



Milton Keynes
Children and Young People's Plan
2009-2011



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Introduction

Much has happened in the year since we published our review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-09 in July 2009. The Annual Performance Assessment (APA) for 2007-08, which reported in December 2008, found Milton Keynes Council Children and Young People's Services to be inadequate in two of the five Every Child Matters outcomes – 'Enjoy and achieve' and 'Achieve economic well being' – as well as in our capacity to improve and the overall provision of children's services. The good performance achieved in 'Make a positive contribution' was recognised, whilst outcome areas 'Be healthy' and 'Stay safe' were judged to be adequate with some specific areas for improvement noted.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) commissioned an independent diagnostic review, carried out March - April 2009, to assess causes for underperformance of children's services and identify potential next steps and options to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people in Milton Keynes. The review team met with and obtained the views of partners across the Children's Trust as well as officers within the council. The resulting report recognised that progress had been made but in some areas it was not fast enough. In particular, the review found that strategic leadership of children's services through the Children's Trust was weak and capacity to improve inadequate. The overall educational attainment of children and young people, especially secondary aged young people, was also evaluated as requiring improvement.

In response to the recommendations of the review, the Secretary of State directed Milton Keynes Council to establish an Improvement Board, independently chaired, and prepare an effective Performance Improvement Plan with a clear focus on improving outcomes for children, particularly the most disadvantaged. This plan will form the implementation plan for Children and Young People's Services of the first year of this Children and Young People's Plan (see Appendix 4).

The recently appointed Director of Children and Young People's Services has made sure that the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11 not only includes the targets as directed by the Secretary of State but also additional Local Authority targets to ensure that we deliver good quality services to children and young people in Milton Keynes.

We have already recognised the challenge ahead of us working together as Milton Keynes Children's Trust. We will build upon our strengths to implement the Children and Young People's Plan to address current weaknesses to ensure the outcomes for our children and young people are as good as they can be.

Through the reframing of the Children's Trust Board and its sub boards, together with the restructuring of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children's Board, we will be putting in place the structures that will enable us to deliver our vision and plans for the children and young people of Milton Keynes.

Our vision

All our children and young people are happy, safe, healthy and successful and achieve their full potential in the aspirational community of Milton Keynes

We know that children and young people's wellbeing, achievement, and life chances can vary depending on background and circumstances. The council has refocused an overarching action point in the Council Plan 'to continue to improve school standards' to now read 'to increase the level of educational attainment of children and adults'. It has also included an additional action point 'to improve people's life chances and narrow the gap between our poorest and most affluent communities' to reflect our Community Cohesion and Regeneration Strategies. These are picked up and reflected in our 10 priorities for the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes agreed by the Children's Trust Board that we will be working hard together to achieve.

We will ensure that:

- All children are given the best possible start in life
- Parents and carers are supported to nurture and develop their children within safe and secure families
- High quality schools and services enable children and young people to learn well and to gain knowledge and skills to fulfil their ambitions
- Children and young people play an active part in their community and feel safe and valued, living in stable homes, neighbourhoods and communities

This plan sets out how we will work in partnership to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people in Milton Keynes. This includes all children aged 0-19, young people aged 20 or over leaving care, and young people up to the age of 25 who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. It does not include everything that we do, but focuses on the areas where partners can work together to make the most difference to children and young people.

Realising our vision

In order to realise the ambitions detailed in the Plan there are six key areas we need to address in the first year:

1. Improved strategic leadership of Children and Young People's Services

As a first step to achieving this vision, and to accelerate progress against key priorities, to improve outcomes for children and young people, we are working to improve leadership and management at all levels. A single elected member has been appointed as lead member for children's services clarifying lines of responsibility and communication. In recent years, capacity to improve has been hampered because of vacancies and a series of temporary appointments at officer level. In particular, difficulty in making permanent appointments at the most senior level has resulted in inconsistencies in leadership. This has now been resolved with the appointment of a permanent Director of Children's Services from April 2009 and the subsequent appointment of 4 permanent Assistant Directors who took up their posts in September 2009. In addition, an interim Assistant Director has been appointed to provide extra capacity to support accelerated improvement, funded by the DCSF.

Over the next year we will continue to develop leadership of our services to improve outcomes for our children and young people. In particular we will be revising school improvement services so that we can better monitor, challenge, support and intervene in schools to raise standards and achievement.

A key priority in our Sustainable Community Strategy, and running through all the council's key strategic plans, is the improvement of council services and the promotion of partnership working in order to better serve our communities and improve outcomes. The DCSF review team found that this is particularly true for Children and Young People's Services. The need for greater coherency and collaboration, both within Children and Young People's Services and between Children and Young People's Services and Corporate Services and our partners, are key areas for development.

2. Improved Governance and Strategic Commissioning

In order to address weaknesses in the arrangements for the Children's Trust, the membership, remit and governance structure of the Board have been revised and strengthened. The membership of the Board has been widened to include more partners and representatives from the Youth Cabinet to ensure the voices of young people are included at the highest level. Membership has also been strengthened to ensure representation from partners is at an appropriate level for decision making. Terms of reference have been strengthened to clarify the Board's role in developing and driving the delivery of Milton Keynes Children and Young People's Plan, as well as monitoring and evaluating outcomes for all of our children and young people.

3. Raised standards and achievement of vulnerable and underperforming groups especially 14-19

A key priority area for Children and Young People's Services is to support and challenge schools and settings to improve educational outcomes for all our children and young people

particularly our vulnerable and underperforming groups. The Plan includes activities recognising that all aspects of wellbeing need to be addressed 'in the round' in order to maximise a child or young person's capacity to achieve success. The two key areas for action are the development and implementation of an inclusion strategy and the implementation of the 14-19 learner entitlement.

4. Improved Data and Performance Information Systems

Prior to October 2008 information systems were very limited and the data of poor quality. The local authority was limited in its use of data. A pressing priority is to build on the work commenced during 2008 to develop robust and rigorous performance management and information systems, to enable the local authority to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses accurately and target resources effectively where they are most needed and will make the biggest difference. The DCSF has provided additional resources to enable the local authority to develop systems which are at least as good as those found in good and outstanding authorities.

5. Develop partnership working

A third action point included in the improvement plan incorporates a range of activities to secure improved partnership working to ensure the wellbeing of all children and young people (aged 0-19, those aged 21 or over leaving care, and young people up to the age of 25 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities). This year we will be exploring how we can deliver health and council services within different localities across Milton Keynes to improve swift and easy access to services to meet children and young people's needs. We have already begun discussions with our partners and a consultation exercise has been undertaken with frontline staff. We will also ensure that we are ready for the introduction of ContactPoint later in the year.

We have also introduced ECM sub-groups to drive our strategic commissioning, making sure that resources are better directed to deliver on the improvements. Our amended governance structure is shown at Appendix 2.

6. Integrated working and more localised working

To make a real step change in integrated working and to ensure the needs of children and young people are addressed 'in the round', we need to embed cultural change across the children's workforce so that everyone works together to deliver seamless services. We will be drawing on the experience of other local authorities who have made good progress on effective integrated working and new guidance from the DCSF.

Many of the tools and systems to support integrated working both between council services and across our partners, including the use of the Common Assessment Framework, the lead professional and Team around the Child, require further development. This will be a priority for this year.

Continuous improvement

In order to ensure that improvement in children's services continues at a fast pace during the life of this Plan, we will publish an evaluation of the progress we have made against our targets together with refreshed targets in September 2010.

Underlying principles which govern the way we work

We believe that for successful learning to take place and be an effective tool in eradicating poverty, children and young people need aspirational and supportive families, prosperous communities and effective schools.

Working with children and young people and our partners to achieve our goals, we aspire to the following ten standards:

1. Comprehensive consultation and involvement in decision making which is flexible, honest and inclusive
2. Being accessible and actively promoting equality, mutual respect and community cohesion
3. Putting the needs of all children and young people and their families, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable, at the centre of all that we do
4. Promoting personalised approaches to learning which inspire all children and young people to aim high and equip them with the knowledge and skills for life
5. Preventing issues from arising and intervening at the earliest appropriate moment
6. Planning activities in response to local need and keeping them under regular review
7. Providing high quality information, advice and guidance to children, young people and families that helps them to make informed choices
8. Making every penny count to improve outcomes for children and young people
9. Using open and transparent processes that build confident partnership
10. Developing a confident, well-motivated and effective workforce who work together, determined to improve the life chances and opportunities of all children and young people

Improving services and how we will get there

Our children's workforce must have the right skills, knowledge and competencies to help us deliver our vision for children and young people over the next two years. We have a very committed workforce with a 'can do' attitude, who take personal responsibility to make life better for Milton Keynes children and young people.

Over the last few months we have undertaken a workforce audit with surveys and focus groups to help us understand where we are now and what we need to do to support our workforce better and develop our workforce strategy. We need to embed cultural change to move to more integrated working. Our frontline staff, particularly those in schools and children's centres, fed back that they need more support to take forward the role of the lead professional, so we will take this forward in our integrated training and development work. We will develop our multi agency training programme around the common core of skills and knowledge. The workforce strategy will also address recruitment and retention, especially in safeguarding. We will also focus on developing leadership capacity across the workforce to improve our monitoring, challenge, support and intervention roles. We will be developing our school improvement services to ensure we cover all of the Every Child Matters outcomes so that the needs of all children and young people, however complex, are met 'in the round'.

How we monitor performance

The development of a comprehensive needs assessment for the Children and Young People's Plan was a key stage, providing the information to help us to identify our strategic priorities. Combining research, performance data and consultation findings, it enabled us to develop a shared understanding of need and key intelligence to underpin our priorities from 2009-11. The improvement of information systems is a key area for development in this Plan.

Key actions identified include:

- Improving the level of data collection and analysis, particularly of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, to enable us to identify underperforming children and target our resources effectively
- Improving our information sharing and making the best use of available ICT across partners
- Formalising learning from research, consultation and evaluation to make best use of information about what works for children and young people
- Ensuring we develop and maintain a web-based resource which commissioners, staff and managers can access to obtain up to date information about our children and their outcomes

The actions and measures under the Every Child Matters outcomes sections provide the framework for managing performance across agencies to ensure that progress is made.

The Children's Trust Board is responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress against each of the 10 outcomes we have identified for our children and young people. The Board meets regularly to review our progress and refocus priorities, where necessary. In addition, the Performance Improvement Board will monitor the Performance Improvement Plan for the first year of the Children and Young People's Plan to ensure we deliver better outcomes for children and young people.

Risks

All change programmes come with elements of risk, which have to be carefully identified and managed. Risks are monitored through the Children's Trust Board's work programme. In particular, ensuring robust safeguarding for all children and young people; ensuring our children and young people achieve well in schools, including vulnerable groups; ensuring our children's workforce has core skills and competencies; developing and embedding integrated processes; and overseeing change management processes. This year we have aligned risk monitoring with performance monitoring to ensure the Children's Trust and the Performance Improvement Boards oversee key risks on a regular basis.

Use of resources

The Children's Trust Board will allocate resources based on key partnership priorities; strategically plan for opportunities to further align resources across the partnership; and continue to re-design and develop services to deliver efficiencies.

The resources to deliver the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan are derived from five sources:

1. Milton Keynes Council's Children & Young People's Directorate as part of the overall local authority budget.
2. Funding devolved to schools and overseen through the Schools Forum.
3. The 'Area-Based Grant' (ABG) provided by central government. This consists of a number of specific grants which were previously earmarked for particular priorities, such as reducing teenage pregnancy. These were brought together from 2008-2009 and are now not ring fenced, enabling resources to be applied flexibly to meet priority local needs.
4. Specific, ring fenced government grants, including those related to our improvement plan and others targeted at particular priorities.
5. The funding for services provided by partner agencies and organisations, such as Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT), the Learning and Skills Council and the voluntary and community sector.

