

**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2010
7.00 PM**

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

Page No

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

At this point Members must declare whether they have an interest, whether personal or prejudicial, in any of the items on the agenda. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.

3. Minutes of Meetings held on

1 - 12

- 15 January 2010
- 19 January 2010

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

The decision notice for each decision will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision may then be implemented on the expiry of 3 working days after the publication of the decision (not including the date of publication), unless a request for call-in of the decision is received from any two Members of a Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Commission. If a request for call-in of a decision is received, implementation of the decision remains suspended for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or Commission.

5. The Corporate Parenting Pledge to Children in Care

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**6. Progress on the Relevant Portfolios for the Creating Opportunities
and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee**

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Committee Members:

Councillors: P Thacker (Chairman), J Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman), S Allen, Y Lowndes, B Saltmarsh and N Khan

Substitutes: Councillors: Z Hussain, C Burton and J R Fox

Education Co-optees: Jane Austen (Roman Catholic Church Representative), Mr Frank Smith (Church of England Representative), Maggie Kirkbride (Parent Governor Representative), The Revd Canon Tim Elbourne, (Director of Education & Training), Diocese of Ely

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Paulina Ford on telephone 01733 452508 or by email – paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE
BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON**

15 JANUARY 2010

Present: Councillors Thacker MBE (Chairman) Wilkinson, Allen, Lowndes, Saltmarsh and Khan

Also present	Cllr Holdich	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University
	Cllr M Dalton	Ward Member for West Ward
	Cllr Lamb	Governor of Kings School
	Cllr Peach	Ward Member for Park Ward
	Cllr Kreling	Ward Member for Park Ward
	Gary Longman	Head Teacher of Kings School

Officers in Attendance:	Helen Edwards	Solicitor to the Council
	Isabel Clark	Planning & Development Manager & Interim Head of Admissions
	Paulina Ford	Scrutiny, Performance and Research Officer

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor M Dalton declared a personal interest in that his sister in law worked as a teacher at the Peterborough High school (PHS). It was noted that this would not be a conflict of interest in this instance.

3. Request for call-in of a Key Decision – The King’s School – Proposed change of age range from 11 – 18 to 7 – 18.

On 6 January 2010, the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University made an executive decision relating to The King’s School – proposed change of age range from 11-18 to 7-18. In accordance with the Constitution this decision was published on 7 January 2010. On 12 January 2010, Councillors Gilbert and Fazal submitted a request to call-in this decision on the grounds that the decision was contrary to the policy framework.

Councillors Gilbert and Fazal were not in attendance at the meeting and Councillor Dalton attended as their representative to present their reasons for the call-in. Councillor Khan advised that he felt that it was unacceptable that the councillors who had submitted the request for call-in were not present at this meeting.

In support of the request to call-in Councillor Dalton made the following points:

- The current proposal for expansion of The King's School was not in the best interests of the Cathedral Choristers as the standard of education and support they would receive within the new primary section of King's would be significantly lower than that currently enjoyed at Peterborough High School (PHS).
- The CMDN (Cabinet Member Decision Notice) was therefore against the Council's policy of offering the best possible education to local children.
- There were very few responses to the consultation; while there were a small number of objections/concerns to the proposal. The lack of support was telling and one of the two responses in support of the proposal appeared to have come from the Council.
- If the transition took place with all choristers moving in September 2011, the new PHS intake of choristers would have joined in September 2010 and would be required to move school again in July 2011. Choristers entering their final primary year, in Year 6 would be forced to move in the year that they sat their KS2 SATS regardless of parental opinion.
- PHS had not been approached to expand the chorister provision to educate girl choristers. Had they been approached before the decision to go to public consultation had been made rather than afterwards the understanding was that PHS would have entered into a meaningful discussion as to how this could have been achieved. PHS was not afforded any opportunity to do so.
- The proposal should not be based on ease for music staff at the Cathedral; rather what is best for the children.
- The education of primary children was fundamentally different to that of secondary. Was it appropriate to educate 60 children in a school of nearly 1200 pupils?
- Moreover and perhaps more importantly, how could it possibly be in the best interests of the children to educate them in classes made up of two year groups with children almost two years apart learning together.
- The proposed class sizes of 30 were comparable with other Local Authority schools (significantly higher than at PHS); what had been overlooked was the intensive workload of the choristers and the extensive support that these children, in demanding positions required. It was also noted that the previous proposal in 2004, which was rejected had proposed class sizes of 24 pupils. This new proposal appeared to be less favourable and yet had received Council approval.
- Were the transition to be more staggered, the class sizes smaller and the years taught entirely separately then the proposal for expansion would be far more acceptable. In its current form Councillors Fazal and Gilbert could not support the proposal and would urge the Cabinet Member to strongly reconsider his initial decision.

In response to Councillor Dalton's points the following comments were made:

The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University made a few comments and requested that the remainder of his allotted time for speaking be given to the Head Teacher of King's School. The Committee agreed to this request. Councillor Holdich questioned why Councillors Fazal and Gilbert were not in attendance to present their call-in and that it was being presented by Councillor Dalton.

- The scheme met the criteria and helped the Authority with the shortage of primary school places.
- It gave everyone, including girls, an equal opportunity as no fees were required.
- The Decision had been taken in the interests of good education.

The Head Teacher of King's School made the following comments:

- The King's School Governing Body could not accept the statement that the Choristers would receive a standard of education which would be significantly lower than currently enjoyed at PHS.
- The last Ofsted inspection had deemed King's School as outstanding and over the years it had enjoyed an excellent reputation for the quality of education that it provided.

- The school would be appointing two Key Stage 2 specialists.
- There would be cross-phase teaching so that members of staff who had subject specialism would be able to share their knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm for their subject with the Key Stage 2 youngsters.
- All pupils including the Choristers would benefit from having two full-time specialist music teachers and 14 peripatetic teachers who could support them.
- The Key Stage 2 Department would be located alongside the Music Department and so Key Stage 2 pupils would have music facilities close by. Many of the choir practices, which currently took place in the Cathedral, would take place in the School. This would significantly reduce the amount of travelling the Choristers currently had to do between the School and the Cathedral and contact between the Cathedral and school staff would become a daily occurrence.
- It should be noted that the mean percentage over the last four years of pupils achieving 5+ A* to C GCSE grades, including English and Mathematics was higher at The King's School than at PHS.
- The Governors believed that they would be offering the best possible education to local Key Stage 2 children as they currently did for pupils in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. The Governors were adamant that they were supporting the Council's policy to offer the best possible education to local children.
- Of the seven responses received to the consultation two were in favour and although four raised concerns they were not actively against the proposal. Limited response to a consultation was often taken as an indication of support.
- Before embarking on public consultation informal meetings had been held between the Head teacher, Dean of Peterborough, senior officers of the Authority and the Cabinet Member of Children's Services. In addition a similar meeting was held with senior representatives from the Diocese of Peterborough and there was overwhelming support from these parties. A letter of support had also been received from Stewart Jackson MP.
- The Governors accepted that the period of transition was not ideal, however phasing would result in smaller numbers in the transition years which would result in a poorer educational experience for the pupils. In addition the diminishing numbers of choristers remaining at PHS would become increasingly isolated. The Governors believed it was the right educational model and the challenge to the School was to manage this transition with particular care for the pupils affected, and they would undertake this duty of care for the nine pupils involved.
- The current arrangement between the Cathedral and PHS had been in place for approximately ten years and had to an extent always been viewed as a transitional arrangement by the Cathedral. It was introduced in an attempt to increase the number of Choristers by lowering the age range for boys. Prior to this Choristers could not join the Cathedral Choir until age 11 and, therefore, with puberty occurring at an increasingly younger age, the life of a Cathedral Chorister was very short. It was therefore decided that Choristers needed to be recruited at a younger age. Because it was not possible to educate the Choristers at The King's School at that stage the arrangement with PHS was initiated. At no stage during this period had PHS approached the Cathedral to explore the provision for Girl Choristers.
- Unless PHS could offer additional places without cost the Cathedral would not have been able to expand the number of places available to Choristers because no more funding was available. The Chorister places were currently only available to parents who had the finances to pay subsidised fees. PHS fees, in line with most independent schools, had increased beyond inflation over a number of years.
- Current and prospective Chorister parents had been kept fully informed throughout the consultation process. No objections had been received from Chorister parents and the most common comment was to express relief that many would no longer be required to pay fees.
- There was an incompatibility of the respective term dates between the two schools. This year there were over 20 days when one or other group of boys was not in school therefore

this was 20 days when all of the Choristers could not rehearse together therefore limiting the development of the boys.

