 68 'referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment' (amber from red); and APA indicator 2060 SC 'percentage of looked after children with a named social worker who is qualified as a social worker' (green from red).
- An improved financial position, with a forecast overspend of £6,000 compared to £267,000 in August.

Children's and Young People's Director commentary

'Performance overall continues to be on track across the range of Local Area Agreement, Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan children and young people related indicators. Unvalidated results for Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 are now available which will be confirmed in January 2009. 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. Key Stage 3 results show maintained performance and the 2007 improvement in Key Stage 2 results has been sustained. Key Stage 1 remains an area of concern with results down in all areas. Target setting at individual pupil level for Key Stage 1 has now been reintroduced in all schools and targeted training continues.*

Expression of interest to undertake the larger survey of children and young people, building on the previous Teenage Lifestyle Survey of 2006, have been invited and this 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. Performance in this area is anticipated to improve as a result of the successful overseas and local recruitment campaigns which will lead to a significant increase in the social worker establishment by January 2009 and the implementation of the new integrated social care system, Frameworki, from November 2008.

Preparation for the APA inspection (20 October 2008) formed a key part of this quarter's work programme with partners. The reported outcome of the inspection process will be due in mid November. Anticipated lines of inquiry are Criminal Record Bureau checks and safe recruitment, 14-19 development and the overarching strategy developments with partners.'