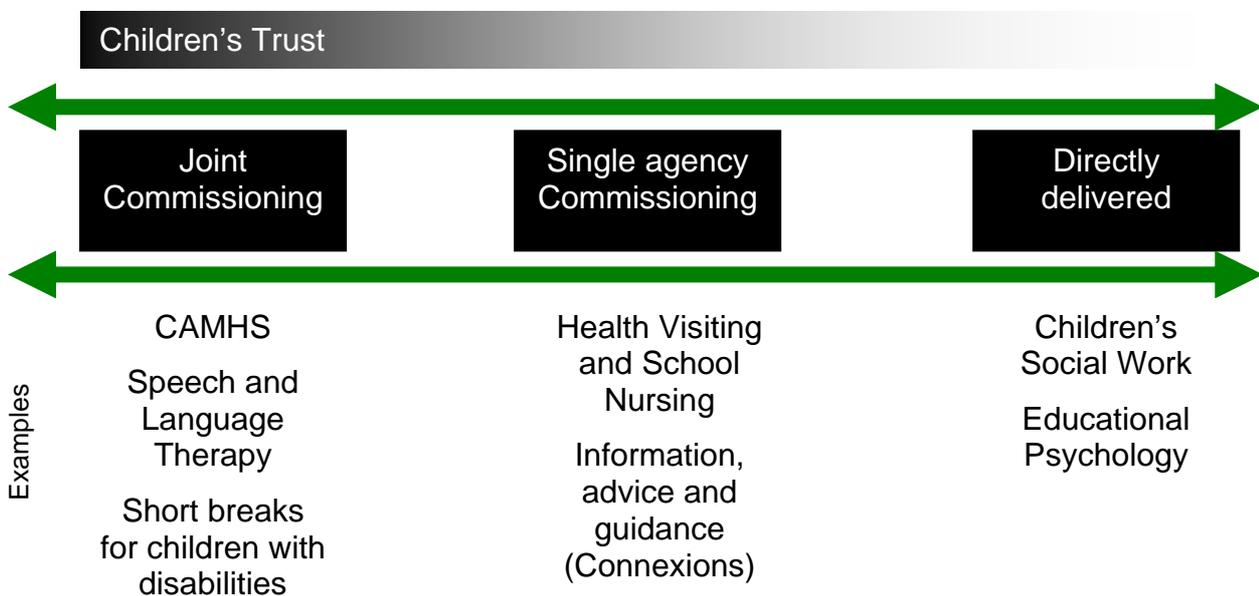
A comprehensive review based on 2008/09 budgets identified that, collectively, members of the Children and Young People's Trust invested a total of £406.1m, comprised of £359.6m in revenue funding and £46.6m in capital funding. The three largest investors are Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust and the Learning and Skills Council. Together these organisations represented 95% of the total revenue funding. Of the

£289.5m revenue investment made by Milton Keynes Council in 2008/09, £166.9m was allocated by the Schools Forum directly to schools. (Review and evaluation of funding for outcomes for children and young people in Milton Keynes, December 2008).

The voluntary and independent sector are already full members of the Trust, and money spent by these agencies is included in the totals given above. However, we are aware that some, typically smaller and more local, organisations lack the capacity to individually respond to the requirements of current commissioning and procurement processes. We are committed to ensuring that our commissioning arrangements encourage and support a vibrant and diverse range of providers.

Within an environment where there are many competing priorities, developing improved services means looking for greater use of aligned and pooled budgets and seeking innovative and creative approaches to service delivery. To this end the council and Primary Care Trust are working jointly on improving delivery of services for children with disabilities, actively exploring further budget alignment and co-location of teams.

Over time, the Children’s Trust will consider which services and activities are more efficiently and effectively procured and delivered through taking a joint commissioning approach. Currently, there are a number of services, for example, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and delivery of the short breaks programme for children with disabilities, which now benefit from joint commissioning arrangements and aligned budgets which are increasingly a feature of the way the Children’s Trust plans and delivers services in partnership. However, the majority of local services are commissioned by a single agency or directly delivered.



Our work to secure better value for money through joint commissioning will continue. We are aware that this is currently an underdeveloped aspect of the Trust’s operations, so we will be reconfiguring the Trust’s structure with a greater focus on joint commissioning as a way of securing high quality services. The Children's Trust Constitution now includes commissioning standards which will underpin future work.

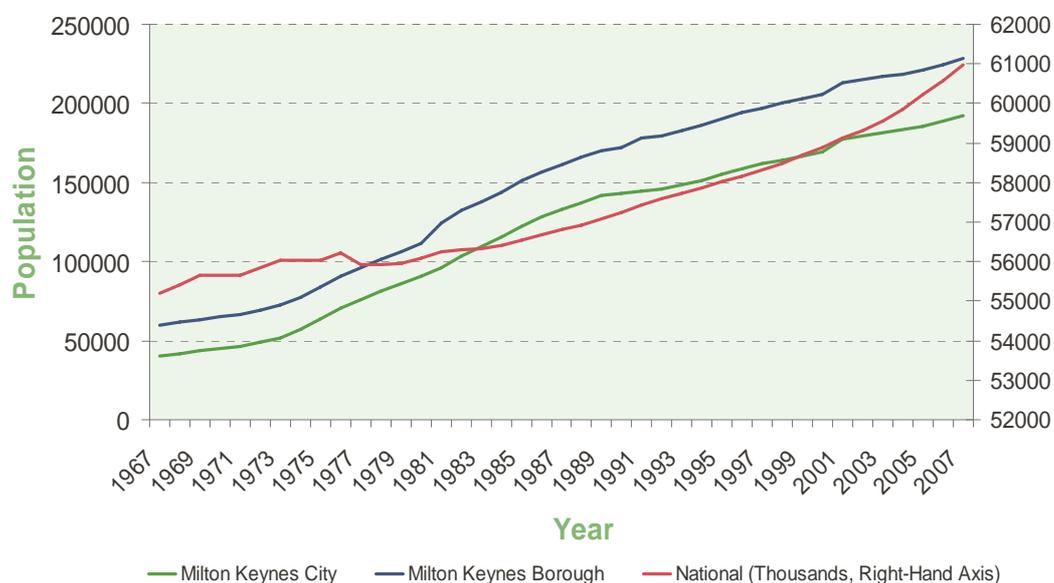
We are also working with partners in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire to jointly commission locally provided residential services to meet the needs of some young people in care who require intensive support. The aim is to provide an alternative to current arrangements and to ensure that as many young people as possible receive services close to Milton Keynes.

Profile of Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes, the largest of the British new towns, was designated in January 1967, and celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2007. It is built around the communities and rural areas of North Buckinghamshire and boasts a grid road system as well as 20 million trees, and it is still growing. In fact, up until very recently, it has been the fastest growing city outside London, welcoming thousands of new residents each year to add to its diverse population.

The Milton Keynes population has grown from around 40,000 in 1967 to 212,700 in 2001 and rose by 7% to an estimated 228,450 in 2007. Population estimates for 2008 put the Milton Keynes population at 231,070 people, with a commercial and retail hub serving 52 million shoppers each year. It is also now a major employment centre with over 10,000 businesses and over 130,000 jobs. Between 2008 and 2016, over 14,000 houses are anticipated to be built in the Borough, allowing for a projected growth in population of over 26,000 people taking the population to a total of 257,700. The table below shows the fast rate of growth when compared to national figures over the last 40 years, only slowing in the past 2 years.

Population Increase since 1967



Population increase since 1967

Sources: 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses and output from the Milton Keynes Population Projection Model. Notes: * 1991 Census figures allow for the Census Validation Survey** 2001 revised mid year estimate figures for the Borough have been split on the basis of dwellings to give an estimate of the city's population Figures for non-census years in the Borough have been interpolated from published mid-year estimates.

Milton Keynes faces a new set of challenges for the first half of the 21st century. The Government has identified Milton Keynes and the surrounding South Midlands area as the location for major new housing development as part of its Sustainable Community Plan. This represents an exciting time in our development. The growth already witnessed is set to accelerate with a projected population increase to 348,810 people by 2031.

This growth can provide us with opportunities to address areas of difficulty, including health inequalities and the regeneration needs of some of our towns and neighbourhoods to ensure that residents and communities enjoy a better quality of life. We must also ensure that the needs of our rural communities are not overlooked. Given the recent national and international economic slow-down, the increase (circa 5,000 net new residents per annum) in the short term may not be as great as predicted a few years ago, but indications are that the city will continue to grow and this is a key issue as we plan to provide good services for more children and young people and families.

Milton Keynes is a young city, both in the age of its housing stock and the ages of its population. It has higher than England's average proportions of children and young adults – almost a quarter of the Milton Keynes population is aged 18 years or under, and a higher proportion of young professional families. The growth of the Milton Keynes population is due to the number of new arrivals to the Borough being greater than the number of people leaving. In general, it appears that the majority of new arrivals into the area are young families although there is a notable gain of people aged 60 plus. New arrivals mostly move into the area from the East, South East and particularly London.

There are currently around 60,000 children and young people aged 0-19 in the Borough, with 38,641 pupils attending Milton Keynes schools and 3,501 births per annum, as well as increasing inward migration. At any one time Milton Keynes Council Children's Social Care Service is working with approx 1,000 children in need, in 2008 there were 220 looked after children and 57 children with a current child protection plan.

Ethnic Group	2009	
	Pupils	%
White British	26,088	67.8
White Irish	165	0.4
White Other	1,426	3.7
Mixed	1,992	5.2
Indian	960	2.5
Pakistani	940	2.4
Bangladeshi	561	1.5
Any Other Asian	722	1.9
Black African	2,834	7.4
Black Caribbean	332	0.9
Black Other	520	1.4
Chinese	272	0.7
Any Other Group	496	1.3
Refuse/Unknown	1,144	3.0
Total Pupils	38,452	100

The diversity of the Milton Keynes population continues to increase most significantly within our younger population. The 2009 Schools Census shows that overall in Milton Keynes 29.2% of pupils are from black and minority ethnic groups compared to 20.7% in 2005 and 26.9% in 2008.

Data also shows a steady increase in the proportion of children in our schools for whom English is an additional language. At 17.8% for primary and 12.6% for secondary pupils, figures are higher than national averages.

Figure 1
From Milton Keynes School Census 2009)

Within this relatively affluent community, there are significant small pockets of deprivation, including some areas which are amongst the most deprived areas in England. National research shows that generally, children from areas of deprivation do not have as good outcomes as the child population in general. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007

combines a number of indicators which cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. For Milton Keynes this shows that Eaton Manor and Woughton wards are within the 10% most deprived wards in England in relation to education, skills and training whilst Olney Ward is within the 10% least deprived. Woughton is among the 20% most disadvantaged wards for a further four of the seven deprivations (income, employment, health/disability and crime).

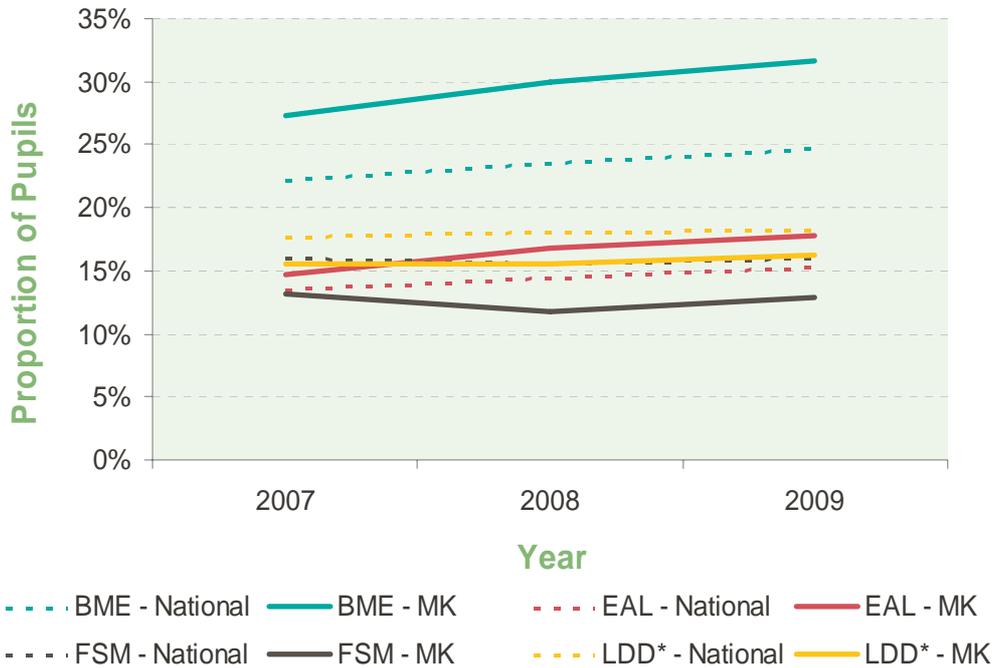
The results of the needs assessment carried out in preparation for this Plan show that levels of smoking, obesity, teenage pregnancy and tooth decay in Milton Keynes are all higher in the areas of deprivation, whereas levels of educational attainment are lower. Additionally, infant mortality rates in Milton Keynes (deaths under 1 year) have been consistently slightly higher than average for England and Wales with the most deprived wards showing the highest death rates and lowest life expectancy in Milton Keynes. Analysis of local data shows that there is a strong relationship between poorer exam results and health issues such as childhood obesity for school cluster groups in Milton Keynes i.e. in areas with high levels of obesity, GCSE results are not as good. This does not mean that being overweight causes a child to fail exams, or vice versa; the common factor in both of these is socio-economic deprivation.