- The proposal was based on what was best for the youngsters. With Cathedral staff working with staff of just one school the pupils would benefit greatly from this closer collaboration.
- It was believed that it was entirely appropriate to educate 60 young children in a school of over 1000 and the younger pupils would gain hugely from the mentoring and buddying which would occur as a result of the involvement of Post 16 pupils in the Key Stage 2 Department.
- It was very common for pupils in primary schools to be taught in mixed age groups. Children entering King's School in a typical year arrived from over 50 feeder schools and a number of these pupils would have been taught in classes which comprised of more than one year group. King's School were fully aware of the extensive workload of Choristers and expertise in supporting Choristers had evolved over many centuries. Each pupil, not only the Choristers, would receive support from their class teacher, a dedicated pupil support officer, teaching assistants, a senior leadership team member, sixth form students and music specialists – this list was not definitive. In addition, the Choristers would continue to gain support from Cathedral Staff.
- The class sizes of 30 would mean that with 60 pupils as opposed to 48 in the Key Stage 2 department the youngsters would gain a better overall educational experience in terms of social interaction and the school would be able to provide the range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities that one would expect an excellent school to provide. One of the criticisms of the previous model was that it was too small.
- Governors believed that this was an excellent opportunity to provide a first class educational experience for 60 youngsters. King's School would be able to educate all of the Cathedral Choristers, enhancing the camaraderie and helping to ensure that in the future the City's Cathedral and its music were highly regarded alongside the very best in the Country. The opportunity to become a Chorister would be open to every youngster in the City regardless of gender and parental means.
- This was also an opportunity to provide much needed additional primary places in Peterborough and the cost to the Authority of providing these places would be £30,000.

Additional comments in response to Councillor Dalton were made by the following people:

Councillor Lamb advised the Committee that she was a Governor at The King's School. She gave a background to the history of King's School and how it had started to recruit Choristers and advised that there was currently an inequality of opportunity as only parents who would be able to pay a percentage of the fees to PHS were able to send their children there. The proposal was an ideal opportunity for youngsters from primary school age upwards to go through one school.

Councillor Peach advised the Committee that he did not have an interest in The King's School but it was located in his ward. Peterborough had a problem with primary school places and this would provide part of the solution to this. This school was one of the schools in Peterborough that was preferred by parents. Councillor Peach had put the details of the proposal in the local ward newsletter and had received no objections.

Councillor Kreling told the Committee that this proposal would provide a great advantage for junior Choristers to go to the King's School from an early age to provide them with continuity through their education. Primary school places were in short supply and this would help to rectify the situation.

Questions/Comments and Observations:

- Members asked for clarification as to what the consequences would be if they agreed to call-in the decision. The Solicitor to the Council stated that the decision had to be taken

by 19 January, after which it would have to be referred to the Schools Adjudicator, and the Council would lose the power to exercise the power of local democracy.

- Members asked what benefit there would be to the constituents of the ward in which The King's School was located. The Head Teacher of King's School advised that not all places would be taken by Choristers and it would also help with the shortage of places in Peterborough overall. Church of England and Methodist families would be offered places first.
- Members asked what the response was to the accusation that The King's School would provide a lesser education to children. The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University responded that the King's School was equal in reputation to that of PHS.
- Councillor Dalton clarified that the point he made was not about generic education at The King's School but specifically to the Choristers.

A proposal was put forward by Councillor Lowndes, seconded by Councillor Wilkinson that the decision should not be called in. On being put to the vote all six members responded that they were in favour.

RESOLVED

That the decision relating to The King's School would not be called-in.

The meeting began at 3.05 and ended at 3.55pm

CHAIRMAN

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE
BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON**

19 JANUARY 2010

Present: Councillors Thacker MBE (Chairman), Wilkinson, Lowndes, S Day, Saltmarsh and Khan

Also present Prity Patel Interim Chair of Peterborough Safeguarding Board
Bedrea Laftah Representative of Peterborough Youth Council and
Deputy Member of UK Youth Parliament

Officers in Attendance: John Richards Executive Director, Children's Services
Stephen Sutherland Head of Strategy and Planning
Mel Collins Assistant Director, Learning & Skills
Mark Wheeler Interim Head of Children's Social Care
Paulina Ford Performance Scrutiny and Research Officer
Marie Southgate Lawyer

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Allen. Councillor Sue Day was acting as substitute for Councillor Allen.

2. Declarations

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2009 were approved as an accurate record.

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

There were no requests for Call-in to consider.

5. Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB)

The Executive Director for Children's Services introduced the new Interim Head of Children's Social Care and the Interim Chair of the PSCB. He explained that the PSCB was a statutory Board established under section 13 of the Children Act 2004. He advised members that the Lord Laming report published in March 2009 commented on the effectiveness of Children's Trusts and Safeguarding Boards and reflected on the need for Children's Trusts to effectively discharge their section 10 and section 11 responsibilities of the Children's Act. The report also recommended that the safeguarding Board should scrutinise the delivery of those services and report to the Trust on how well it was doing through an annual report.

A short presentation was given explaining the key safeguarding issues, the "Journey to Safeguarding Excellence" temple and the governance and accountability framework for safeguarding children. The key issues were described as:

- The changing landscape of safeguarding
- The development of Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB).
- The Journey to Excellence
- The new governance arrangements between PSCB and The Children's Trust

An explanation of what a good service for safeguarding children would be was described as achieving the best outcomes for all children; that all children were safe from harm; that agencies met the safeguarding standards; that there was strong Board leadership and public visibility. The support and protection of children would not be achieved through a single agency and performance priorities ensured that agencies met their section 11 arrangements. Under the new governance and accountability framework the PSCB and the Children's Trust would work together to form a Stay Safe Partnership. There would be a requirement for Scrutiny to oversee this. An overarching Safeguarding Strategy would be in place in a few months and the PSCB would produce an Annual Report which would need to be scrutinised by this Committee. The governance and accountability framework had been signed off by the PSCB and would soon be signed off by the Children's Trust. Scrutiny's role was to ensure that it was fit for purpose.

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- Members asked what the section 10 and 11 responsibilities were. The Executive Director for Children's Services advised members that he would send a copy of the details of these to the committee members.
- Members asked if there were sufficient resources to deliver the PSCB. The Executive Director for Children's Services responded that sufficient resources had been put aside to run the PSCB. The PSCB conducted regular reviews to see if there were adequate resources.
- Members wanted to know when there would be a permanent Chair of the PSCB. Members were advised that the filling of this position had been delayed as the current interim Chair had done a good job and had been asked to stay on until March 2010. The post was being advertised this month.
- Members asked who the members of the PSCB were. Members were advised that there were officers from all of the different agencies on the Board, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Police, Probation, Youth Offending, Learning and Skills Council, CAFCA, NSPCC plus others.
- Members wanted to know if there was pooled budget. Members were advised that there was a pooled budget for the Board but individual budgets to deliver the services.
- Members wanted to know that if one partner was not co-operating what sort of powers would the Board have to address this. The Interim Chair of the PSCB advised the Committee that it was her role to ensure that all partners were accountable and if any partner was not co-operating then it was the Chair's role to escalate this to the Executive Director for Children's Services.
- Members noted that in 2006 the Joint Area Review (JAR) had rated safeguarding as inadequate and it had taken three years to gain a rating of performing adequately under the annual Ofsted rating in December 2009. Who was responsible for improving this? Members were advised that it had actually taken two years but it was still too long. It was the responsibility of the Executive Director for Children's Services to achieve a rating of good by September 2010. To achieve this every aspect of the service had to be good and this was going to be a difficult task. The PSCB and colleagues in Children's Services would help to achieve this.
- Members were concerned that receiving the PSCB Report Annually was too long to wait to scrutinise the performance of the Board. Members were advised that a quarterly report on the key National Indicators for Safeguarding could be provided to the Committee, also the outcomes of any audits or reviews to show the direction of travel.
- Members noted that there were still vulnerabilities remaining in the referral and assessment service because of the inability to appoint permanent managers and staff.

Members wanted to know what was being done to change this. Members were advised that officers were looking at a different approach with regard to recruitment and were now looking at recruiting internal staff more.

- The member of the Youth Council asked what the Safeguarding Board represented. The Chair of the PSCB responded that in law as a Board they had a duty to delivery safer outcomes for young people.

