

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 19

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: *Children and Young People's Trust Performance Report*

Date of Meeting: 15th September 2010

Report of: Director of Children's Services

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides an update on priority performance measures as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2009-12. The report focusses on those indicators where performance remains a challenge.
- 1.2 We also report on the findings and future work plan of the CYPT Performance Board which has been in place since February 2010, chaired by the Director of Children's Services. The Board maintains an oversight of performance across the Trust, centred around delivery of the CYPP.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee note the information provided on progress with the CYPP priority performance indicators.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The CYPP 2009-12 is the single, strategic overarching plan for all local services for children and young people aged up to 19 years and contains four strategic improvement priorities and 19 key priority indicators.

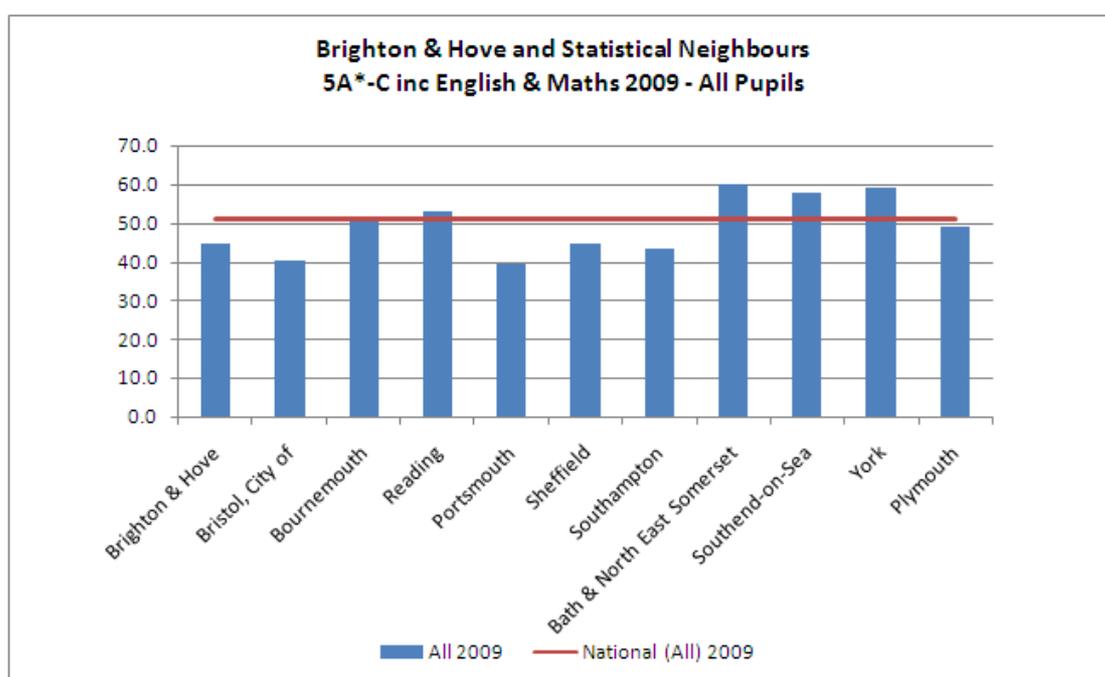
- 3.2 The statutory duty to produce and publish a children and young people's plan is likely to be removed in the forthcoming Education Bill but the duty to co-operate will remain, albeit with a reviewed list of statutory partners.
- 3.3 The Children's Trust Board will receive the 2009/10 annual performance report for the Children and Young People's Plan in November 2010. The CYPT Performance Board received a report in June 2010 and this is summarised below, focussing on the key areas for improvement.
- 3.4 The CYPT Performance Board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services meets monthly to focus on a specific performance area as well as maintain an oversight of the delivery of the CYPP and across the full range of performance measures available through the national indicator set. That wider view allows the Board to spot emerging priorities that may fall outside of the priority indicators set out in the CYPP.
- 3.5 Board membership comprises the Directorate Management Team plus the Head of Performance. Officers from within the service are invited in to discuss and explore the issues. A data analysis report is presented by the Performance Team and this generates 'lines of enquiry', which are developed into actions. These actions are tracked carefully at subsequent meetings.
- 3.6 The performance areas which have received attention are:
- > children's social care
 - > GCSE attainment
 - > Young people not in education, training and employment
- The proposed work plan for the next period is:
- > achievement of level 2 at 19
 - > update on children's social care
 - > improved tracking of the effectiveness of preventative services
- 3.7 The Children's Trust Board and the CYPT Performance Board also track the implementation of the strategic improvement objectives within the CYPP (see below).

Summary of Key Performance Issues:

The timely completion of initial assessments in social care

The method of recording and reporting against this indicator was amended in December 2009 and this resulted in a significant drop in the reported figure. Since then we have seen significant progress month on month, with 58% of assessments done within 7 days in June 2010. Nevertheless, there remains concern that the high level of child protection activity is impacting on the service's ability to respond to every referral in a timely fashion. An action plan is being developed to address the issue.