The tables below show the percentages of children and young people in specific groups compared to percentages nationally. The specific groups are:

BME	Proportion of children and young people with a classified ethnic grouping other than white British
EAL	Proportion of children and young people with English as an Additional Language
LDD	Proportion of children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN). This includes all children across the SEN continuum ranging from School Action to those with statements. Across different Children's Trust services there is no common term or definition relating to children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities or special educational needs. Throughout this plan we will be using the single term 'Learning Difficulties and Disabilities' or LDD.

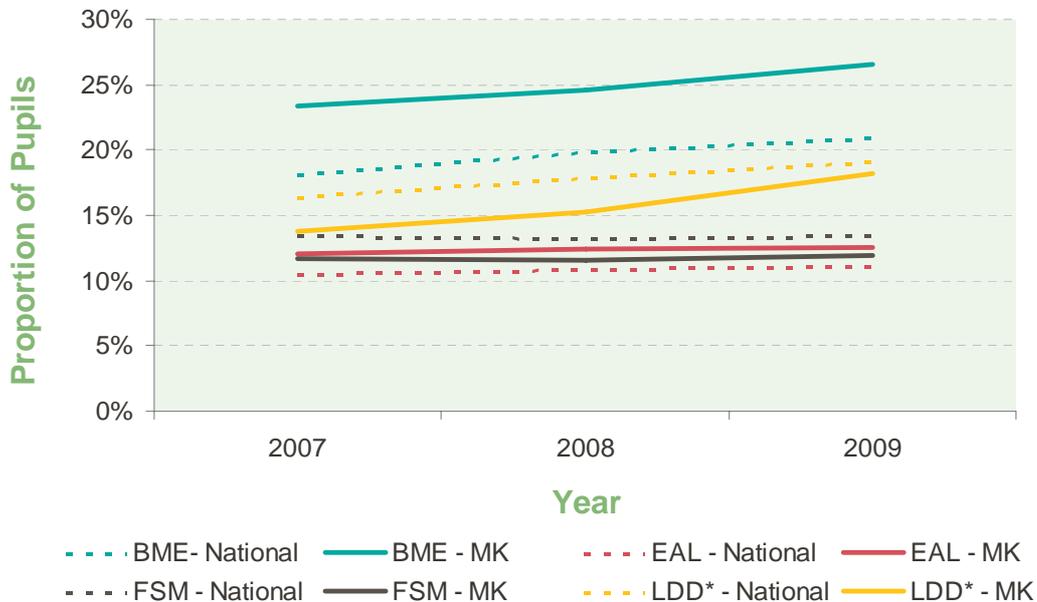
The following chart indicates that there are fewer pupils in Milton Keynes' primary schools than national entitled to free school meals or who have special educational needs. However, there are more pupils than national who are learning English as an additional language and more from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Pupil Characteristics - Primary Schools



The following chart indicates that there is a similar pattern in the characteristics of pupils in our secondary schools.

Pupil Characteristics - Secondary Schools



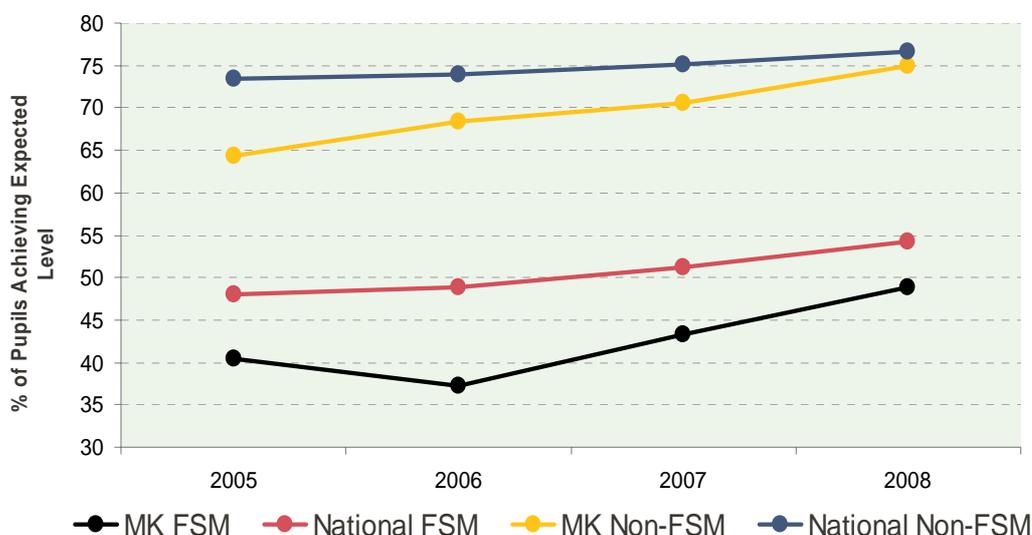
DCSF – “Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England, January 2007 (Provisional)”;
 DCSF – “DCSF: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional)”;
 DCSF – “Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics: January 2009”; “
 DCSF: Special Educational Needs in England: January 2009”

* In these data “LDD” only includes SEN

National evidence shows that the proportion of children and young people entitled to free school meals who achieve expected levels at all key stages of their education is consistently less than their peers. This trend is mirrored in Milton Keynes, as demonstrated in charts below. These charts illustrate our concern that although the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals in Milton Keynes is lower than the national average, our overall results at all key stages, apart from the Early Years Foundation Stage, are also lower when, arguably, they should be higher.

At the Early Years Foundation Stage 52.9% of children achieved expected levels compared to 49% nationally in 2008.

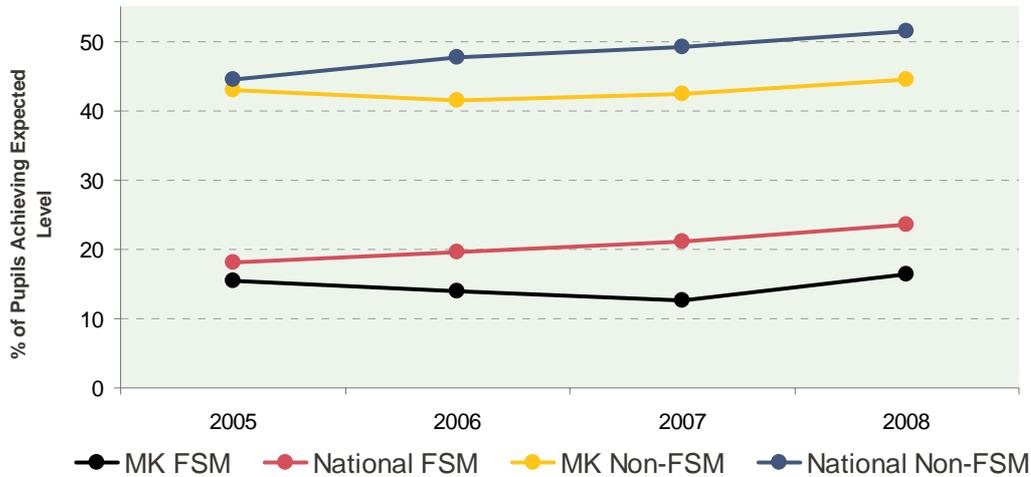
Achievement of pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2



Achievement at Key Stage 2 for pupils entitled to free school meals has improved from 40.4% in 2005 to 48.8% in 2008 – but this is still 5.5% less than the national average - whereas, for their peers, there has been more consistent improvement from 64.3% to 75%, which is closer to the national average of 76.6%. The gap in achievement locally has grown rather than narrowed to 26.2%, compared to 22.4% nationally. This is particularly true of results in secondary schools where the gap between the overall percentage of young people attaining 5 or more GCSEs including English and maths in 2008 was wider in Milton Keynes at 28.2% compared to 27.8% nationally.

Key Stage 4 attainment at GCSE in Milton Keynes has not kept pace with national improvement, particularly for pupils entitled to free school meals. For these pupils, although there has been some improvement from 15.5% in 2005 achieving 5 A*-C at GCSE including English and maths, to 16.3% in 2008, this is 7.3% less than the national average of 23.6%, and 28.2% less than their peers.

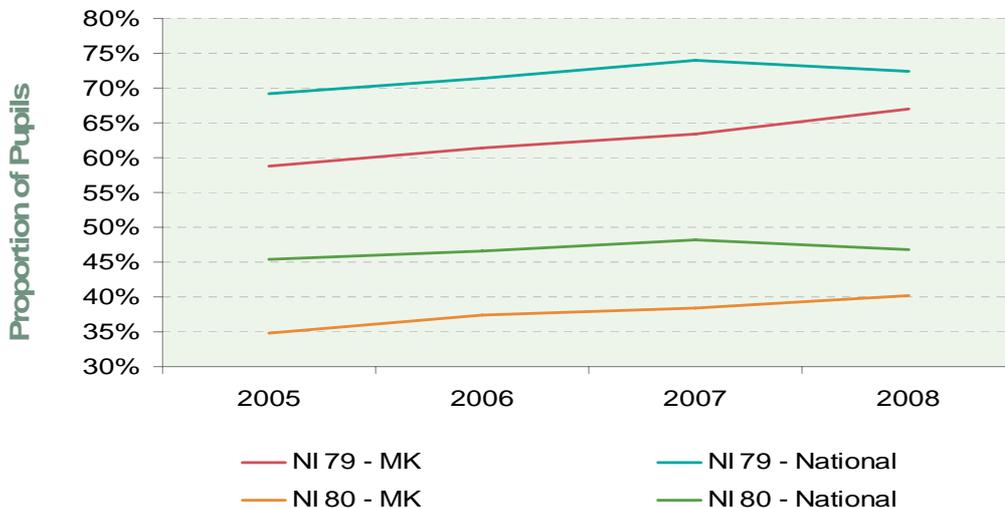
Achievement of pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4



Not only do we need to raise attainment for all children and young people especially at age 16, but we also need to close the gap in attainment between children and young people entitled to free school meals and those who are not. To address the additional challenges that these children and young people face, organisations and services across the Children's Trust will need to target our combined resources more effectively. A significant strength of Milton Keynes is the vibrancy of the community and voluntary sector as well as a commitment from public agencies to work together in achieving the best outcomes for all our communities. By working together in partnership we will be better able to provide the necessary support to narrow the gap and enhance the life chances for all children and young people and their families.

Whilst Level 2 and Level 3 achievements at age 19 have increased over the last few years, national levels significantly exceed those in Milton Keynes. In 2007/08 attainment in Milton Keynes at Level 2 was 67% compared to 72.4% nationally, and at Level 3 it was 40.1% compared to 46.9% nationally. This area needs an increased focus to ensure that we narrow the gap between local and national levels of achievement.

Achievement of Level 2 (NI 79) and Level 3 (NI 80) qualification by age 19



Consultation

Finding out the views and experiences of children and young people living in Milton Keynes is key to helping us to understand what things are important to them and what we need to address in our planning. We have also consulted with parents and carers to help us to determine our priorities for the forthcoming years.