ACTION AGREED

The Executive Director for Children's Services to:

- I. Present the PSCB Annual report to the Committee for scrutiny by the end of June 2010 and thereafter on an annual basis.
- I. Provide details of the section 10 and 11 responsibilities to all members of the Committee.
- II. Provide the Committee with a quarterly report on the key National Indicators for Safeguarding.
- III. Report to the Committee, at the first available scheduled meeting, the outcomes of any audits or reviews of the PSCB as soon as they have taken place.
- IV. Provide the Committee with the current position on the key National Indicators for Safeguarding along with a comparison with the Council's benchmarking group before the next meeting.

6. Children's Trust Developments

The Head of Strategy and Planning for Children's Services gave a presentation on how the Children's Trust delivered its responsibilities. He explained that the Children's Trust Partnership Board was the statutory partnership responsible for ensuring the delivery of all outcomes for children and young people, with a particular focus upon those within the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and the statutory Children and Young People Plan. Statutory duties in the Children Act 2004 required every local authority to work with partners, through Children's Trust arrangements and to devise and implement strategies to improve outcomes for children aged 0–19 years (25 for those with additional needs). The outcomes delivered under the Children's Trust were:

- Be Healthy
 - Key focus areas – teenage pregnancy, obesity, substance misuse, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and emotional wellbeing.
- Stay Safe
 - Key focus areas – Domestic violence, safeguarding, young runaways, child protection and stability and security of children in care.
- Enjoy and Achieve
 - Key focus areas – Achievement and attainment, narrowing the gap, play and informal learning opportunities, bullying, cohesion.
- Make a positive contribution
 - Key focus areas – Transitions,
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing
 - Key focus areas – Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), transport, poverty, housing
- 14 – 19 Education planning
 - Key focus areas – Delivery of the 14-19 reform agenda
- Infrastructure
 - Key focus areas – Equality and diversity, joint commissioning, workforce development, value for money, integrated processes

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- Members felt that it was difficult to scrutinise the Children's Trust when the Committee were not aware of what was discussed at its meetings. The Executive Director for Children's Services acknowledged this and suggested that during the next municipal year the Committee scrutinised one outcome at each meeting therefore giving them the opportunity to take an in-depth look at the work of the Trust.
- Members wanted to know how the key issue of establishing a task group to review cohesion concerns amongst young people in Central ward came about and how it was being monitored. Officers advised that Jawaid Khan had put this idea forward to the Board and it was accepted as it had been highlighted that some agencies had not been working together. A responsibility was then given to each agency to put forward a person to work together to solve this issue. A report was due in February to see how the issues had been resolved.
- Members asked how the equality impact assessments for all Children's Trust decisions were being monitored. The officer advised the Committee that no decision came to the board without an equality impact assessment and that these were quality monitored. Members asked if the Equality Impact Assessments were evidence based and the officer advised that all agencies had worked together to produce one format for the impact equality assessment to ensure that everything was covered.

ACTION AGREED

That the Executive Director for Children's Services, Chair of the Committee and Group Representatives work together to identify a topic from the Children's Trust list of outcomes to bring to each meeting over the next municipal year to enable the Committee to scrutinise the Children's Trust in depth.

7. Validated KS2 and KS4 Examination Data

The Assistant Director, Learning and Skills gave a presentation to the Committee on the validated KS2 and KS4 examination results the headlines of which were:

- The 2009 results were the best ever for Peterborough in most areas although KS4 results were still causing concern as the rate of improvement was still not good enough
- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 'achievement' and 'narrowing the gap' outcomes had put Peterborough 99 out of 153 Local Authorities. EYFS achievement outcomes had exceeded LAA targets but were 1.3% short of the narrowing the gap target. Peterborough were using the outcome-based accountability model to identify and support the 2010 cohort of children in order to reduce the gap in outcomes.
- KS1 outcomes had improved significantly in 33 out of 36 indicators and Peterborough was top in the country for improvement in KS1 between 2008 and 2009. The aim was to be in the top 100 for all indicators in 2009.
- KS2 outcomes had improved in maths (78 out of 153), and 'English and maths' combined (106 out of 153), although English declined (110 out of 153). The aim was to be in the top 100 in 2009.
- KS4 results for 5+A*-C with English and maths had improved by 4%, but less than expected, although ranked 140 out of 153 Peterborough in 2009 (138/150 in 2008) but was 3rd out of 10 statistical neighbours for improvement between 2008 and 2009.

The KS4 results were set against the following context:

- In 2007 40+% of our secondary schools were closed and two larger new schools, The Voyager School and Thomas Deacon Academy, were opened – this did have an impact on young people attending these 5 schools and school staff as different groups of young people with different cultural and social backgrounds were brought together.

- Between 2006-'09 there were a number of significant building and transformation programmes impacting on most other secondary schools through PFI and Targeted Capital Funding (except Orton Longueville, Bushfield and Stanground, involved in the BSF programme).
- In 2009-'10 the Strategy for Change (transformational vision and strategy for secondary education), to support the Building Schools for the Future programme, was being developed by the Local Authority and the three schools in the south. This also included a city-wide ICT transformation programme affecting all secondary schools.
- From 2004 onwards there had been a significant influx of new arrivals, 4% plus per year to the Year 11 cohort. On average since 2004, 200 secondary-aged new arrival pupils have come to the city (500 primary-age pupils).
- 2005-'09 – four secondary schools were in a Notice to Improve category and 1 in Special Measures. In 2010 (to date) there was one secondary school still in Special Measures although due to come out in 2009-10 academic year.
- Ofsted inspections during Nov-Dec 2009 had rated The Voyager School as making satisfactory progress with some good aspects and Arthur Mellows Village College as outstanding.

Observations and questions were raised and discussed including:

- Members observed that when problem areas were targeted the results improved but they wanted to know when an overall improvement in the schools would happen as only three secondary schools were really improving and Peterborough was still very low in the league tables. The Assistant Director said that there was a need to create sustainable school improvement and the programmes which had been put in place were long-term and sustainable. Peterborough was a small authority and had a small team which was regarded highly by school leaders for its strong challenge and intervention work. Some of the EYFS and primary results shown to the committee were transformational and were good building blocks for the future of secondary education. New arrivals were quick learners and were starting to have a positive impact, especially on maths. There was no doubt that English results had been impacted by New Arrivals and problems with the marking of English at KS2.
- Members commented that about £30million plus had been spent on the new Voyager School and yet the results were disturbing. Resources were being poured into the school but the results were not being achieved. The Executive Director for Children's Services advised the Committee that in September Mel Collins, Gary Perkins and himself had visited all secondary schools to look at the results and had looked at leadership, management, teaching etc. They looked at how the young people had reached their results and what could be done to improve these schools. There was now a plan in place for all of the schools and this was being monitored. The Voyager School was looked at to see what was needed to make a difference and the offer of a National Challenge Trust had been put forward to parents and the local community. It had been extremely difficult to manage the two former schools coming together. Ofsted had inspected the school in November 2008 and November 2009 and the result had been satisfactory with some good features; Ofsted had said that leadership was good and teaching was satisfactory. The Executive Director for Children's Services said he had every confidence that they would deliver in 2010 and they were receiving considerable support from the Local Authority.
- The Executive Director for Children's Services advised the Committee that every cohort in Year 11 was known along with how they were performing and what they were capable of achieving. Great support was being put into supporting young people who had difficulties other than learning. Those Heads who were excellent were offering their support to other Heads along with Heads from other local authorities. Examples of other approaches taken were:
 - An Interim Executive Board had been set up at Orton Longueville School as governance was considered inadequate by the Local Authority, impacting on standards and financial management

- An action group had been put in place at Ken Stimson around vulnerable year 11 learners
- An Interim Executive Board was working effectively to remove St John Fisher from Special Measures
- The Chair invited Karen McKay, a member of the Family Voice Steering Committee whose focus was Special Needs Schools, to address the Committee. Karen asked how Special Educational Needs performance in schools was being measured. The Assistant Director responded that each school had a School Improvement Partner (SIP) who supported and challenged schools to narrow the gap for vulnerable students, supported by the LA School Improvement Team and the Inclusion Team. Training and development was shared between mainstream schools and special schools and there were developing links between these two settings. Officers had recently attended a Family Voice event to talk about what was being done and listen to the views of parents of children with disabilities.
- The Committee commended all the work that was being undertaken to improve results and expected to see even better results next year.

ACTION AGREED

That the Assistant Director, Learning and Skills return to the Committee in six months time so that the Committee can scrutinise the progress that has been made with regard to the action plans that have been put in place to improve educational results and report on EYFS, KS1 and un-validated KS2 data.

8. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the following four months. Members were invited to comment on the Plan and, where appropriate, identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the Forward Plan and agreed that there were no items to bring to the Committee.

11. Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2009/2010 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

ACTION AGREED

To confirm the work programme 2009/10.

12. Date of Next Meeting

4 February 2010.

The meeting began at 7.00 and ended at 9.00pm

CHAIRMAN

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
16 MARCH 2010	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children’s Services

Contact Officers – John Richards and Brian Roberts

Contact Details - (01733) 863600- or email: john.richards@peterborough.gov.uk

THE CORPORATE PARENTING PLEDGE TO CHILDREN IN CARE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share with the Committee the final draft version of the Corporate Parenting Pledge to Children in Care

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the content of the final draft version of the Pledge and to make any appropriate recommendations which can be included in the report to Cabinet

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 One the priorities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy is Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities, which is within the remit of this Committee.

4. BACKGROUND

In a letter to Directors of Children’s Services and Lead Members in April 2009 Ed Balls described children in public care as being, “*the litmus test of how we are all delivering the ambitions set out in the Children’s Plan*”.

Central to the drive to improve the lives and outcomes of children in care is Care Matters; A time for Change.

Care Matters requires an integrated step change in custom and practice of all Local Authorities and their partners to address the huge waste of human potential caused by neglect and abuse of the most vulnerable of children and young people.

Care Matters requires all Local Authorities to make effective changes in the following general areas that impact directly on the quality of life of children in public care: ~

- Corporate Parenting,
- Family & Parenting Support,
- Care Placements,
- Delivering a first Class Education,
- Promoting Health & Wellbeing,
- Transition to Adulthood and

- The Role of the Practitioner

Fundamental in achieving these changes is a promise from corporate parents to children in care. This is normally referred to as “the pledge”.

In a letter to children in care in November 2009 Ed Balls told them that,

(1.) We are changing the law so that you must be asked for your views before any major change takes place in your life, for example, before you are moved from a foster carer or children’s home, as well as on day to day issues like pocket money, bedtimes and food.

(2) We have asked all local authorities to set up Children in Care Councils to regularly ask children and young people in their care for their views on how support to you could be improved. Local authorities will also be writing down a set of promises to all children in their care (usually called their ‘Pledge’) about how they will improve the care and support you receive.

Over the past few months, some members of the children in care council, Members of the Corporate Parenting Group and the Departments’ Head of Learning & Opportunity for Children in Care (our virtual head teacher) have been developing the Peterborough Pledge to children in care. The final draft version is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

The intention is that this Scrutiny Committee can have an opportunity to make any final comments prior to it going to Cabinet and then onwards to a full Council Meeting at which Members of Council will be asked to acknowledge their role and responsibilities as corporate parents.

5. CONSULTATION

We have worked hard to attempt to include all key partners in drawing up the pledge. Extensive work has taken place between the CiC participation officer and children in care themselves. A wish list that the children developed was presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel. Further work was undertaken that drew on best (and worst) practice from other Authorities. Options were considered at a workshop session in November 2009 involving Children in Care, Elected Members and Local Authority Officers in order to draw up a first draft of the pledge. Following the discussion and a post it exercise the first draft was drawn up. This is based on the five every child matters outcomes linking to the Children’s Trust shared priorities, plus an additional area to represent other issues that the children in care raised. At the January Corporate Parenting meeting a final version of the Pledge was agreed and prepared for presentation to the full Council. Through out the process Children in Care, Social Workers and Education Team for Children in Care (ETCiC) have been aware of the developments that have been made. Drafts of the pledge have also been presented to the Enjoy & Achieve Partnership group, Designated Teachers for CiC, selected Foster Carers and the Senior Leadership Team within Learning & Skills.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

1. Care Matters – A Time for Change (Cm7137): June 2007
2. Letter to DCS and Lead Member from Ed Balls: April 2009
3. Letter to Children in Care from Ed Balls: November 2009

Promises to our Children in Care

We want children in care, like every child and young person in Peterborough to have high aspirations about what they can and will achieve. Therefore we have listened carefully to the views of our children in care and the Corporate Parenting Panel to develop our pledge.

Peterborough City Council promises the children that we take into our care that:~

- We will always be honest with them and only promise the things we know we can make happen.
- Children are at the centre of everything that we do and therefore their views are important. We expect that all adults working with our young people are committed to listening to them and give a high priority to their views in every decision that is made.
- We promise that all adults who work with children in care will always act in the child's best interests in the same way as they would expect parents to treat their own children. This means that they will want the best outcomes for them and will always try to involve them in the decision making process, but will also explain why something that they wanted to happen cannot.

The whole City Council is committed to our children in care.

We believe that being taken into care should not hold anyone back. Peterborough City Council will always have high expectations of what children in care can do and what they can achieve. The Council is committed to supporting children in care to achieve their full potential

Signed

Lead Member for Childrens Services

Signed

Executive Director Childrens Services

April 2010

Children in Care said that they want:

“To be encouraged to be healthy”

The Corporate Parenting Panel said that by the age of 16 they wanted our children to:

- Have had regular health and dental checks and vaccinations
- To have the knowledge to make informed choices about how to have a good diet, stay healthy and physically fit and
- To be happy & healthy

This means that Peterborough City Council will

- Work with Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, Opticians and other health professionals to ensure that they understand the challenges that children in care face so that they can give the best possible support and treatment to you
- Expect your carers to encourage you to eat healthily and to have regular health and dental checks
- Expect your carers to support you to attend your health assessment and medical appointments
- Expect your carers to support and encourage you to take part in at least 2-3 hours sport or exercise that you enjoy each week



**Be
Healthy**

Peterborough Children's Trust Shared Priorities

- 1) Children & Young People are supported to make **healthy choices**
- 2) Children & Young people have the best possible **emotional health**

Children in Care said they want:

“Every effort to be made to find the best home available that suits them, where they feel safe, supported, cared about and treated well for as long as is needed”

The Corporate Parenting Panel said that by the age of 16 they wanted our children to:

- Have experienced being brought up in a supportive, stable home environment
- Have a good relationship with the people that care for them and about them
- Understand why they have been taken in to care and why the decisions that have changed their life have been made
- To be safe from antisocial and criminal behaviour and
- To be in safe and secure accommodation where they feel at home
- To feel that they are a valued member of the community

This means that Peterborough City Council will

- Give written information about where you are going to live before you meet the carers and make sure that you have a proper introduction to your new home
- Avoid moving you if at all possible
- Try to keep you and your brothers and sisters together, but if its not possible, make sure you see each other regularly and know where they are living, if appropriate
- Expect you to be treated equally, as one of the family
- Make sure that carers understand how to help you to feel just like anyone else and ask how you want to explain your living arrangements to other people
- Make sure you have a holiday at least once a year
- Make sure that you have a bank account and Children’s Trust Fund set up for you
- Ensure that you can follow your own religion if you choose to do so
- Support you to stay in care up to the age of 18 if that is what you wish, and beyond 18 if continuing onto higher education or training
- Make arrangements for you to stay in touch with or stay on with your carers after 18.
- Make arrangements for you to take an active role in positive community activities
- Give you the opportunities to undertake cultural and leisure activities
- Put plans in place to discourage you from becoming involved in anti social behaviour or crime

Children in Care said that they want:

**“To be supported to do the best they can at school
and in their hobbies and talents”**

The Corporate Parenting Panel said that by the age of 16 they wanted our children to:

- Have had a good education and have achieved their full potential in assessments and examinations
- Have had their abilities and talents recognised and celebrated
- Had the opportunity to take part in a range of out of school experiences and activities
- Have been taught in schools which understanding them, which expect them to achieve and strive to treat them as they would any other pupil or student and
- To have the opportunity to access all Peterborough City Council Cultural & Leisure facilities
- Be involved in the hobbies and activities that they select

This means that Peterborough City Council will

- Make sure that younger children can attend a nursery at the age of 3 or 4
- Make sure that you get a place at the school which best meets your individual needs
- Make a personal education plan with you, your carers, your social worker and the school that gives you the help and support you need to learn and achieve your full potential
- Expect carers to take an active interest in your education, attend consultations with teachers and other school activities. They will also need to encourage and support you to complete homework and coursework to the best standard you can
- Work with Teachers, schools and other education professionals to ensure that they understand the challenges you face so that they can give you the best possible support and advice
- Meetings should be arranged that don't involve you missing lessons or always having the meeting in school
- Make sure that you have access to a computer and other equipment, experiences and visits that you need as part of your education or training
- Support all young people financially and practically onto college and university if they are able
- Organise events that celebrate your achievements on a regular basis



