

SECOND QUARTERLY UPDATE ON PROGRESS AGAINST CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2006 - 2009

Contact Officer: Amanda Farr, Assistant Director (Monitoring & Review)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress to date against the actions set out in the Children & Young People's Plan and to identify any areas for attention. This includes a quantitative analysis using the traffic light system as described below.
- 1.2 The traffic light system, which shows how each indicator is performing against the target is as follows:

| | |
|-------|--|
| Red | Critical position – no evidence of progress or unlikely to meet target on time unless urgent action is taken |
| Amber | Where there are some constraints e.g. time slippage and uncertainty over whether the target will be met |
| Green | Good progress. Well on schedule to meet targets set within deadline. |

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That current progress against actions identified in the Children & Young People's Plan is noted.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Background

- 3.2 Following the publication of Milton Keynes' Children and Young People's Plan in April of this year, the Strategy, Commissioning and Quality Division put in place monitoring arrangements to ensure that the actions set out in the plan are being carried out and the targets met.

- 3.3 An action plan was produced containing the major tasks or service initiatives to be completed over the medium term, organised against each of the Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people, as stipulated by the

Children Act 2004. A responsible officer was identified for each action and a Lead Officer assigned to each of the five outcome areas.

- 3.4 This action plan is circulated quarterly to responsible officers for brief updates on progress, coordinated through Lead Officers. Progress is reported quarterly to the Children and Young Peoples Planning Group and wider DMT ensuring the full involvement of partners.
- 3.5 As part of the reporting cycle, it was agreed that there would quarterly reporting on progress to Children & Young People's Strategy Group.

Progress Report to September 2006

- 3.6 Progress for the first two quarters, i.e. April – June and July – September 2006, is shown in the table in Figure 1, paragraph 3.12. This gives a breakdown of reporting against each of the five outcomes for each quarter.
- 3.7 Of the 79 targets, at the end of the second quarter 39 (49%) have a **green** traffic light status, i.e. good progress and on schedule to meet targets. This is an improvement over the first quarter which reported 36 (46%) with a green traffic light.
- 3.8 At the end of the second quarter, 36 (46%) have an **amber** traffic light, compared to 42 (53%) in the first quarter. This indicates some constraints and uncertainty over whether these targets will be met within timescales set.
- 3.9 Four reported targets have a **red** traffic light status (5%), which means the targets are unlikely to be met on time unless urgent action is taken. This has increased from two (3%) in the first quarterly update.
- 3.10 It is positive progress that 49% of actions and targets are well on schedule to meet and in some cases even exceed targets. However, there is still substantial work to be done to ensure that all targets set in the Plan are met..
- 3.11 Details of the four targets at **red** status are given below, together with explanations and any proposed actions to address current issues.

i) *'Be healthy: Number of young people reporting taking illegal substances is reduced by March 2007.* The responsible officer states that this target will not be reached within this timescale. Current practitioner training on use of the Drug Screening Tool is likely to result in an increase in numbers of young people identified with substance misuse issues in the short term (i.e. by March 2007).

ii) *Enjoy and achieve: Reduce secondary school exclusions.* Numbers of permanent exclusions in secondary sector remain above national average and increased to 45 for 2005/6. There have been nine permanent exclusions this term and the annual number projected is 30. Whilst this is a reduction on last year it is recognised that a more radical solution is required to significantly reduce this number longer term. To this end a project group including secondary heads and council officers has been established to develop and implement strategies to reduce exclusions. It is anticipated that if systems are in place by September

2007, bringing down the rate of exclusions to the national average will be achieved..

iii) *'Stay Safe': Implement government guidance on missing children 2005.* The draft guidance implies systems and processes which will require more detailed co-ordination than originally anticipated. There will be further debate at Directorate Management Team (DMT) level to ensure progress is achieved.

iv) *Achieve economic well-being: Implement the 14-19 Strategy and meet the priorities in this – By 2009 75% of students reach level 2 by age 19'.* 2004/5 LSC figures identify a 3% increase in level 2 achievement to 59%. It seems likely that too ambitious a target was entered in the Plan and work is ongoing to define a realistic but stretching target.

- 3.12 It was agreed by both Learning & Development Directorate Management Team and the Children & Young People's Joint Planning Group that any proposed changes to targets would be considered during the development of the Review Plan, which will be published in April 2007. Work on this will begin during November 2006.
- 3.13 Similarly discussions have taken place with both these groups around the Lead Officer role. In order to make this process more effective, it is recommended that Lead Officers adopt a more active role in monitoring and ensuring progress across priorities within their Outcome area. This would include drawing together responsible officers to discuss more effective ways of jointly meeting targets or overcoming barriers to progress, as well as identification of more meaningful and sharper targets, which more clearly define outcomes for children and young people.
- 3.14 Discussion on progress has also begun with the Headteachers' Strategy Group (Primary and Special Schools). At the November meeting, members of this group received an update on progress against specific targets. Members have started to identify a number of issues and concerns from a school perspective, initially in relation to the 'Be Healthy' Outcome. These comments will be shared with responsible officers and Lead Officers to be taken into account and influence further action where appropriate. It was agreed that subsequent meetings will include discussion on the other Outcome areas. Comments arising from these meetings will then be included as part of the development process for the Review Plan.

3.15 Figure 1.

| Outcome and number of targets reported | No. of targets at 'Red' | | No. of targets at 'Amber' | | No. of targets at 'Green' | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | June 2006 | Sept 2006 | June 2006 | Sept 2006 | June 2006 | Sept 2006 |
| Be healthy (15) | 1 (7%) | 1 (7%) | 7 (46.5%) | 6 (40%) | 7 (46.5%) | 8 (53%) |
| Stay Safe (12) | 0 | 1 (8%) | 9 (75%) | 4 (33%) | 3 (25%) | 7 (58%) |
| Enjoy and achieve (24) | 1 (4%) | 1 (4%) | 8 (33%) | 10 (42%) | 15 (63%) | 13 (54%) |
| Make a positive contribution (15) | 0 | 0 | 9 (60%) | 9 (60%) | 6 (40%) | 6 (40%) |
| Achieve economic well-being (13) | 0 | 1 (8%) | 9 (69%) | 7 (54%) | 4 (31%) | 5 (38%) |
| TOTAL REPORTED (79) | 2 | 4 | 42 | 36 | 35 | 39 |
| Percentage of total targets | 3% | 5% | 53% | 46% | 44% | 49% |

4. Implications

4.1 Policy

4.2 A Review of the Milton Keynes Children & Young People's Plan will be published in April 2007 which will feature progress in the first year against the three year Plan and set priorities for the remaining period.

4.3 Resources

4.4 None

4.5 Legal

None

4.4 Other Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment will need to be carried out on the Review Plan.