Throughout the year a wide range of surveys or consultations are carried out with children and young people or their families. This includes government organised surveys of sample school populations such as TellUs or around young people's participation in positive activities. The annual Tellus web-based questionnaire is the means by which the perceptions of children and young people are collected around the five Every Child Matters outcomes and about what it is like to live in an area. The survey has been developed jointly by Ofsted, DCSF and Ipsos MORI as a survey of children and young people's views across the country. It is completed by samples of children in all local authority areas to provide information which allows comparison with national and similar neighbours' benchmarks. The proportion of pupils who took part in the Tellus survey in 2008 in Milton Keynes was relatively low (314 pupils from Years 6 and 10), so while information gained from the survey is interesting, it should not be taken as wholly representative of the views of children and young people in Milton Keynes.

In the first stage of developing this Plan we also gathered together the knowledge and views gained from research already carried out directly by different organisations across Milton Keynes Children's Trust. Views obtained have not only enabled organisations to develop and improve the way they deliver their own services, but have contributed to and influenced the bigger picture, by feeding into the development of priorities in this Children and Young People's Plan.

Here are some examples from the range of recent consultations that have informed our priorities:

- Over the past year four wide scale consultations were carried out in partnership by the SaferMK and Extended Services teams, gathering the views of 2,960 children and young people - 1,214 primary and 1,746 secondary pupils
- 446 of the 2,500 young people who voted in the Youth Parliament and Cabinet elections took the opportunity to give their views, both positive and negative, about living in Milton Keynes
- Young people at the three Milton Keynes College campuses were asked for their views about some aspects of the 2008-09 Plan and what they thought could help improve life chances for children and young people. The consultation was filmed and edited by college media students, who worked alongside the Youth Participation Officer
- Barnardo's Children's Rights consulted 12 children and young people with disabilities including some with non-verbal communication to find out what they wanted from short breaks services.

Our aspirations for children and young people

The following plan is organised under the 10 priorities for the Every Child Matters outcomes agreed by the Children's Trust Board. Each outcome area begins with an overview of what we have achieved in the past three years, what remains outstanding and what the views of children and young people, together with our data, show us needs to be done. An outline action plan designed to achieve our aspirations for children and young people, together with targets which will show whether we have got there, is also included. Our ten outcomes are:

Be healthy

All children and young people whatever their backgrounds and needs, however complex, are at their optimal level of fitness and health and knowledgeable about how to keep themselves that way

All children and young people are able to access a wide range of quality services, opportunities and leisure activities to ensure their emotional and physical wellbeing

Stay safe

All children and young people and their families feel and are safe and secure, living in stable homes, neighbourhoods and communities

Enjoy and achieve

All children and young people are highly motivated and achieve their full potential

Vulnerable children and young people achieve as highly as their peers

Schools and settings provide inspirational, broad and personalised experiences and opportunities so that all children attend regularly, enjoying and gaining maximum benefit from their learning

Make a positive contribution

Milton Keynes will be a recognised centre of excellence, where the voices of children and young people and their families are paramount in determining their support needs

Achieve economic wellbeing

Child poverty is not a barrier to success

All children and young people have the appropriate skills and knowledge to access further education, training, or work

All children and young people are able to access the full 14-19 entitlement via different pathways

Be healthy – what has improved in the last three years?

What's better for children and young people and families?	Key things we've done in the last three years
<p>95% of mothers received a 6-8 week health visitor check.</p> <p>95.6% of infants received a primary course of immunisations to help protect them from preventable diseases, compared to the national average of 91%.</p> <p>Fewer teenagers aged 15-17 are becoming pregnant. The conception rate in Milton Keynes has fallen by 23.6% (compared to an average reduction of 10.7% nationally) since 1998 to 39.1 per 1000, continuing to fall at a time when national rates increased.</p> <p>In the 2008 inspection of our Fostering service the health support provided to our children in care was recognised as 'outstanding', with more than 96% receiving annual health assessments to make sure that their health care needs are addressed.</p> <p>Ofsted recognised that children and young people in Milton Keynes receive good specialist child and adolescent mental health services.</p> <p>School-age children in Milton Keynes report higher levels of physical activity and healthy eating than average. 91% participate in at least 3 hours a week of high quality sport in schools, which is significantly higher than the national average of 78%.</p> <p>Free swimming offered to all 8-13 year</p>	<p>Following a review of maternity services in Milton Keynes, we have recruited 18 additional midwives, working both within the hospital and in the community, to improve the quality of care received by mothers and babies.</p> <p>Promoted good antenatal care for teenage mothers, particularly through the Family Nurse Partnership (a national evidence based preventative programme), which provides intensive support to them through the first two years of motherhood.</p> <p>17.7% of 15-24 year olds were screened for Chlamydia in 2008/09, exceeding the target of 17%, and compared to 15.9% achieved nationally.</p> <p>Improved Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to support children in care and foster carers.</p> <p>More short breaks and carer support are now available to children with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>Rolled out Relate family counselling services to 14 geographical localities to ensure that younger children with emotional or behavioural difficulties can access help at an early stage.</p> <p>Active lifestyles are encouraged through play and Extended Services activities in schools and local communities, including targeted fitness and weight management programmes. The Playing for Success programme in partnership with MK Dons football club worked with over 110 children and young people</p> <p>School Sport Partnerships are delivering a</p>

olds throughout the school holidays as well as a range of other sporting activities including dance, cheerleading and football.

range of activities to engage more young people to participate in sport, whilst also looking at improving the quality of provision in Physical Education.

We support children and families towards healthier lifestyles through the Healthy Schools Programme and Sure Start Children's Centres. However our work is not coordinated or targeted enough to have the required impact and as a result the percentage of schools with Healthy Schools Status is below the national average.

Where we still need to focus

Although the obesity levels in Milton Keynes are not dissimilar to national levels, they are worryingly high, with one in eight (12.1%) reception age children clinically obese (compared to 9.6% nationally), rising to one in six (16.1%) in year six (compared to 17.4% nationally). Additionally, the average number of decayed, filled or missing teeth in 5 year olds is high.

Whilst teenage pregnancy rates have fallen significantly, they are still unacceptably high. We will need to maintain a strong focus in order to achieve the 2010/11 target rate of a reduction of 41% from the 1998 baseline.

Whilst the number of children who died before their first birthday has fallen to 14, it is 14 too many and we need to continue to focus on effective maternity and postnatal care.

A relatively low number of young people aged under 25 currently access drug and alcohol treatment services, indicating that needs are potentially not being met. The strategy for meeting young people's substance related needs, specifically their needs for specialist treatment interventions, includes as one of its highest priorities for 2009/10 improving young people's services. It particularly prioritises supporting families and ensuring that preventative and early intervention services are in place, so that young people can be diverted away from a long term involvement in substance misuse.

In surveys children and young people identified smoking as one of the top issues that affect quality of life.

We need to deliver improved and integrated services for children with disabilities and good transition to post 16, adult and community services.

All health indicators are worse in areas of socio-economic deprivation and low educational attainment. Additionally, when children and young people have limited access to consistent, positive adult support, this can result in low self esteem. Therefore, we need to invest in supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of young people, to ensure that these health inequalities do not continue into adult life.

What children and young people have told us?

In three large scale surveys carried out in our schools, young people, especially teenagers, said they would like more information and advice about health and healthy eating, with advice about stress a particularly important issue for 15-18 year olds and having *'Someone to talk to that you can trust and help you make things better'*. Children and young people told us that their main source of information about sex and relationships was school lessons, and they felt this should be the case. They said in an ideal world they would prefer the source to be their parents but thought this would be unlikely due to embarrassment on both sides.

Smoking (at home or on the streets) was ranked as one of the top three issues that children and young people feel affects their quality of life in all four of these schools surveys. Drugs were of less concern being ranked between 3rd to 9th and alcohol was ranked much lower.

According to the TellUs3 survey, 77% of Year 6 and 10 pupils who participated had never smoked and 26% had never drunk alcohol. 17% of Year 10 pupils said that they had taken drugs which is similar to the national average for this age group.

What our children and young people's profile shows

- The rate of infant mortality in Milton Keynes for the period 2005-07 was 5.9 per 1,000 births, compared to the national average of 5.3. Numbers of deaths have decreased to 14 children in 2007, compared to 19 in 2006 and 17 in 2005.
- In 2007 1.6% of babies born in Milton Keynes had a low birthweight of below 1500g, compared to 1.4% nationally.
- In 2008/09 51% of infants were still being breastfed at 6-8 weeks, compared to 69.6% nationally.
- In 2008/09 95.6% of primary courses of immunisations at 12 months were completed (91% nationally), but updates of MMR was lower at 88.6%
- In the 2007/08 Child Measurement Programme 12.1% of Reception year (10.1% in 2006/07) and 16.1% of year 6 (17% 2006/07) were clinically obese, compared to national averages of 9.6% and 17.4% respectively.
- In 2007, the number of teenage pregnancies per 1000 girls aged 15-17 years was 39.1, which represents a reduction of 23.6% since the baseline year of 1998 and is a faster improvement rate than the national average.
- During 2008/09 17.7% of 15-24 year olds accepted a test for Chlamydia, compared to 15.9% nationally.
- Data allowing a comprehensive analysis of substance misuse carried out in 2008 is difficult to access. Some recent research has been carried out regarding the services provided, which indicates that the majority of 13-18 year olds in treatment are male, and White British, with 44% aged 17 or 18.

During 2009-11 we will work to ensure that:

- All children and young people whatever their backgrounds and needs, however complex, are at their optimal level of fitness and health and knowledgeable about how to keep themselves that way
- All children and young people are able to access a wide range of quality services, opportunities and leisure activities to ensure their emotional and physical wellbeing

How will we get there?

Being Healthy: All children and young people whatever their backgrounds and needs, however complex, are at their optimal level of fitness and health and knowledgeable about how to keep themselves that way

What are we going to do?

Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	Lead (s)	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A joint appointment with the NHS of a strategic lead to coordinate and target the work between the NHS and Children and Young People's Services in supporting children and young people to be healthy Increase the number of schools with Healthy Schools Status Contribute to improved healthy outcomes for children and young people as detailed below 	Director Public Health	Not available	74%	85%	95%
	Assistant Director, Partnerships, Commissioning & Performance	New for 2009/10	0%	10%	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the promotion of healthy eating and good oral hygiene in children's centres, nurseries, pre-school, schools and extended school settings Increase the referrals to children's community-based weight management services 	Assistant Director, Partnerships, Commissioning & Performance	40.6%	17.6%	19%	20.5%
	Director Public Health	37.6%	34.2%	36%	37.5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training to support the delivery of high quality Sex and Relationship Education in schools and encourage proactive work by those agencies and teams that already work with young people Expand access to sexual health services Target support and advice to young people identified 'at risk' of early pregnancy, and in highest rate wards for teenage conception 	Assistant Director, Universal Services	9.6%	12.1%	10%	10%
	Assistant Director, Partnerships, Commissioning & Performance	17.4%	16.1%	17%	16%
	Director of Public Health	-10.7%	-23.6%	-32%	-41%
		15.9%	17.7%	25%	35%

Being Healthy: All children and young people whatever their backgrounds and needs, however complex, are at their optimal level of fitness and health and knowledgeable about how to keep themselves that way