**Enjoy &
Achieve**

Peterborough Children's Trust Shared Priorities

- 5) Children & Young People have enjoyable and appropriate **learning opportunities**

Children in Care said that they want:

“To be supported to make a positive contribution to their communities and to the experiences of other children in care”

The Corporate Parenting Panel said that by the age of 16 they wanted our children to:

- Have a strong Children in Care Council that represents all children in care
- Have the opportunity to become involved in charity and community activities
- Have had a real choice in what they have been able to experience
- Have developed their own contact and support networks and
- To have contributed to the care process to influence the things that affect their lives

This means that Peterborough City Council will

- Help you run a Children in Care Council to give everyone the opportunity to have their say
- Encourage you to contribute to improving how things work for all children in care
- Develop a website that allows you to communicate with other children in care safely & securely.
- Work with young people and community organisations to provide information about volunteering and give you access to opportunities to help others.
- Give you support to develop your interests and talents



Making a Positive Contribution

Peterborough Children's Trust Shared Priorities

- 6) Children & Young People are **engaged and supported** within their communities
- 7) Children & Young people resist engaging in **crime and antisocial behaviour**

Children in Care said that they want:

“To be supported practically, financially and emotionally, to prepare for their future in their own time and to help them make positive choices for independent living.”

The Corporate Parenting Panel said that by the age of 16 they wanted our children to:

- Have been prepared to make the next step into more independent living
- Have started to develop the skills that will allow them to be able to care for themselves
- Have the skills, qualifications and opportunities to continue to learn and / or get a good job
- Understand what allowances and support they are entitled to
- To have an understanding of how to use money and budget effectively

This means that Peterborough City Council will

- Ensure that you can stay in care until you are at least 18 if you want and we will stay in touch with you until you are 21 and up to 24 in some circumstances
- Require Carers to help you to know how to budget, cook and learn the skills needed to live independently like any other young person
- Provide opportunities for you to learn life skills away from your home
- Provide a named worker to support you into independent living and develop and review plans and provide written information about your rights and financial entitlements
- Carers, named workers and other staff will be available if you need someone to talk to.



**Achieve
Economic
Wellbeing**

Peterborough Children's Trust Shared Priorities

- 8) Children & Young People achieve their potential and succeed economically
- 9) All Young people must have access to appropriate housing

Children in Care said that they want:

“A named worker who has quality time to spend with the young person doing the things they want to do; who will get in touch with them quickly when they needed help, by e-mail, phone, text or in person.”

“Regular contact with family and friends that is agreed in a care plan and happen in a safe way.”

“Have adults that listen to them, treat them with respect, are reliable, give young people time and space to consider all decisions to do with their care, to know how their views have been taken into account and to have decisions explained.”

The Corporate Parenting Panel said that by the age of 16 they wanted our children to:

- Be able to keep in touch with their family & friends
- To feel that they have experienced the normal childhood things
- To have been involved and have influenced what happened to them

This means that Peterborough City Council will

- give you clear information and contact details of who you can contact in an emergency
- make arrangements for adults to see you at least as regularly as legally required and give you the time to get to know them by spending quality time together
- Ensure the workers plan meeting times with you and attends them punctually
- Makes and supports the arrangements for you to see and keep in touch with your family and friends if appropriate
- Check with you to assess the quality of what we do
- Involve you in all decisions affecting your life
- Celebrate your success and achievement
- Support you by giving information on how to get an independent advocate/visitor and ensure that we have a clear complaints procedure



Peterborough
Children's Trust
Partnership

**Underpinning
Priorities**

Peterborough Children's Trust Shared Priorities

- 10) **Vulnerable Children & Young People** are supported to achieve the best possible outcomes
- 11) Deliver an effective **infrastructure** to ensure service can continue to improve outcomes for children and young people

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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
16 MARCH 2010	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer – John Richards

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PROGRESS ON THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO'S FOR THE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress made of the portfolio's for the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University and Cabinet Member for Children's Services since they attended the committee meeting on 17th November 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the content of this report and make any appropriate recommendations which members would like the portfolio holders to address.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 One the priorities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy is Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities, which is within the remit of this Committee.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Councillor Scott, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, at the meeting on 17th November 2009 shared the children's trust core values suggesting that these should be understood by scrutiny committee members so that future reports and actions could be judged against such values.

She also shared the components of effective corporate parenting. A number of key national indicators were shared. Members asked for these to be compared to relative position of Peterborough's children's services. These have been sent previously to members but are reproduced in appendix 1.

The budget position in children's services remains on target for break even.

The principal action in respect of corporate parenting was to ensure that the pledge for children in care which was being developed jointly between the corporate parenting group, young people from the children in care council and officers was ready for the March Scrutiny Committee for subsequent roll out to and sign up by the whole of Peterborough City Council. This pledge is the subject of a separate report to this scrutiny committee.

As members will be aware, the children's trust has been subject to an Ofsted inspection on safeguarding arrangements and children in care. This inspection started on 8th March 2010 and will be concluded on the 19th March. The outcome of the inspection will be the subject of a report to the next Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Holdich, the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and the University focussed his presentation on progress in delivering the 14 – 19 agenda in Peterborough. The principal concern of the Committee was the situation regarding children not in employment, education or training (NEET). The latest available data at the meeting was the October figure which showed that 9.5% were NEET. This equated to 569 young people. The National Indicator takes as its measurement, the average NEET figure over November, December and January. The NEET figure for Peterborough which will be reported for the year is 8.8%. Although this is an improvement on last year, despite the economic turndown, it was 1.3% (63 young people) shy of our target of 7.5%.

The latest position with regard to apprenticeships being offered in Peterborough City Council is that work involving HR and the Unions to agree pay scales and terms and conditions is still on-going. Some possible apprenticeship opportunities have been identified in Children's Services, subject to clarification as to whether these opportunities need to be in addition to existing posts.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 Presentation to Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee 17th November 2009

Appendix 1

The Current position in respect of the 11 key safeguarding indicators

Indicator	Current Position against Target at Peterborough	Benchmarking group
Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessments	54%	68.1%
Initial assessments completed in timescales	73%	73.8%
Core assessments completed in timescales	74%	83.5%
Children Looked After rate per 10,000 population	80	72
% of children in care with 3 or more placements	8.1%	10.7%
% of children looked after for more than 2.5 years, living in same placement for 2 years or placed for adoption	74.8%	70.2%
% of reviews of children looked after in statutory time scales	98%	94.7%
% Stability of Looked after children adopted	63%	76.7%
% Child protection plans reviewed on time	100%	99.9%
% Child protection plans 2 nd registration	9%	13.1%
% Child protection plans lasting 2 or more years	0%	5.7%

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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
16 MARCH 2010	Public Report

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Report Author: Jansy Kelly, Interim Service Manager – Integrated Children with Disabilities
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DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED SERVICES, INCLUDING TRANSITIONS, FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on integration from a previous report to this committee: *Integrated Children with Disabilities Service and Aiming High for Disabled Children, March 2009*. It also reports on developments regarding integration of transition arrangements, services to disabled children whose first language is not English and gives an overview of services and activities available to children, young people and young adults during holiday periods.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To consider and comment on the development of Integrated Services, Including Transitions, for Children with Disabilities.

3 LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 The development of the integrated service for children with disabilities links directly with the national indicator NI 54 within the local area agreement: services for disabled children, measured by an annual survey as an assessment of parents of disabled children's general experience of services.
- 3.2 The provision of an integrated children with disabilities service, the improvement of services and the improvement of health of children with disabilities is central to a number of strategic priorities including Public Service Agreement 12 (Health and Wellbeing), NI 54 (Services for Disabled Children), NHS England: Operating Framework 2008/09, Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families (2007), Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures 2007, National Service Framework for Children and Maternity Services: Disabled Children and Young People and those with complex health needs (Standard 8) 2004, Our Health, Our Care, Our Say 2006 and Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures, the strategy for Children and Young People's Health 2009.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Disability Discrimination Act defines disability as "a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities". This definition is generally recognised as the most appropriate for services to adopt. However, it is necessary nevertheless for services to define eligibility criteria and pathways to access services, so that disabled children and young people, parents and carers have a clear understanding of what services are available and how to access readily those services which meet their assessed need.