Achievement of 5 good GCSEs (including English and Maths)



The chart above shows Brighton and Hove's position in relation to statistical neighbours. We are ahead of the authority that is considered most statistically similar to us, Bristol, though the difference has decreased from 13.4 percentage points in 2005 to 4.3 percentage points in 2009. The rate of increase in Brighton & Hove is slower than the other LAs shown when we examine the trend since 2005. The Performance Board developed a number of actions including a presentation of the data at the May Head teacher's Conference, a visit to Plymouth to look at apparent best practice, ways to improve maths teaching especially staffing stability and an examination of outcomes for early leavers not entered for exams.

Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19

Examples of the level of qualification required here are: Advanced GNVQ, Apprenticeship, NVQ Level 2, 1 A Level grade A-E, 2 AS Levels grade A-E.

In 2008/09, the data for Brighton and Hove shows that 76 per cent of people aged 19 were qualified to at least Level 2. This is a slight fall on the 2007/08 position, but represents an improvement of 8.9 percentage points since 2004/05. The improvement over the period is a greater change than that seen for the South East as a whole. However, Brighton and Hove remains behind both the regional position (78 per cent in 2008/09) and that for England overall (78.7 per cent). The current Brighton and Hove position is 6 percentage points short of the PSA target of 82 per cent by 2011, compared to a regional position 4 percentage points behind.

The Performance Board is receiving a full report at its August meeting, including the draft commissioning plan aimed at driving improvement.

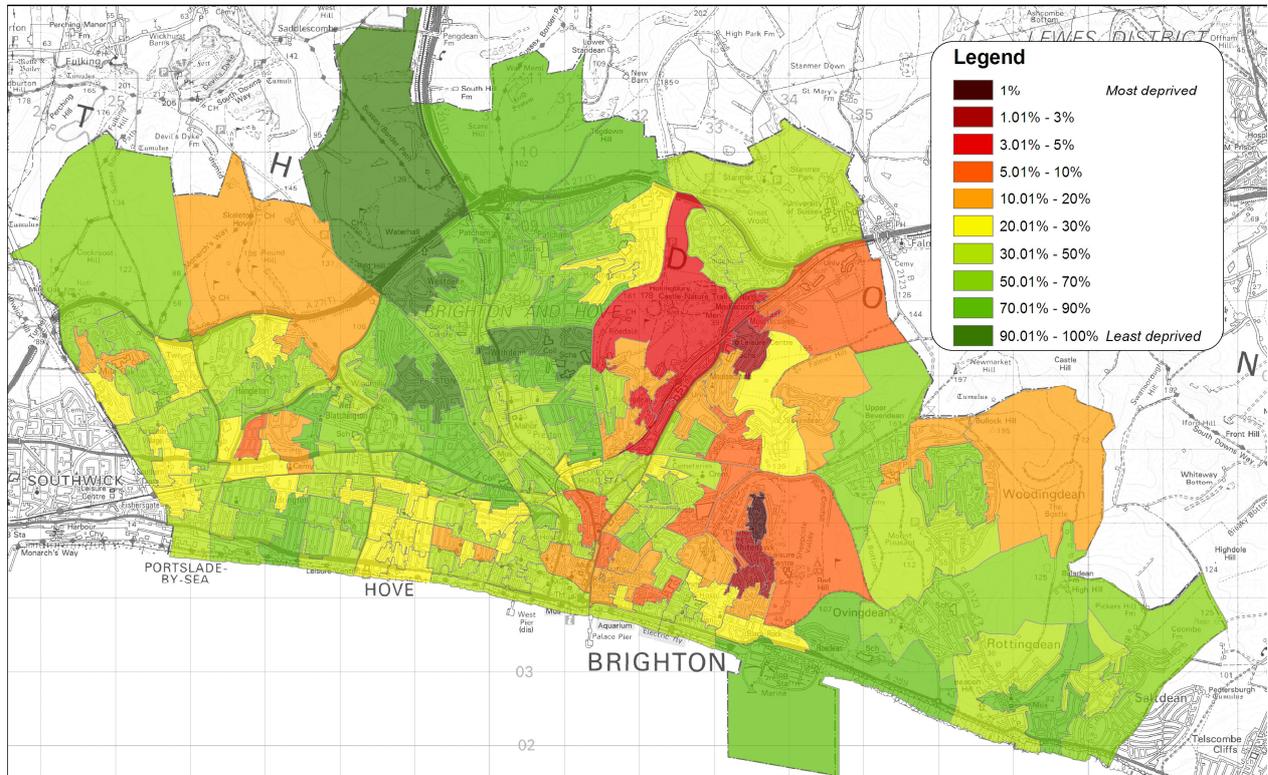
Reported substance misuse by young people

The indicator tracked here is the percentage of young people reporting either frequent misuse of drugs/volatile substances or alcohol, or both in the TellUs survey. The new government recently announced that the TellUs survey has been de-commissioned. Alternative, local arrangements are being put in place to survey pupils by asking additional questions in the well-established Safe At School Survey this autumn. However, this data will not provide a direct year-on-year comparison to that collected via the TellUs survey.