What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise awareness of Chlamydia Screening Programme ▪ Integrate Chlamydia Screening into sexual health services and services working with target age range (College and youth service) 		Reduced prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds (NI 113ii)	New indicator for 2009/10	New indicator for 2009/10	To be set	To be set
<p>Continue to improve antenatal and postnatal maternity services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing community midwifery pathways and staffing levels to enable early access to services and support ▪ Working to reduce caesarean sections ▪ Encouraging and supporting mothers to maintain breastfeeding ▪ Improve involvement of universal services across the Children's Trust in identifying young people who are misusing drugs or alcohol to enable prompt referral into specialist treatment services 	Maternity and Neonatal Commissioning Manager, MK PCT	Percentage of women who have seen a health care professional by 12 completed weeks of pregnancy (VSB06) Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 week health check (NI 53)	Data collection methodology changed 69.6%	100% 51%	80% 57.9%	90% 60.2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve involvement of universal services across the Children's Trust in identifying young people who are misusing drugs or alcohol to enable prompt referral into specialist treatment services 	Assistant Director, Partnerships, Commissioning & Performance	Reduction in percentage of young people who say they have used drugs or drunk alcohol - Tellus Survey (NI 115) LAA Target	12.3%	11.8%	10.1%	8.4%
<p>Raise young people's self-esteem, aspiration and emotional resilience, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving flexibility and access to advice and support e.g. through school and community based drop-ins ▪ Focusing early support and prevention where gaps in support have been identified ▪ Extending the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme in schools with both children and families ▪ Pilot Targeted Mental Health in Schools Project in 2 secondary schools and their feeder schools 	Assistant Director, Universal Services Director of Public Health	Percentage of schools using SEAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary schools • Secondary schools • Special schools • Alternative provision 	Not available – local target			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% 70% 100% 100%

Being Healthy: All children and young people are able to access a wide range of quality services, opportunities and leisure activities to ensure their emotional and physical wellbeing						
What are we going to do?						
	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<p>Work with schools, settings, extended services and other partners, including the voluntary sector, to ensure that all children and young people have access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High quality sporting and leisure activities ▪ High quality out of school activities <p>Implement 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing more flexible and responsive support to parents/carers ▪ Providing better information and assessment of needs ▪ Integrating council and PCT services for children and young people with disabilities <p>Ensure provision of accessible, effective Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensuring sufficient access to services to support children and young people, especially adolescents ▪ Developing community based intensive support to minimise the need for hospital treatment services for vulnerable young people ▪ Building the capacity of specialist services 	Assistant Director, Universal Services	Young people's participation in positive activities: % responding to Tellus survey (NI 110)	69.5%	73.3%	75%	77%
	Assistant Director, Leisure, Learning & Culture	Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport (NI 57) LAA Target	78%	91%	93%	95%
	Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas: TellUs survey (NI 199)	44.7%	45.8%	55%	60%
	Assistant Director, Universal Services	There are 20 designated SureStart Children's Centres by 2009/10 (NI 109)	Not available	75%	100%	100%
	Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Satisfaction with services for children and young people with disabilities: based on parents/carers responses to survey (NI 54)	New indicator for 2009/10	New indicator for 2009/10	Baseline to be set	
	Assistant Director, Partnerships Commissioning & Performance	Effectiveness of CAMHS services (basket of measures – out of 16) (NI 51)	13.85	13	16	16

Stay safe

What's better for children and young people and families?	Key things we've done in the last three years
<p>Children in care experience fewer moves, with long-term placement stability increasing from 58% in 2007/08 to 72% in 2008/09, compared to 65.7% nationally.</p> <p>The proportion of children in care in residential accommodation has reduced in 2008/09 to below the previous two years' performance from 19.2% to 15.2%.</p> <p>Numbers of assessments of the most vulnerable children have increased and more assessments and more reviews are taking place within timescales - 93% of children in care reviews were completed within timescales in 2008/09 compared to 81% in 2005/06.</p> <p>The 2008/09 annual performance assessment recognised that the Children's Trust provides a good range of family support services.</p> <p>Children's Social Care Services work to support families to provide safe parenting, clear boundaries and emotional warmth for children so that they may achieve their full potential growing up. As a result fewer children in Milton Keynes are in care or have a child protection plan than the average for England.</p> <p>Parents and carers have easier access to the wide range of evidence based parenting programmes offered in local venues, including our 18 children's centres, as well as support from five school based parent support advisers.</p>	<p>Additional resources have been invested in increasing numbers of foster carers and the support available to them.</p> <p>Our Children in Care Strategy sets out how the council and partners will support children who are in the care of Milton Keynes Council, including the establishment of a new Children in Care team.</p> <p>We have also highlighted our Corporate Parenting responsibilities by establishing a Council and Pledge for Children in Care.</p> <p>We have continued to ensure that child protection reviews are completed in appropriate timescales.</p> <p>Developed imaginative programmes in schools, such as the Stantonbury Cluster, to engage parents in meeting with other parents to share approaches to parenting.</p> <p>Whole school safeguarding training has increased staff awareness of safeguarding issues.</p> <p>An increased focus on domestic abuse through SaferMK, with a new domestic violence service called 'MK ACT', which includes developing a scheme to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse.</p> <p>We appointed a dedicated officer to work with schools and organisations across the Children's Trust to develop preventative measures to address bullying as well as promote good practice in dealing swiftly and effectively with incidents when they occur.</p>

<p>The number of children aged 0-15 killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents has reduced from 19 in 2005 to 9 in 2007. This represents a reduction of 53%.</p> <p>We have continued to reduce the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation to 112 against our target of 127.</p>	<p>We have trained youth workers and support staff to enable all our youth centres to become hate crime, including racist and homophobic incidents, reporting points.</p> <p>The 2008 Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board Conference focused on bullying and internet safety.</p> <p>A 12 place supported housing pilot project has been set up to provide housing and support to young people (mostly 16 and 17 year olds including care leavers and young offenders) who have a high level of support needs.</p>
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Where we still need to focus

Building upon our Safeguarding Review, we will further reinforce safeguarding practice with ongoing programmes of guidance and training. We also need to complete the inclusion audit which will establish stronger systems for collecting evidence about bullying and hate incidents (for example racist and homophobic incidents) in our schools and settings, so that intervention can be more effectively targeted.

Improve working between housing teams (Options, Intervention and Area Teams) when managing housing moves to ensure that the wider needs of families are considered in the allocation of tenancies.

We need to improve our communication and support to schools and other settings about safeguarding matters, such new restraint policy training.

We need to improve young people's and parents' involvement with the work of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board.

What the consultation told us

Bullying was ranked as one of the 3 main issues that children and young people considered affects their quality of life in all four SaferMK school surveys. Groups 'hanging around' ranked in the top 3 in two of the surveys, with gangs and violence identified in one school.

Bullying was also an issue where a significant number of children and young people had considered asking for advice, particularly for 11 and 12 year olds.

Groups of young people 'hanging around' was also mentioned as an issue of concern by 12.5% of Youth Cabinet survey respondents. This was usually

linked to the availability of things to do for teenagers e.g. “In my area young people just walk around on the streets or stand outside the shop”.

What our children and young people’s profile tells us

Although there has been a consistent reduction in the number of children aged 0-15 killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents, there were 30 child deaths in the three years between 2006 and 2009.

82% of respondents in the 2008 Tellus survey said they felt safe in the local area compared to 75% nationally, and 94% felt safe in school (88% nationally). Public transport was where more children and young people felt unsafe (26% compared to 27% nationally).

In 2008/09, there were 107 sexual offences in Milton Keynes relating to 0-19 age group and 2886 recorded crimes against under 20s in 2008/09. The most prevalent types of crime against a young victim were violence against the person and theft or handling offences.

In 2008, there were 655 reports of missing children aged under 18. The average number of hours that a child or young person was missing for was 19.8, but in 48% of the incidents, the child was missing for less than 6 hours.

There were over 3,000 referrals made to Children’s Social care between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009 – a significant increase on 2,160 the previous year. Other authorities are reporting similar increases. Despite the rise in the number of referrals, the proportion of referrals resulting in initial assessment has remained the same as the previous year (39%). There were 1,240 initial assessments carried out within Children’s Social Care, 78% of which were within timescale compared to 71% nationally. 84.7% of core assessments were within timescale (80% nationally).

There were 69 children subject to a child protection plan at 31st March 2009, with 32% under the category of Neglect, 10% Physical Abuse, 16% Sexual Abuse, 13% Emotional Abuse and 29% multiple categories. No children had been subject to a plan for 2 years or more and 2.6% of new plans were for a second or subsequent time.

There were 224 children in care at 31st March 2009 (equivalent to a rate of 40.9 per 10,000 under 18 population), an increase on the previous year (rate of 37.9) but still lower than national averages. The largest age group was 10 to 15 year olds and 70% were White/White British. 71% were placed in foster care or placed for adoption with 14% in residential care and 9% placed with parents. 39% were accommodated under Section 20 and 49% subject to Care Orders. Long term placement stability for children in care in 2008/09 was 72.3% compared to 65.7% nationally.

During 2009-11 we will work to ensure that:

- All children and young people and their families feel and are safe and secure, living in stable homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

Stay Safe: All children and young people and their families feel and are safe and secure, living in stable homes, neighbourhoods and communities							
What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve the effectiveness of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board (MKSCB), including provision of training to the children's workforce around risk assessment ▪ Provide training to schools to enable implementation of revised restraint policy ▪ Improve joint working between children's and adult services by using a Think Family approach to put families firmly at the centre. Provide more targeted and integrated support for vulnerable families, particularly where parents have substance misuse or mental health issues ▪ Ensure there is a wide range of effective family support services in place including intensive family support ▪ Support schools and settings to develop measures to prevent bullying or racist incidents as well as effective and swift responses when they occur ▪ Support and develop Safer Schools Partnerships ▪ Promote safer recruitment of staff, across the children's workforce, including the voluntary sector ▪ Work with SaferMK to improve the quality and effectiveness of services when there are children under the age of 18 living with violence in the home ▪ Provide stability for all our children in care, in family settings where possible 	Assistant Director, Specialist Services	Percentage of initial assessments completed in timescale (NI 59)	71%	77.9%	80%	82%	
		Percentage of core assessments completed in timescale (NI 60)	80%	84.7%	85%	85%	
		All Child Protection Plans are reviewed in timescale (NI 67)	99.4%	88.6%	100%	100%	
		Percentage of Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more (NI 64)	5%	0%	4%	In line with NA or less	4%
		Improved long term stability of placements for children in care (NI 63)	65.7%	72.3%	74%	76%	
		Reduced proportion of children in care with 3 placement moves or more in a year (NI 62)	11.4%	10.3%	10%	9%	
		Reduced proportion of children in care in residential placements (Local)	Not available	15.2%	14%	12%	
		Repeat incidents of domestic violence (NI 32)	New indicator for 2009/10	New indicator for 2009/10	28% or less	28% or less	
			Community Safety Manager				

Stay Safe: All children and young people and their families feel and are safe and secure, living in stable homes, neighbourhoods and communities						
What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
	Assistant Director, Specialist Services	Self assessment of local procedures and protocols to respond to the needs of runaway or missing children- maximum 15 from a basket of measures (NI71)	Not available	4	8	10
	Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Fewer children and young people report having experienced bullying: response from Tellus Survey (NI 69)	48%	47%	45%	43%

Enjoy and achieve

What's better for children and young people and families?	Key things we've done in the last three years
<p>Educational standards continued to rise across schools and early years settings in 2008.</p> <p>The gap between the lowest performing children and the average in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has narrowed from 37.7% in 2007 to 32.5% in 2008. In 30 inspections of primary and special schools in 2008/09 Ofsted judged effectiveness of EYFS in 27 schools to be good or outstanding.</p> <p>Our pupils at Key Stage 2 have not quite reached national averages but are improving faster than pupils nationally. Achievement of level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 English and maths increased from 61% in 2005 (national 69%) to 71.8% in 2008 (national 73%).</p> <p>A higher percentage of pupils are achieving 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE (including maths and English), increasing from 38.7% in 2007 to 42.1% in 2008 (47.6% nationally).</p> <p>The number of children offered their first preference secondary school place increased from 84% in 2007 to 87% in 2008, compared to 83% nationally.</p> <p>As at July 2009, Ofsted inspections have judged 68% of our primary schools to be good or outstanding overall as well as 59% of secondary schools, 67% of special schools and 72% of sixth forms.</p> <p>Pupil behaviour in school is generally good and the number of children permanently excluded has seen a significant reduction in the past four years to a rate of 0.10% which is</p>	<p>In its 2008 inspection it was recognised that “the fostering service, and the local authority as a whole, provides good support for educational achievement for placed young people.” We have now developed our Children in Care Education team to provide additional support to improve their attainment.</p> <p>We have established 5,924 early years education places.</p> <p>99% of our schools are developing an extended range of provision, including study support which is above the national average. Currently we have established 18 Children’s Centres and by 2010 this will have increased to 20.</p> <p>Set up projects to engage parents in their children’s learning such as the ROLF (Raising Our Level Fours) project, which have made a significant impact on accelerating progress at Key Stage 2.</p> <p>Used Building Learning Power and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) in many of our schools which have led to pupils demonstrating strong, positive attitudes to learning.</p> <p>All pupils who learned a musical instrument for the first time have continued playing after the first year, which is twice the national average.</p> <p>The collaborative work across secondary schools has helped reduce the numbers of pupils excluded from schools permanently by offering motivating alternatives.</p>

below national averages.