- 4.2 Integrating services for disabled children provided by health, and the different divisions within Children's Services (Learning and Skills, Social Care, Family and Communities) is part of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda to ensure that children and families receive a co-ordinated assessment of need and appropriate services to meet those needs. Avoiding duplication of assessment and providing clear pathways for children and families to access universal, targeted and specialist services are key elements of integrated service delivery. For disabled children, this means ensuring that they and their carers are provided with support to remain at home; to be able to access universal services such as community leisure facilities and extended schools; that there are targeted services specifically designed to meet moderate levels of need and that there are highly specialist and well coordinated services to meet complex needs of children with profound disabilities.
- 4.3 On 17th September 2008, the Children's Trust Partnership Board mandated the development of the children with disabilities integration project in its current form. It was agreed that the project would be delivered through a shadow management board which was initially jointly chaired by Brenda Town, Assistant Director Community Health Services and Maureen Phillips, Assistant Director Family and Communities, supported by a dedicated project manager.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 There have been a number of significant developments in relation to the integration of the disabled children's service since the report to this committee in March 2009. For example:
- A service directory of provision to disabled children, young people and their families has been developed and links are being established between this directory and the Family Information Service;
 - A variety of care and service pathways have been established for disabled children and young people.
 - A pathway model has been developed to identify the various services available to children and young people with disabilities and their families. This links with the Vulnerability Matrix.
 - Work is underway to link the work of the Child Development Clinic to integrated processes and common assessment

The shadow management board has continued to meet on a monthly basis, now under the chair of the Interim Service Manager for Disabled Children.

- 5.2 The most significant development is that, following a number of pre-consultation sessions and two service design workshops with staff from across the City Council and Health services, an agreement was made to formerly consult staff and partners upon a model that integrated Peterborough Children's Services for disabled children with Peterborough Community Services to children with complex health needs. This formal consultation was an element within the *Transforming Children's Services* Consultation Document in December 2009.
- 5.3 The proposal is to enhance provision of services to this complex group of children and young people. Historically, children's services had serviced those children with the most complex and profound needs very effectively with high performance and excellent joint working in evidence. The outcomes for the group of children and young people with moderate to complex needs have not been as successful, and by building on excellent joint working practice and extending the membership and remit if this planned service, it is intended that outcomes for this wider group of children will be improved. The plan is to combine the management and budget accountability of the complex health needs service (in PCS) with the line management of the disabled children's service (PCC).
- 5.4 Joining the budgets for disabled children and young people has been shown to be a complex and time consuming process: the complexity of budgets for disabled children within health has resulted in a delay in moving forward with pooled budgets and developing further integration

plans. However, specific project time has been allocated to this issue since December 2009 and clear progress is now being evidenced.

- 5.5 There remains much work to undertake prior to realising this new integrated service, particularly in light of the new challenges presented to PCS staff regarding their financial and employment positions. However, it is noteworthy that both PCS/NHSP and the PCC remain fully committed to the development of the integrated service.
- 5.6 The development of transition support services has also received substantial attention over the past year. As evidenced in our second self assessment questionnaire (SAQ2), completed in December 2009, we have received formal feedback that we are achieving greater statutory compliance in our transition work as an authority and that we have improved our inter-agency and collaborative working practices. As an authority we have been upgraded in relation to our national status and now sit at Development stage 2 – this brings with it 10 days of support, a budget of £25k and the opportunity to bid for projects up to another 20K
- 5.7 Both Children's and Adults' services have been debating the necessity to integrate their relative transitions services and a formal planning meeting has been established. The plan to integrate transitions services will enhance and support the multi-agency work already underway.
- The multi-agency Transition Review Group (TRG) meets on a quarterly basis. The group is made up of professionals from Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Health, Education, Children and Young Peoples Service (Connexions). This group focuses on identifying individual young people post 14 years of age (Year 9), who have social care needs and are identified as being children with a disability/statement of educational need (SEN).
 - A 'Children's to Adult' services 'Referral' form has been devised enabling any worker in Children's Services to refer a young person to the responsible team manager in adult services. This referral is made at age 17 years and can be made by any professional including the Looked after Children's and Leaving Care Teams.
 - A Toolkit providing guidance to professionals involved in transition is in the process of being updated. This is being contributed to by a range of professionals from Children's Services, Adult Services, the voluntary sector and parents/carers.
 - The Transition Strategy Group which includes primarily managers of services (Children's, Adult's, Health, Education, Voluntary sector) and parents/carers meets quarterly to develop and update appropriately the Transition Strategy for Peterborough, the Transition Protocol and the 'Cross Boundary' Protocol.
 - Adult Social Care have committed an individual social care practitioner within the Adult Community Learning Disability Team who works primarily on transition cases and liaises with professionals in Children's services; in Children's Services a social worker has a key responsibility in relation to transitions.
 - Team Managers within both Adults' and Children's Services have responsibility for transition planning and coordination.
- 5.8 The previous report on the integration of disabled children's services alerted this committee to a number of staffing issues which had lead to considerable delay in progressing the integration project plan. However, the momentum gained through the development of natural alliances within the Transforming Children's Services agenda, coupled with a consistent project manager (who has a dual role as Interim Service Manager for the disabled children's service in the City Council) since May 2009 has significantly improved the pace of delivery on this project. More recently the appointment to the Assistant Director – Community Health role within Children's Services has further strengthened the personnel required to deliver the integration agenda.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The implications for integrating the services for children with complex health needs and disabilities will likely include financial, ICT and human resource issues. The joining of budgets

and commissioning arrangements are significant pieces of work. Considerations around the potential for co-location will have ICT implications and whilst PCS negotiate their longer-term employment issues, there remains the potential for human resource issues to be resolved.

- 6.2 Services to disabled children and those with complex health needs are all city-wide services, some of which are delivered within individual wards.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There has been considerable engagement and consultation undertaken with families during 2009/10. Consultation with parents and carers took place in January 2009 with regard to transition and the residential respite review (drawing upon proposals from an earlier consultation in 2008). Further consultation with parents took place in March 2009 in parents' forum meetings organised by the Peterborough Voluntary Sector Forum. A stakeholder event of service providers was held March 2009 to confirm the commissioning strategy and arrangements for further engagement of service providers in developing services to add capacity to those already provided.
- 7.2 Family Voice established itself as Peterborough's parents' forum during the summer months of 2009 and is fast becoming an effective partner to Children's Services in order to contribute to developments and to identify representatives to become members of several groups. For example parent representatives are integral members of the following groups and meetings: the shadow management board for disabled children; the aiming high short breaks partnership; the transition strategy group and several short life working groups.

8. SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND ENGLISH NOT AS THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE

- 8.1 Delivery of services to children, young people and adults who's first language is not English is a requirement, with the legislative and statutory guidance framework being provided through Valuing People (Disability White Paper 2001), Every Child Matters (2003), The Children act 2004 and Aiming High for Disabled Children.
- 8.2 Within adult services consideration is given to appropriate provision to meet these needs via interpreters, culturally appropriate domiciliary care provision and Individual Budgets/ Direct Payments to enable young people and their families to have control over who provides the care required and how. Adult Learning disability services in Peterborough also offer a specific service 'Awaz' to service users of identified ethnic origin to meet cultural need.
- 8.3 In Children's Services, appropriate language support to children and young people where English is not their first language is secured through commissioned interpreting services. There are also professionals such as Teaching Assistants in the special and enhanced resource schools who have a high level of expertise that is often sought to support services to children and young people where English is not their first language.
- 8.4 In addition to the use of interpreters, families of children whose first language is not English have access to a number of specific services to provide support. For example, there is a group of parents who first came together when meeting the readiness criteria for Aiming High for Disabled Children in 2009 – they continue to meet as a group and call themselves 'The Aiming High Group'; there is a polish group at the Orton children's centre (Jigsaw) which is not specifically for disabled children but includes everyone; there is a drop in at the Jigsaw for those who are newly arrived in Peterborough and New Link also offer support for new arrival's (again this is not exclusively for disabled children, but is an inclusive service).
- 8.5 Within individual services, it can be a challenge to provide staffing to meet the diverse range of linguistic needs of those using the service. For example, within our residential provision to disabled children and young people there are young people using the service where the language spoken at home is either not English or both English and another language; these young people do not themselves have any verbal communication; currently there are no workers

amongst the residential team who can speak the families' chosen language. The residential team address this issue through regular use of interpreters for communication with the families and also ensuring there is regular access to the Teaching Assistants at the Phoenix School who are able to speak the chosen language.

- 8.6 Language and culture specific services have an important role to play in ensuring services are made available to all those in need living within Peterborough. They can achieve this through the delivery of appropriate advice and information; building confidence and communication between minority ethnic groups and service providers and consulting upon and contributing to the development of services.

