

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Friday 23rd February 2007

at 3.00 p.m.

in Committee Room 'C', Civic Centre

Councillor Hargreaves, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will consider the following items.

1. **KEY DECISIONS**
None

2. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 2.1 Children's Services Departmental Plan – Quarter 3 Progress Report –
Director of Children's Services

3. **REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**
None

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

4. **KEY DECISION**
None
5. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 5.1 Children's Homes Regulation 33/34 Reports – *Director of Children's Services*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
23rd February 2007



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL
PLAN – QUARTER 3 PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards achieving Children's Services Departmental Plan actions and performance indicators (PIs) for the period to 31st December 2006.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report summarises progress over the third quarter of 2006/07 on the actions and performance indicators within the Children's Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – 2008/09.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The report provides the Children's Services Portfolio Holder with information about progress in meeting the work targets set for the Children's Services Department in 2006/07.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Children's Services Portfolio Holder's meeting, 23rd February 2007.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To note the progress towards completing Children's Services Departmental Plan actions and achieving performance indicator targets during the third quarter of 2006/07.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL
PLAN – QUARTER 3 PROGRESS REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made towards achieving Children's Services Departmental Plan actions and performance indicators (PIs) for the period to 31st December 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

The Children's Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – 2008/09 was formally approved by the Portfolio Holder on 24th April 2006. The Plan sets out the vision for Children's Services and was produced in line with the corporate planning process. Underneath the broad strategic aims there is a range of detailed actions and related performance indicators.

This report provides a summary on progress towards meeting the milestones associated with these actions and PIs.

3. SUMMARY PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AND PIs IN THE DEPARTMENTAL PLAN

The Departmental Plan 2006/07 identified actions and PIs for 2006/07. Progress is recorded by traffic light as follows:

- red = do not expect to achieve action/target by milestone date
- amber = expecting to complete action/target by milestone date
- green = action/target now completed or met

Departmental Plan Actions

Table 1 summarises the progress made towards achieving the 28 key actions within the Departmental Plan.

Table 1 – progress on actions

Portfolio/Division/Section	Actions by Traffic Light					
	red		amber		green	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Children's Services	1	3.6	18	64.3	7	25
Reported Annually 2 (7.1%)						
Total 28						

Since the last quarter another action has been completed with the target met. This action relates to GCSE pass rates and comparison with national rates. Although GCSE results are available in the summer the target could not be marked as completed until verification of national data. The action was as follows:

- Work with schools to increase the percentage of 16 year olds achieving grades A*-G and A*-C in English and mathematics faster than the national rate.

The percentage of pupils in Hartlepool achieving five or more A*-G grades including English and mathematics increased by 1.4% compared with a slight fall nationally. Those pupils achieving 5+ A*-C (including English and mathematics) increased by 1.7% compared with 0.9% nationally.

Performance Indicators

A significant number of performance indicators within the Children's Services Departmental Plan are reported annually and full year data will not be available until the end of March 2007. However, another three PIs have now been completed and their targets met, increasing the percentage of performance indicators recorded as green.

Table 2 – progress on key performance indicators

Portfolio/Division/Section	Actions by Traffic Light					
	red		amber*		green	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Children's Services	5	21.7	0	0	7	30.5
Reported Annually 11 (47.8%)						
Total 23						

The targets which have been met are as follows:

- Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C GCSEs (target 55%, outturn 57.5%).
- Number of pupils permanently excluded during the year from all schools maintained by the Children's Services Authority per 1,000 pupils at all maintained schools (target 1.9, outturn 1.6).

- The number of childcare places per 1,000 child population (up to 14 years)(target 236, outturn 243).

4. PERFORMANCE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2006

One action and three performance indicators have been completed and returned as green, showing a modest increase in green rated activity for the department overall. There are no additional activities or PIs rated red since those reported at the end of the second quarter. The full year's performance data will be available following collection of BVPI information at the end of March 2007.

5. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the Children's Services Departmental Plan, much activity within the department is driven by the Children and Young People's Plan. The processes for the evaluation of the first year of the Children and Young People's Plan are being considered. The review and evaluation process will need to be conducted in the light of further guidance from the DfES and Ofsted which are currently considering detailed requirements for Children and Young People's Plan review and self-assessment for Annual Performance Assessment (APA).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Holder is requested to note the progress made towards completing Children's Services Departmental Plan actions and achieving performance indicator targets during the third quarter of 2006/07. Further reports on annual progress will be given quarterly in line with corporate requirements.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

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