The rate of persistent absence in secondary schools has reduced from 5.8% in 2005/06 to 5.1% in 2008/09 compared to 5.6% nationally, as a result of proactive measures and legal interventions.

553 families and 1,792 children are benefiting from the diverse range of services and family support on offer at our 18 Children's Centres.

Children have many opportunities to enjoy their play – for instance, Milton Keynes first Playday in 2008, organised in conjunction with a variety of voluntary organisations, was attended by 1,200 children. Throughout the year our team of Play Rangers offer a wide range of safe and exciting play events in the heart of local communities.

Children and young people are benefiting from the development of new schools and refurbishment of older schools to provide high quality facilities to support their learning.

Improved the identification of and provision for young people at risk of re-offending or non-engagement, where communication is a barrier, by the Youth Offending Team working in partnership with other specialist providers.

Improved the management and governance arrangements for the School Building Programme. As a result all major projects have been delivered on schedule and within budget.

We have opened 2 new primary schools and amalgamated 4 others. We completed the final phases of 2 new secondary schools, including post-16 provision and rebuilt one of the worst condition schools in the borough, winning an award for its innovative design.

An underachieving secondary school has been replaced with an Academy which opens in September 2009.

Through the 'Percentage for Art' in schools programme 388 young people in 5 schools worked with artists to produce work of art to enhance their school environment.

Encouraged reading through school visits to libraries, summer reading programmes for under 5's, including dads events, and work with Children's Centres.

Where we still need to focus

We aim for all our schools to be good or better so that we can make sure all our children and young people achieve well. However we have not done enough to ensure that pupils make better progress or helped the most vulnerable children and young people in all our schools to achieve more, closing the gap between their own attainment and their peers. This includes children in care, pupils entitled to free school meals, learners who have learning difficulties and disabilities and some groups who have a minority ethnic background

Attainment is still lower than national averages. Nationally the percentage of

pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE (including English and maths) in 2008 was 47.6% compared to 42.1% in Milton Keynes and at Key Stage 2, 73% of pupils achieved level 4 or above compared to 72% in Milton Keynes.

We will be consulting on and implementing an inclusion strategy which will enhance provision and secure early provision of support for all learners when they need it. This will be underpinned by a revised funding model for learners with learning difficulties.

We need to target family learning, literacy and numeracy programmes at families with young children particularly in areas of low educational achievement, to enable parents to support their children with learning.

We need to encourage more young people to make use of library facilities. We will improve library services to teenagers by involving them in designing new activities.

What the consultation told us

Children and young people told us that their most popular daily or weekly activities were football, afterschool clubs, swimming, dance and art. Similar activities were looked for during holidays, with badminton, drama and basketball also featuring in the top five activities.

The most popular activities for children and young people with disabilities were swimming, horse riding, listening to music and playing football. Some of them said they would like to do things after school and in the holidays.

Children and young people said that the three most important things that helped them to learn and achieve in school were clear and interesting lessons/teaching, praise when deserved and adults who were fair and consistent. They also mentioned the need for 'better explained work'.

What our children and young people's profile tells us

There are 112 schools in Milton Keynes at January 2009, 90 primary schools, 12 secondary schools, 6 special schools and 4 Pupil Referral Units (some now called Personal Education Centres). At 28th February 2009, one school in Special Measures and 1 school requiring significant improvement. At this time there were 3 'National Challenge' schools in Milton Keynes.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, improvements were seen in all National Indicators and scale areas. 52.9% of pupils achieved at least 78 points including at least 6 in each of the scales (an improvement from 48.1% on the previous year and above expected levels). This compared to 49% nationally.

2008 Key Stage 1 outcomes were broadly in line with national averages (NA) with 85% achieving level 2+ in Reading (NA 84%), 81% in writing (NA 80%) and 91% in maths (NA 90%).

In 2008, Key Stage 2 performance was in line with national averages and had improved over the past four years at a greater rate than nationally. 80% of pupils achieved the expected level 4 or above in English (NA 81%), 78% in maths (NA 78%), and 88% in science (NA 88%). 72% of pupils achieved level 4+ in both English and maths, which is an improvement of four percentage points on the previous year and in line with the national average.

In Key Stage 4 in 2008, there were significant improvements but performance remained below national average. 61.7% of pupils achieved 5 or more at grades A*-C (NA 64.8%), and 42.1% achieved 5 or more at grades A* to C including English and maths (NA 47.6%).

There were 1,317 Statements of Special Educational Need in 2009 – an increasing trend. There has been a change in the age profile of children with a statement of special education needs over the last 4 years, with more aged 5 to 15 and less aged 16 to 19. The most prevalent statement category (need) over the past four years has been Moderate Learning Difficulty. The greatest increase has been in the number of statements for Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties.

Exclusions of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are lower than the national average at 0.14% in 2007/08. In 2008/09, there were 113 episodes of exclusions in the primary phase and 593 in the secondary phase. The secondary school persistent absence rate was 5.1%, compared to 5.6% nationally.

During 2009-11 we will work to ensure that:

- All children and young people are highly motivated and achieve their full potential
- Children and young people from vulnerable backgrounds achieve as highly as their peers
- Schools and settings provide inspirational, broad and personalised experiences and opportunities so that all children attend regularly, enjoying and gaining maximum benefit from their learning

Enjoy and Achieve All children and young people are highly motivated and achieve their full potential						
What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09*	MK 2008/09*	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<p>Raise standards and improve progress at all Key Stages including the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with schools to identify gaps in attainment, set targets and put in place appropriate interventions and challenge programmes which ensure pupils make better progress ▪ Extend systems to better track, monitor and improve pupils' progress 	Assistant Director, Universal Services					
<p>In the Early Years Foundation Stage we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance support to EYFS settings with higher numbers of children with additional needs ▪ Improve the availability, accessibility and affordability of childcare and nursery education ▪ Identify settings able to offer flexible entitlement of 15 hours childcare ▪ Pilot Every Child a Talker programme in 20 settings ▪ Improve transition between Foundation stage and KS1 	Assistant Director, Universal Services	Increased proportion of children achieving at least 78 points across Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (NI 72) LAA Target	49%	52.9%	54%	55%
<p>To improve the achievement of all children aged 5-11 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target support for schools where significant numbers of children are not achieving age related expectations ▪ Improve and extend provision for gifted and talented children 	Assistant Director, Universal Services	Reduce the difference in achievement between lowest 20% at Early Years Foundation Stage and their peers (NI 92) LAA Target	35.6%	32.5%	33%	30%
		Increased proportion of pupils achieving level 4 or above at KS2 in both English and maths (NI 73) LAA Target	73%	71.8%	75%	77%
		Reduce the difference in achievement between pupils entitled to free school meals and their peers achieving level 4 at KS2 (NI 102i)	22.4%	26.2%	22%	20%

Enjoy and Achieve

All children and young people are highly motivated and achieve their full potential

What are we going to do?

Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09*	MK 2008/09*	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharpen school intervention plans and overview of progress ▪ Work with all schools to ensure they provide a more flexible and personalised curriculum including outdoor learning making increased use of targeted programmes ▪ Provide training for teachers in challenging schools within the Education Improvement Partnership 	Assistant Director, Universal Services	61%	58%	62%	65%
	Assistant Director, Universal Services	Not available	67%	68%	70%
	Assistant Director, Universal Services	Increased proportion of pupils making two or more levels progress from KS1 and KS2 in:			
<p>To improve the achievement of all children and young people aged 11-19 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target work with lower performing schools ▪ Support schools in developing programmes which provide personalised support for individual young people to catch up ▪ Improve use of targeted programmes ▪ Co-ordinate local approaches and financial support through extended services in schools to increase the educational attainment of children and young people, including Playing for Success and Double Club models 	Assistant Director, Universal Services	82%	78.8%	85%	86%
	Assistant Director, Universal Services	79%	76.3%	80%	84%
	Assistant Director, Universal Services	Increased percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE including English and maths (NI 75) LAA Target	47.6%	42.1%	50%
Assistant Director, Universal Services	Reduce the difference in achievement between pupils entitled to free school meals in KS4 and their peers achieving 5 A*-C at GCSE and equivalent including English and maths (NI 102ii)	27.8%	28.2%	24.5%	21%

Enjoy and Achieve

All children and young people are highly motivated and achieve their full potential

What are we going to do?

- Parent Support Advisers to support appropriate intervention strategies in schools to children and young people and families
- Implement our parenting strategy, coordinating and effectively targeting parenting programmes to engage parents in their children's learning

Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09*	MK 2008/09*	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
Assistant Director, Universal Services	<p>Increased proportion of pupils making three or more levels progress from KS2 to KS4 in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English ▪ Maths 	58.7% 51.7%	54.5% 45.8%	58.5% 49.8%	62.5% 53.8%
	Increased proportion of black and minority ethnic heritage (BME) pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE including English and maths (NI 108)	Not available	43%	48%	50%

Enjoy and achieve						
Vulnerable children and young people achieve as highly as their peers						
What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09*	MK 2008/09*	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<p>Raise achievement of all vulnerable children and young people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with schools to identify gaps in attainment between vulnerable children and young people and their peers ▪ Set specific targets and put in place appropriate interventions and challenge programmes which ensure pupils make better progress 	<p>Assistant Director, Targeted Services</p> <p>Assistant Director, Universal Services</p>					
<p>Raise achievement of children and young people with learning difficulties by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An improved focus on children with severe and complex needs in mainstream provision ▪ Improving capacity, competence and confidence in mainstream schools and settings to provide for a wider range of need ▪ Ensuring sufficient and appropriate places for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) ▪ Meeting pupil needs promptly without the need for a statement ▪ Supporting schools to benefit fully from Inclusion Development Programme 	<p>Assistant Director, Universal Services</p> <p>Assistant Director, Targeted Services</p>	<p>Increased proportion of pupils with LDD achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and maths (NI 101)</p> <p>Reduce the difference in achievement between proportion of pupils with LDD and all pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and maths (NI 105)</p> <p>Reduce the overall percentage of pupils, including those with LDD, who do not achieve 2 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent</p>	11.7%	3.7%	8.7%	13.7%
			45.3%	46.1%	42%	40%
			3%	2.3%	2%	2%

Enjoy and achieve

Vulnerable children and young people achieve as highly as their peers

What are we going to do?

Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09*	MK 2008/09*	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
	<p>Increased proportion of pupils with LDD making two levels of progress from KS1 to KS2 in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English ▪ Maths 	76.4%	71.8%	77%	79%
	<p>Reduce the difference in achievement between pupils with LDD compared with all pupils achieving level 4 or above at KS2 (English and maths combined)</p>	51%	52.1%	51%	49%
	<p>Increased proportion of pupils with LDD making 3 or more levels progress from KS2 to KS4 in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English ▪ Maths 	39%	34.9%	39%	43%
Assistant Director, Targeted Services	<p>Increased percentage of statements completed in statutory timescale, excluding exceptions (NI 103a)</p>	28.1%	16.5%	22%	28%
		Data collection methodology changed	90.8%	95%	97%

Enjoy and achieve

Vulnerable children and young people achieve as highly as their peers

What are we going to do?