9 SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES DURING HOLIDAY PERIODS

- 9.1 A range of activities are provided to children and young people during holiday periods, some of which will be activities specifically targeted at children and young people with disabilities and others will be more general access activities. Information sharing about future activities is becoming increasingly reliable with the Family Information Service and recently printed service directory for services specifically aimed at disabled children young people and their families.
- 9.2 Examples of holiday activities for children and young people with disabilities are the play schemes delivered through the special schools; extended day care and activities delivered through the short break and residential units and Link scheme - these specialist settings are able to provide both specific activities for disabled children and young people within their specialist settings, but also to support disabled children and young people to access their communities and undertake activities available to all:
- Swimming
 - Theatre
 - Cinema
 - Aromatherapy
 - Firework Fiesta
 - Parks/woodland walks/country parks/theme parks etc
 - Weekend breaks such as Centre Parcs, Thomas Centre and Butlins
 - Bowling
 - Restaurants/cafes/family pubs
 - Seaside
 - Steam railway
- 9.3 The disability sports programme is now delivering a full range of sporting opportunities for children and young people with disabilities and their families. The use of Aiming High for Disabled Children – Short Breaks has also brought an increase in holiday activities and groups.
- 9.4 All Children's Centres have a responsibility of ensuring that parents with children (under 5) with a disability and their children have the opportunity to access services. For example, Orton's Children Centres working closely with the Health Visitors identified 26 children with a disability living in the catchment area. 89% of these families accessed children's centre services including the "extraordinaries" group. All parents with children with a disability are being targeted across the south locality in order for them to access services.
- 9.5 A project worthy a specific mention is the creative 'Forever Summer' project: this has run for the past two years and has provided a week's activities during the summer holidays, aimed at young people with special needs who are leaving school and moving to another school/college. The project is called 'Forever Summer' and has been delivered through a partnership between the Young People's Service (Youth Workers and Additional Needs Personal Advisors - ANPAs), Marshfields School and Inspire (an organisation who run arts/creative courses with accreditations).

The background to Forever Summer is that ANPAs recruited older young people as peer leaders and worked with them to devise a programme of activities, which was submitted as an application to Youth Bank for funding. Young people with additional needs were then recruited via referrals

from schools (last year some came from Marshfields and Heltwate, others from mainstream schools who were going to Marshfields for post 16).

The two years have been great success - much enjoyed by all the young people. Both years they have produced a DVD and gained informal accreditations for taking part. It has helped peer leaders gain skills and confidence for finding work training and overall the young people have gained in confidence and in meeting new people which has helped them make a more successful transition into post 16. Other real benefit has been youth workers gaining experience and confidence in working with young people with disabilities - 2 of these youth workers now regularly work in Nenegate School on a media programme with Year 10/11 students, and we are working with Marshfields for youth workers to deliver projects there from Easter onwards. ANPAs are now starting to plan for this summer.

- 9.6 Young adults with disabilities have access to a range of services within the adult social care arena which includes; access to day opportunities from a 'day centre' base during holiday periods, community support provided via either a commissioned service or a Direct Payment as part of their individual Budget to be supported access to activities either in the community or to develop daily living skills from the family home.
- 9.7 Activities are offered via both the Peterborough Regional College and Brook St College of Adult Education during longer holiday periods which can be accessed by young adults with support as required.
- 9.8 A number of activities are provided for young people and young adults with sensory impairments via Sense, RNIB and the local branch of National Deaf Children's Society. These range from specific holidays for congenital deaf blind people through to vacation holiday schemes and activities.
- 9.9 There is also a range of provision for young people and young adults with disabilities during holiday periods that is organised by specific charities related to conditions / diagnosis. Children, young people and their parents/carers are often sign-posted to these opportunities, although many are aware of them through earlier contact and utilisation of their services.

10 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 10.1 That the committee will review and comment on the proposals and current service delivery set out within this paper in order to inform the ongoing development of an integrated service for children and young people with disabilities.

11 NEXT STEPS

- 11.1 Plans for the development of an integrated service for children and young people with complex health needs and disabilities will continue to be developed as part of the 'Transforming Children's Services' agenda. These plans will be cognisant of the discussion held by this committee.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures. The strategy for children and young people's health. A commitment from The Children's Plan. DCSF and DH February 2009 (Chapter 6 Services for children with acute or additional health needs)

Transforming Children's Services Consultation: How we will deliver integrated services to children, young people and families in Peterborough. December 2009.

Transforming Children's Services: Interim Response to Consultation. January 2010.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
16 MARCH 2010	Public Report

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report Author – Neil Maxwell, Complaints Manager Children's Social Care
Contact Details – 01733 863980

CHILDREN'S (SOCIAL CARE) SERVICES STATUTORY COMPLAINTS PROCESS (CHILDREN ACT 1989) ANNUAL REPORT 2009

1. PURPOSE

This is the annual report submitted to Scrutiny Committee about Children's (Social Care) Services statutory complaints process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the report and make recommendations for further scrutiny if deemed appropriate.

3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The annual complaints report is a fundamental part of the corporate plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The statutory complaints process covered by this report applies to complaints presented by or on behalf of 'children in need' or 'looked after' (meaning in the council's care) as defined by the Children Act 1989. Effectively this means those children in receipt of social care services.

4.2 The complaints process aims to provide additional safeguards for children and young people and to empower them to express their views about services they receive. A young person may make a complaint directly or an adult (parent, carer, relative or advocate) may act on their behalf. The city council provides an independent advocacy service, as required by law, and therefore a number of children are supported by that means.

4.3 There are three stages to the statutory complaints process:

- Stage 1, requiring a response within 10 working days and a maximum of 20 in exceptional circumstances
- Stage 2, requiring independent investigation within 25 working days and a maximum of 65 in exceptional circumstances
- Stage 3, requiring presentation to an independent complaint review panel within 50 working days.

The aim is for complaints to be resolved at the lowest possible level and only to be escalated if not resolved in earlier stages or if investigations in earlier stages are unacceptably protracted. Complaints at stage 1 are investigated by the manager responsible for the team or service and in all cases, the manager is expected to engage with the complainant to clarify the nature of their complaint and seek resolution as swiftly as possible, making a formal adjudication on the

complaint. Where a complaint is not resolved at Stage 3, the complainant may appeal to the local government ombudsman who may choose to investigate and overturn the local authority's response.

- 4.4 Complaints data contributes evidence to the Annual Performance Assessment and Ofsted inspections of services. This information demonstrates how far the concerns of service users are reflected in changes to services which improve outcomes for children and young people. Evidence that children and families know how to complain and do make complaints is seen as positive evidence of their empowerment. Complaints therefore must always be investigated in a spirit of openness and learning, although of course not all complaints will be justified and upheld.
- 4.5 Most complaints are resolved at Stage 1. However, not all complaints will be resolved within the reporting year, particularly if they progress to stage 2 and 3. Annual figures therefore represent a snapshot of complaint activity at the end of the reporting period.

5. KEY ISSUES

Statutory Complaints concerning Children's Social Care Services 2009

Table 1: Complaints and complainants in 2009

From	No.	No. Upheld	No. resolved in 10 or 20 working days	No. ongoing
Children	2	1	0	0
Carers	6	3	1	1
Other	16	4	7	1
Professionals	2	0	1	1
Parents	26	8	9	1
Totals	52	16	18	4

Note: While most complainants are parents or carers, some children do use the process themselves. Carers' complaints are not eligible for the Children Act 1989 procedure unless they complain on behalf of a named child – this number includes foster carers.

- 5.1 The process is publicised through leaflets and information provided to children and young people who are 'looked after', similar information is also available to any council service-user, parent carer relative or their representative. Table 1 (above) shows adults are more likely to use the formal process than children and young people themselves, so they are reminded of their right to questions, challenge or complain at each statutory child care review (for looked after children and young people) and/or Child Protection Conferences.
- 5.2 Independent Advocacy support is available for those meetings or for any young person considering a complaint. Where such support is not required (e.g. a foster carer might present a child's complaint), the complaint may still go ahead and in the past year the figures show all such complaints were resolved at Stage 1. Where delay is unacceptable to the complainant, the complaint may be escalated to Stage 2, stressing the need for agreement and negotiation at all points in the process. The process thus encourages self-assertion and rewards patience. During 2009, independent advocacy was used in presenting 8 statutory complaints, 7 of which were successfully resolved.
- 5.3 During 2009, one complaint was escalated to Stage 3 of the process, where the Independent Complaint Review Panel upheld additional elements of the complaint, which concerned the way in which an allegation made by a child was investigated in 2008 and the way the outcome of the investigation was explained to the child's mother. Sadly the mother had since become estranged from her child. The authority had offered £600 at Stage 2 in an attempt to resolve the complaint and then offered an additional £600 to reflect its acceptance of the Independent Panel's findings at Stage 3. The complainant then appealed to the Ombudsman, who accepted the authority's reasons for offering both payments and made no additional recommendations.