The TellUs 4 survey (conducted in the autumn term 2009) found that reported substance misuse rose from 12.7% in 2008 to 16.5% in 2009. Analysis of these results and soft intelligence suggests that this rise may have been due to the increased use of 'legal highs', specifically mephadrone, which has now been made illegal. However, work is taking place to examine commissioning priorities going forward with a focus on reducing rates of 'first use'.

The proportion of children living in poverty

Income Deprivation Affecting Children in Brighton and Hove (2007)



The map shows the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (ONS, 2007) from the 1% most deprived areas (dark red) through to the least deprived areas (dark green). There is one lower super output area1 (in North Whitehawk) in the 1% most deprived areas in England and a further three (one in Moulsecoomb and two in South Whitehawk) in the 3% most deprived areas in England.

Further analysis using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index reveals that the city has marked geographical variation in deprivation scores affecting children. When compared to national data, Brighton & Hove has a relatively low proportion of “least deprived” areas and a relatively high proportion of more deprived areas. 61 out of 164 lower super output areas in Brighton & Hove (37%) are in the 30% most deprived areas nationally.

The current child poverty measure within the Local Area Agreement is based on a proxy measure (not the data used above) which is the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits

Proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
England	21.0%	20.6%	20.0%	19.8%	19.2%
South East	14.1%	13.9%	13.6%	13.5%	12.9%
Brighton and Hove	23.4%	22.9%	22.0%	21.5%	20.3%

A child poverty needs assessment is currently underway which analyse the issues in more depth and inform the development of effective strategies to tackle the issue which should be embedded into the emerging commissioning intentions of the local strategic partnership.

The percentage of young people aged 16-18 not in education, training or employment

The annual outturn for 2009 was 8.8% compared to 7.8% the previous year. The table below shows that the Brighton and Hove rate is higher than the average of the local authorities we compare ourselves to. However the coastal cities of Southampton and Portsmouth have higher rates.

2009	16-18 NEET %
Brighton & Hove	8.8%
Mean indicator for statistical neighbours	7.0%
1. Bristol, City of	8.0%
2. Bournemouth	6.9%
3. Reading	6.1%
4. Portsmouth	10.5%
5. Sheffield	8.6%
6. Southampton	9.2%
7. Bath & NE Somerset	4.3%
8. Southend-on-Sea	5.5%
9. York	4.2%
10. Plymouth	6.4%

Clearly the recent cabinet decision to significantly reduce funding for the Connexions service will have a significant impact on our ability to both support and track outcomes for young people in relation to education, employment and training in the future.

Positive performance was reported to the Performance Board for:

- > Obesity rates amongst 11 year olds
- > The proportion of children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time

- > The number of emergency admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people
- > Reported incidents of bullying
- > Achievement at the Foundation Stage
- > The achievement gap between pupils eligible for school meals and the rest at both key stages 2 and 4
- > The achievement gap between pupils with special educational needs and the rest at both key stages 2 and 4
- > Young people sentenced to custody
- > The under 18 conception rate
- > Care leavers in employment or training

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The relevant officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report and this is now structured and formalised through the CYPT Performance Board process.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Jeff Coates

Date: 24/8/10

Legal Implications:

5.2 This report is for noting only, therefore no significant legal implications arise. However, it is worth drawing the Committee's attention to the current high level of child protection activity identified within the report and the need to ensure that Children's Services are sufficiently resourced to be able to respond to referrals in a timely fashion and meet their statutory duties to vulnerable children, under The Children Act 1989.

Further, given the reduced funding to the Connexions service, the Council will need to ensure it is still in a position to meet its statutory duties to young people under the leaving care provisions.

Lawyer Consulted:

Hilary Priestley Senior Lawyer Date: 26/08/10

Equalities Implications:

5.3 An equalities impact assessment was undertaken for the Children and Young People's Plan. There is a strategic priority to reduce child poverty and health inequality and several priority indicators are aimed at driving reduced inequalities, such as reducing the attainment gap for pupils receiving free school meals and those who have special educational needs.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 This report does not directly address sustainability issues but it underpins the CYPP which supports the council's sustainability strategy including, concern for quality of life and well being, health improvement and healthy schools, enjoyment and participation in cultural & leisure activities, achievement of economic well being and effective clinical governance and health.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 This report covers young people not in education, training and employment which includes outcomes for young people supervised by the Youth Offending team

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 There are no recommendations in this report that require risk assessment. There is a clear risk that reduced funding levels may impact the Trust's ability to maintain and improve the outcomes for children and young people.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 CYPT Performance Board reports are used by the Corporate Performance Board to track and analyse performance issues, identifying areas where the wider partnership can contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people. CYPT performance information is used to inform progress against Local Area Agreement indicators and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None
- 2.

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None
- 2.