	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09*	MK 2008/09*	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
		Increased percentage of statements completed in statutory timescale, with exceptions (NI 103b)	Data collection methodology changed	50.5%	65%	80%
		Reduce the rate per 10,000 of school population that appeal to SENDIS	4.5%	2.87%	2.7%	2.5%
Raise achievement of children in care by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeting support for improving educational provision for children in care placed in Milton Keynes and out of area ▪ Ensuring Personal Education Plans are in place and effective ▪ Targeting 1:1 support for schools where specific children in care are not achieving age related expectations 	Assistant Director, Specialist Services	Proportion of children in care achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and maths (NI 101)	13.9%	5.56%	20%	20%
	Assistant Director, Universal Services	Increased percentage of children in care achieving level 4+ at KS2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In English (NI 99) ▪ In maths (NI 100) 	46% 44%	33.3% 16.7%	40% 40%	40% 40%
Reduce the number of children not in school by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving attendance in all schools ▪ Providing more speedy support to schools for improving behaviour including tackling bullying ▪ Improving the quality of alternative education provision ▪ Knowing which children are missing education and getting them a school place faster 	Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Reduced overall absence rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in special schools ▪ in primary schools ▪ in secondary schools 	10.56% 5.26% 7.34	11.58% 4.91% 6.93%	Continue to be lower than national	Continue to be lower than national

Enjoy and achieve						
Vulnerable children and young people achieve as highly as their peers						
What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09*	MK 2008/09*	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
		Reduced rate of persistent absences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in special schools ▪ in primary schools ▪ in secondary schools (NI 87) <i>LAA Target</i> 	1.7%	To be established 1.1%	Continue to be lower than national 5.4%	Continue to be lower than national 5%
		Reduced rate of permanent exclusions from schools (NI14) <i>LAA Target</i>	0.11%	0.10%	0.05%	0.04%

Enjoy and Achieve

Schools and settings provide inspirational, broad and personalised experiences and opportunities so that all children attend regularly, enjoying and gaining maximum benefit from their learning.

What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<p>Improve all schools by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing a vision for transformational learning that drives improved educational and wellbeing outcomes for all children and young people ▪ Improving the range and quality of the curriculum, including creative and sporting opportunities ▪ Supporting schools and governing bodies to improve the quality of teaching ▪ Improving monitoring systems and intervening earlier where schools are at risk of causing concern ▪ Working with targeted and National Challenge schools ▪ Developing the role of high performing schools in providing models of excellence and promoting good practice 	<p>Assistant Director, Universal Services</p>	<p>Fewer schools where under 55% of pupils achieve level 4 in KS2 English and maths (NI 76)</p>	<p>13.59%</p>	<p>10 (18.9%)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>8</p>
	<p>Assistant Director, Universal Services</p>	<p>Fewer secondary schools where less than 30% of pupils achieve 5 A*-C equivalent including English and maths (NI 78)</p>	<p>440 (14.5%)</p>	<p>3 (30%)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0</p>

Make a positive contribution

What's better for children and young people and families?	Key things we've done in the last three years
<p>The views and needs of local children and young people are represented by 2 Youth MPs and 2 Deputy Youth MPs and a new Youth Cabinet with 24 members and 2 Youth MPs - elected by the votes of almost 2,500 young people in April 2009.</p> <p>The Youth Cabinet has agreed on 3 key campaign ideas which it will be working on. The campaign ideas came from a survey of young people carried out during the elections. The campaigns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An All-in-1 Card aimed at 11-19 year olds. The card will include a concessionary bus card, discounts for shops and provide a form of ID. ▪ A critical look at youth provision in Milton Keynes to find out 'what's hot and what's not' ▪ A health awareness campaign to improve young people's health, with a focus on smoking, alcohol and the use of illegal drugs. <p>During 2008/09 69 new projects have been enabled through young people applying for funds to Youth Bank. These activities are predicted to benefit over 29,000 young people.</p> <p>In the past year, 943 young people in Milton Keynes took part in volunteering activities through the Make a Difference (MaD) Service, helping them to gain experience and confidence as well as contribute to their local community.</p> <p>Young people's panels were a key part of the interviews appointing</p>	<p>2008 Annual Performance Assessment Make a Positive Contribution found that the contribution of services to implement this outcome for children and young people was good.</p> <p>Up to 200 young people have attended annual Youth Conferences which give them the opportunity to meet and influence local decision makers.</p> <p>We have worked with children and young people this year to involve them in the design of new play areas across Milton Keynes. We aim to set up a children's forum this year to support the work of Play Centres and Play Areas and ensure that children and young people are consulted about all play areas and the work of the Playbuilder fund.</p> <p>Our plans to integrate our Youth Support Service plans are now at implementation stage. Key areas for action cover information advice and guidance, young people not in education, employment or training, positive activities and developing targeted youth support.</p> <p>We have established the new Children in Care Council known as 'Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future'.</p> <p>We have developed a secure website for children in care so that they can access information about issues relating to being in care. This will be particularly relevant for children and</p>

<p>senior managers of the council's Children and Young People's Services.</p> <p>Young people have been supported by Barnardo's and Youth Services to co-deliver 'Total Respect' training to council staff.</p> <p>Community Mobilisers have worked with almost 2,700 different children and their families to develop preventative facilities and make their neighbourhoods better places to live.</p>	<p>young people who are placed out of area and might be more isolated.</p> <p>The Youth Offending Team has been working with the Speech and Language Service to identify the level of need amongst youth offenders in relation to speech, language and communication difficulties.</p> <p>We have increased pupil participation in extended schools provision through the creative use of employment and entertainment licences.</p> <p>Through the Children's Fund we developed and maintained the Community Mobiliser programme in nine high need areas.</p> <p>Established the Housing Intervention Team which works with families and young people who are at risk of homelessness due to anti social behaviour. Using a 'Think Family' approach, we enable them to sustain tenancies by helping them to resolve underlying issues and to live in peace with their neighbours and community.</p>
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Where we still need to focus

All secondary schools and over 60% of primary schools now have school councils. Work is now being planned to review and support the development of school councils in primary settings to improve the involvement of children and young people in making decisions.

In November 2009 a major overhaul of the sentencing arrangements for young people will be fully implemented alongside the introduction of a new national risk management process. These changes have significant implications for Youth Offending Teams and will require different ways of working with young people and their families.

We will be working closely with the Youth Cabinet to support them with their campaigns. This will include a review of current youth activities in response to the feedback obtained from young people about the services they value or what they would like to be developed.

What the consultation told us

Lack of things to do in Milton Keynes was mentioned by 66 young people in the Youth Cabinet elections survey e.g. *'there is not a lot of things to do outside school because all there is are parks but they get a bit boring and need a refurbishment'*. On the other hand, 67 young people said that what they liked about Milton Keynes were the facilities and things to do!

A typical comment was:

'I like the fact that there are lots of activities to do in Milton Keynes which stops teenagers from hanging around on the streets'.

Comments from young people attending the 2009 My Say MK youth conference: "I've never been to a youth conference before but after today I will definitely be coming next year. I loved the fact that my opinion was listened to and can make a difference." and that it was a "good chance for young people to have their say".

What our children and young people's profile tells us

5,253 13-19 year olds had contact with Milton Keynes Youth Services in 2007/08. The number of 13-19 year olds who participated in youth service provision in 2007/08 was 3,152, 15% of the 13-19 youth population.

Police and Youth Offending data shows that over the last two years, 0-19 year olds made up over a third of arrests. Over 40% of all individuals arrested for robbery, vehicle crime, theft or handling offences, and burglary non-dwelling were aged 0 – 19 years. In 2008/09 there was a drop in the overall proportion of offenders aged 0-19 years. In 2007/08 37% of arrestees were aged 0-19 years. This dropped to 35% in 2008/09.

During 2009-11 we will work to ensure that:

- Milton Keynes will be a recognised centre of excellence, where children and young people and their families lead in determining their support and improving all aspects of their wellbeing and learning

Make a Positive Contribution:

Milton Keynes will be a recognised centre of excellence, where the voices of children and young people and their families are paramount in determining their support and improving all aspects of their wellbeing and learning

What are we going to do?

	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
<p>Increase the opportunities for children and young people to influence the design and delivery of services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involving young people in recruitment of key staff ▪ Increasing the percentage of schools with school councils and providing training for them ▪ Setting up a 'Junior' Youth Cabinet ▪ Supporting the Youth Cabinet and developing the wider Youth Forum ▪ Ensuring effective communication with and involvement of 'Today's Children Tomorrow's Future' (Children in Care Council) 	Assistant Director, Partnership Commissioning & Performance	Members of Youth Cabinet sit on Children's Trust Board	Local measure	0	2	2
	Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Proportion of schools with school councils	Local measure			
		a. Primary schools		60%	65%	100%
		b. Secondary schools		100%	100%	100%
	c. Special schools		50%	66%	100%	
<p>Increase the number of young people undertaking positive activities through youth centres, outreach youth work, special projects and work in schools by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extending outreach work and reorganising current provision to maximise impact ▪ Providing access at weekends ▪ Improving promotion of services ▪ Supporting young people and their families through the Family Intervention Programme ▪ Developing joint programmes of positive activities with partners to divert young people from crime and anti social behaviour 	Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Reduced rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system (aged 10-17) (NI 111)	1840	2008	2007	2007
		Young people's participation in positive activities: percentage response from Tellus survey (NI 110)	69.5%	73.3%	75%	77%

Achieve economic well being

What's better for children and young people and families?	Key things we've done in the last three years
<p>More young people aged 16-18 are now in education, employment or training – the proportion who are not has fallen from 7.7% in 2005/06 to 5.9% in 2008/09, which is also better than the national average of 6.7%.</p> <p>There is a high level of take up of Working Families Tax Credit which has enabled more parents to work to help raise families out of poverty. The proportion of children from lower income families, benefitting from formal childcare has increased to 21.6% from 20.5% in 2007/08 and is higher than the national average of 17%.</p> <p>At the end of March 2009, 83.3% young people with learning difficulties or disabilities were in education, employment or training compared to a national average of 76.4%.</p> <p>The proportion of young people who continue in learning after age 16 has risen year on year and the proportion in education and training has increased by much more than nationally, to 74%, close to the national figure of 76%.</p>	<p>Re-commissioning Connexions services has resulted in better value for money. This is demonstrated through consistent achievement of performance targets, more front-line workers and relocation of the main centre to The Point providing enhanced facilities for young people.</p> <p>The number of Children's Centres has increased to 18 many of which are in areas of higher need.</p> <p>Local partnerships involving schools, colleges, employers and work-based learning providers are beginning to work together to ensure that the needs of young learners take precedence over the ambitions of individual organisations. The overarching 14-19 Partnership developed the 14-19 Strategy 2008-2013 last year and this has seven key priorities for us to achieve over time.</p> <p>We are working with our neighbouring local authorities to ensure that wider opportunities for our learners and institutions are not missed. We have made good progress in introducing the new diploma qualifications, with four new courses available from 2009, increasing to six available from 2010.</p> <p>We have developed a policy to create work opportunities for care leavers within Milton Keynes Council and partner agencies and also developed supported lodgings to improve accommodation choices for young people aged 16+ and care leavers.</p> <p>As choices increase, it is even more important that we provide young people with high quality impartial</p>

	<p>advice and guidance. We have developed a new website, www.mkiturfuture.com, to assist with this. However, we also know that the best advice is provided by people face-to-face and we need to do more to help young people to find a path that is right for them.</p> <p>The 2 year (2007-09) Scoop project run in partnership with Women and Work enabled 156 unemployed parents to develop personal action plans; 35 were supported back into work and 72 into training.</p> <p>Adult Continuing Education (ACE) delivered courses to 200 16-19 year olds, including those not in education or employment; 700 parents attended family learning courses and a further 600 took part in literacy, numeracy or English as an additional language courses.</p>
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Where we still need to focus

Standards of attainment at age 19 have increased to 67% of learners achieving Level 2 and 40.1% achieving Level 3 qualifications compared to 61% and 37% in 2006. However, they remain lower than they should be compared to national figures of 72.4% and 46.9% respectively.

Success on advanced apprenticeships is higher than the national figure (64% against 61%) but on apprenticeships it is lower by about the same margin. We need to develop more opportunities in the area for young people to undertake apprenticeships.

The proportion of 16-18 year olds, whose education or employment status is unknown, has remained below national levels for over a year and has fallen further from 4% last year to 3.6% for 2008/09 (against a national average of 4.5%). Whilst our figure is below that for the South East (5.9%), we still need to improve upon these figures so that we can ensure all young people receive the support they need. This is even more necessary for care leavers and those with learning difficulties or disabilities, with particular emphasis on supporting them into employment.

We recognise as well that we need to provide more support to those young people aged 16 to 17 who are in danger of becoming, or are, homeless due to relationship breakdown or other risk factors. The Local Authority has new duties to support 16 and 17 year olds who lose their settled accommodation, which can have a devastating impact on their lives. At the moment 13% of our

homeless people are in this age bracket and we need to work hard to reduce this figure.

The Local Authority will take over responsibility from the Learning and Skills Council in 2010 for ensuring the right type of provision for 16-19 year olds is commissioned to meet learner needs.

What the consultation told us

Some comments from young people who became homeless confirm the need for early intervention and support.

“By the point you are asked to leave, it is too late to work things out.”

“I think sometimes, I just needed to get away. I would have liked to have stayed at home really but things were too difficult. Maybe if there was somewhere you could stay for a couple of weeks or something to clear your head? But not somewhere like a hostel.”

In the Youth Cabinet elections survey the top national issue that concerned young people was the economic situation and recession, and their concerns about whether they would be able to get work in the future.

Whilst the percentage varied between schools, 14%-34% of all young people taking part in the SaferMK Schools surveys said they would like advice on careers. For 13-16 year olds this was the top issue – chosen by 53% in one school. Money advice featured in the top three at two of the secondary schools.

What our children and young people’s profile tells us

In 2008 the proportion of young people who achieved a Level 2 qualification at age 19 (67%) or a Level 3 qualification (40.1%) remained well below national averages of 72.4% and 46.9%, although this was an improvement on the previous year.

The proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training has shown a reducing trend to 5.9% in 2008/09, better than national (6.7%) and statistical neighbour averages. There were 494 young people not in education employment or training at the end of March 2009.

In 2008/09 60% of care leavers were in education, employment and training, compared to 64.9% nationally. 80% were in suitable accommodation compared to 88.4% national.

In 2008, 15.9% (7830) of our children and young people under 16 were living in low income households against the national position of 16.2%.

Whilst the number of homeless applications in Milton Keynes has fallen overall over the past 8 years, a greater proportion are from young people; in 2008 there were 28 homeless applications from young people which was 12.9% of all homeless applications received that year. For 52% of young people aged 16-17 the reason for homelessness was that their parents had asked them to leave, and for a further 24% friends had asked them to leave.

During 2009-11 we will work to ensure that:

- Child poverty is not a barrier to success
- All children and young people have the appropriate skills and knowledge to access further education, training, or work
- Children and young people are able to access the full 14-19 entitlement via different pathways

Achieve Economic Wellbeing:

Child poverty is not a barrier to success

What are we going to do?

- Improve the life chances of children and young people entitled to free school meals and those living in areas of high deprivation by:
 - Focusing maternity and family support services in target areas e.g. through children's centres
 - Enabling parents living in target areas to have easy access to information, advice and parenting support, including childcare places
 - Ensuring parents have better access to family learning programmes
 - Implementing the pilot to provide access to free high quality childcare for 2 year olds in target areas
 - Focusing early support and prevention in areas where poverty levels are highest to raise children and young people's self-esteem, aspiration and emotional resilience
 - Working with a range of services and agencies to ensure that vulnerable groups, including new arrivals, receive the benefits to which they are entitled
 - Supporting young people to remain within their families wherever possible by providing effective family support and mediation, where there is a risk of family breakdown
 - Strengthening partnership working between Children's Social Care and Housing to ensure that suitable accommodation and support are available for 16 and 17 year olds, care leavers and disabled young people

Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
Assistant Director, Universal Services	Reduce the difference in achievement between pupils entitled to free school meals in KS4 and their peers achieving 5 A*-C at GCSE and equivalent including English and maths (NI 102ii)	27.8%	28.2%	24.5%	21%
Assistant Director, Specialist Services	More young people from low income backgrounds progress into higher education (NI106)	19%	21%	22%	23%
Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation (NI 147)	88.4%	80%	80%	80%
Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Proportion of young offenders in suitable accommodation (NI 46)	95.3%	95.1%	95%	95%
Assistant Director, Universal Services	Proportion of children who live in families in receipt of out of work benefits (NI 116)	16.2%	15.9%	13.3%	12%
Assistant Director, Universal Services	Increased take up of formal childcare by low income working families (NI 118)	17%	21.6%	23%	24%

Achieve Economic Wellbeing:

All children and young people have the appropriate skills and knowledge to access further education, training, or work
Children and young people are able to access the full 14-19 entitlement via different pathways

What are we going to do?

Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11		
Assistant Director, Universal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support schools to develop more effective self-evaluation, school development planning and target setting for underachieving groups ▪ Improve identification of gifted and talented pupils to include higher education potential ▪ Ensure children and young people receive high quality advice and guidance to support them to make good choices at key transition points, especially those who are vulnerable including those with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) ▪ Improve provision 14-19 through improved inter-institutional collaboration ▪ Broaden the 14-19 curriculum and deliver a wide range of vocational pathways, apprenticeships and qualifications to ensure that all 16 and 17 year olds are offered a suitable place of learning including those with LDD ▪ Deliver Reaching Out Programmes for young people who are not in education, employment or training ▪ Develop a Virtual Connexions Centre to enhance access to information, advice and guidance (IAG) and help to overcome barriers to learning and employment ▪ Ensure young people receive help and support that meets or exceeds national IAG Quality Standards 	Increased percentage of young people achieving 5 or more A*-C at GCSE and equivalent including English and maths (NI 75)	47.6%	42.1%	50%	53%	
		Increased percentage of young people achieving Level 2 at age 19 (NI 79)	72.4%	67%	72%	74.1%	
		Increased percentage of young people entitled to free school meals achieving Level 2 at 19 (NI 82)	57%	53.4%	54%	58%	
		Increased percentage of young people achieving Level 3 at age 19 (NI 80)	46.9%	40.1%	44%	48%	
		Reduce achievement gap at Level 3 at age 19 between young people entitled to free school meals at KS4 and their peers (NI 81)	24.7%	26.8%	24.7%	24.7%	
		Assistant Director, Targeted Services	Reduced proportion of young people aged 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training (NI 117)	6.7%	5.9%	5.9%	5.1%
			Proportion of care leavers aged 19 who are in education, employment or training (NI 148)	64.9%	60%	67%	70%

Achieve Economic Wellbeing:

All children and young people have the appropriate skills and knowledge to access further education, training, or work
Children and young people are able to access the full 14-19 entitlement via different pathways

What are we going to do?

What are we going to do?	Lead (s)	Measure - How do we know we have succeeded?	National 2008/09	MK 2008/09	Target 2009/10	Target 2010/11
		Proportion of young people aged 16-19 with learning difficulties or disabilities who are in education, employment or training	76.4%	83.3%	84%	86%
		Proportion of young offenders who are in suitable education, employment or training (NI 45)	72.4%	66.5%	75%	75%
		Reduced proportion of young people aged 16-18 whose education, employment or training status is 'not known'	4.5%	3.6%	National level or less	National level or less

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Children's Trust Board membership

- Chair – Director of Children and Young People's Services,
- Lead Member for Children and Young People
- Chair of Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children's Board
- 1 GP representative
- Chief executive of PCT and Director of Public Health
- Non-executive Director of PCT
- 1 representative from Early Years
- 1 representative of headteachers of Special Schools
- 1 representative of headteachers of Primary Schools
- 1 representative of headteachers of Secondary Schools
- 1 School Governor representative
- 1 representative of Milton Keynes College
- Chief Superintendent, BCU Commander, Thames Valley Police
- LSC Partnership Director
- 1 representative of JobCentre Plus
- 2 x representatives from community and voluntary sector
- Community Wellbeing representative
- Environment representative
- 2 representatives of Youth Cabinet

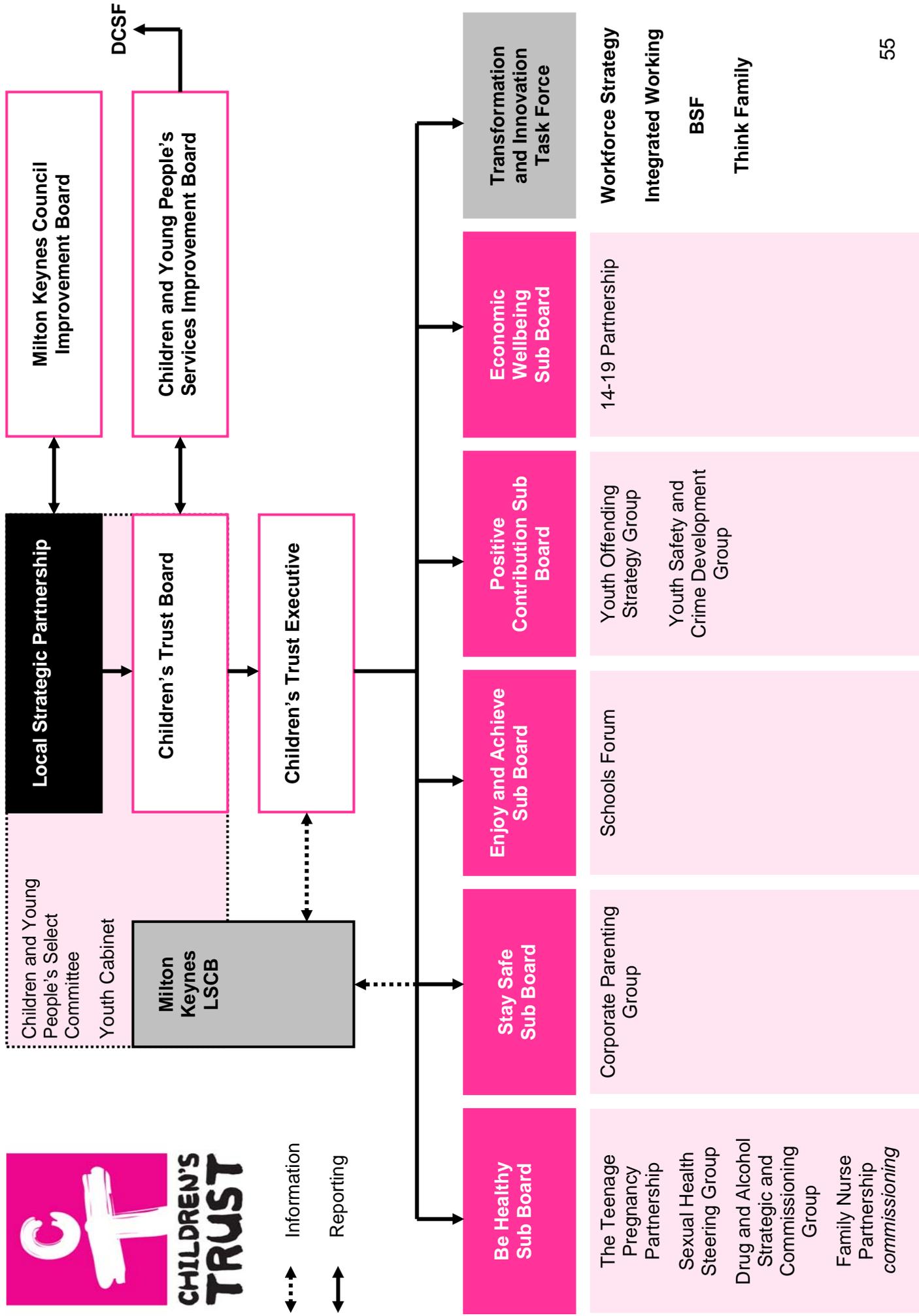
In attendance:

Assistant Director (Partnerships, Commissioning and Performance)

Assistant Director (Change Management)

In exceptional circumstances, where a Board member's absence is unavoidable, the Board may approve a delegated alternative, provided that the delegated alternative has the full authority to act on behalf of the absent Board member.

Appendix 2 Children's Trust Governance Structure



Information

Reporting

Appendix 3: Links to strategic plans

- The Sustainable Community Strategy
- The Council Plan
- The Council Improvement Plan
- The Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011
- The DCSF Improvement Plan