- 5.4 An additional number were not pursued to resolution through the formal process e.g. the complainant would not agree the terms of the complaint or the outcomes they were seeking to resolve the matter from their view. A significant number of complainants were grandparents, involved either as carers or through their support for family members, reflecting the services' close involvement with the extended family that may surround a vulnerable child and so take an active interest in decisions affecting the child's welfare.
- 5.5 In comparison to 2008, when 38 complaints were received, the 2009 figures (52) show a significant increase but are at the 2007 levels. The majority (35) were resolved at stage 1 of the process, and where conciliation meetings were offered (5) these proved successful. Two complaints remain subject to independent investigations which are ongoing at the time of writing.
- 5.6 The pool of (self-employed) Independent Persons required to meet the requirements of Stages 2 & 3 of the procedure will be kept under review and it is hoped that new appointments will be made during the coming year to ensure the pool can respond to future complaints quickly and effectively.
- 5.7 The Complaints Manager role has been located within the Quality Assurance team since September 2007 and the best location for the role is being considered as part of the transformative plans for Children's Services.

Key Themes and action arising from Complaints

Table 2: Nature of Complaints

Nature of Complaint	2009	07/08	06/7
About Legislation		0	0
About Other Service Users		0	0
Action Taken	9	18	15
Breach of Confidentiality	4	3	2
Broken Promises/Appointments	6	3	2
Carer/Staff Conduct/Attitude	11	17	8
Communication	3	14	13
Council/Department Policy	0	1	0
Delay/Failed Service	7	23	11
Denial/Withdrawal/Change Service	2	12	8
Discrimination	1	1	1
Failure-Specified Service Standards	10	2	4
Financial Assessment	6	0	1
Ill-Treatment	0	0	1
Inaccurate/Misleading Info	4	2	8
Inadequate Facilities	0	0	0
Lack of Information/Communication	6	3	12
Lack of Service	1	2	7
Level of Resource Allocation	1	1	1
Other	0	0	0
Policy Decision	0	0	2
Poor/Inadequate Facilities	0	0	0
Quality/Failure of Specified Service Standards	0	9	7
Racial Discrimination	0	0	0
Staff Inefficient/Ineffective	7	0	1
Time/Failure of Specified Service Standards	0	0	2
Total	78	111	106

Table 2: Complaints concerning 'broken promises'/missed appointments have increased markedly, alongside failed service standards & 'staff inefficiency'.

- 5.8 The themes highlighted in table 2 show a rise in complaints about service standards not being met e.g. an appointment for a visit or meeting being changed at short notice (Lack of Information/Communication), support visits not being provided (Failure of a Specified Service

Standard), delay in processing a payment to support the hobby/activity of a child with special needs (Staff Inefficient/Ineffective).

- 5.9 Complaint resolutions have remained high, with no increase in the numbers of complaints progressing beyond stage one (see table 3).

Table 3: Complaints at different stages

Brackets indicates Advocate involved	2009	07/08	06/07
Stage 1	52 (8)	38 (4)	54 (12)
Stage 2	3	3 (1)	7 (3)
Stage 3	1	1 (0)	2 (0)
LGO Appeal	3	1	1
Appeal Upheld	0	1	0

Complaints progressing beyond stage 1 of the process show no increase, which is consistent with more effective handling by managers at stage 1. One complaint was suspended at Stage 2 due to a conflict with (private) family law proceedings. Two appeals to the Ombudsman await the Ombudsman's decision.

- 5.10 Successful complaint resolutions demonstrate social care services remain the subject of often close, complex and sensitive negotiations with children and families. Resolving complaints helps managers clear up misunderstandings as well as taking the chance to explain clearly and formally what the service intends for a child, what the service can offer to support that contention and what it cannot. A complaint about 'Lack of Information/Communication' has also prompted a manager, through individual staff supervision, to discuss in more detail, how they might best lead a multi-agency discussion of alternative plans and provision for a vulnerable child, so that different professionals can perform as an effective 'team' around that child.

- 5.11 Importantly for children and young people going through the complaints process is impact and outcomes. Three examples below will demonstrate impact/outcomes for one complex case, one unusual case and one routine case:

The family of a young disabled person living in rented accommodation complained about an occupational health assessment and lack of suitable equipment in their rented accommodation. As a result of the complaint:

- in the short term, appropriate aids and equipment were provided
- for the longer term, an assessment is being undertaken for the family to move to more suitable accommodation
- the advocate is remaining involved with the young person

A teenage young woman was living with her deceased parents' best friends who were caring for her. Children's Social Care had recommended a course of action that would have reduced the financial contribution to her care and lead to placement instability. It was agreed, following an examination of the complaint that finances would continue as they were currently until the age of eighteen. The impact was stability and good educational outcomes.

A complaint was made about travel arrangements for supervision contact. As a result of the complaint, incurred travel costs were reimbursed and more satisfactory travel arrangements put in place.

- 5.12 The Complaints Manager has joined Team and Service Manager 'Away Day' meetings, for example, to point out this year that delayed responses can only be more effective if the complainant has been persuaded that their complaint has not been forgotten. 'Conciliation meetings' have been used to good effect on five occasions to compliment the formal written response from the service.

6. IMPLICATIONS

Implications arise for the continuous improvement of children's social care services and the annual performance assessment whereby it will be demonstrated that complaints are received and responded to in accordance with the statutory process and lessons learnt from complaints are fed into service improvements.

7. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

It is expected that the panel will consider this report and the potential for further areas of scrutiny.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Statutory Instrument 2006 No.1738 The Children Act Representations Procedure (England)

Regulations 2006 <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2006/20061738.htm>

Getting the Best from Complaints – Social Care Complaints and Representations for Children, Young People and Others <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00152/>;

9. APPENDICES

None

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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
16 MARCH 2010	Public Report

Report of the Director of Adult Social Services

Report Author – Denise Radley, Director of Adult Social Services

Contact Details – Denise Radley, Tel: 01733 758444

PROGRESS REPORT ON DELIVERY OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to share with Members the performance at the end of Quarter 3 related to the 35 indicators for which this scrutiny committee has responsibility.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the performance as shown in appendix 1 and to ask questions about the actions being undertaken to address those performance areas which are not currently performing to target.

3. LINKS TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Performance on these indicators is fundamental to the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement.

4. BACKGROUND

The indicators shown in appendix 1 are a mixture of those which are required to be reported on and those which have been chosen to be within the Local Area agreement (LAA).

Performance on these and all other relevant indicators are considered quarterly by the GPP Executive and the GPP Board. On a quarterly basis, a performance update will be provided to Scrutiny Committees.

5. KEY ISSUES

The overall rating for the block is amber and this comprises three amber outcome ratings plus a red rating for the improving health outcome. Risk areas of the improving health outcome include under 18 conceptions, alcohol related hospital admissions, sport participation, obesity and mortality rates. Action plans are in place and regularly refreshed. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board is actively challenging and supporting the delivery of improvements in healthy lifestyles (eating, drinking and exercise) which will contribute to a number of indicators. Some of the risk areas (alcohol, obesity and mortality rates) have trajectories for improvement which extend beyond the current LAA. Targets in the Vulnerable People outcome area show some good performance with most targets projecting to be met by the year end or end of the LAA. Improving skills and education shows mixed performance, some strong and some risk areas with a small drop in performance overall. Regenerating neighbourhoods work is progressing well and has risks associated with the economic situation. Some indicators are under negotiation within the LAA refresh.

6. CONSULTATION

Consultation on performance occurs regularly in the partnership boards which underpin the GPP arrangements. These boards assess the extent to which further action is needed and plan action accordingly.

7. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Members of Scrutiny are asked to assure themselves that through the scrutiny process, officers are actively working to improve performance.

8. NEXT STEPS

Scrutiny Committee can expect a further update after the end of Quarter 4

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Local Area Agreement Indicators

11. APPENDICES

1. Performance narrative by blocks of indicators

PERFORMANCE NARRATIVES BY BLOCKS OF INDICATORS

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Regenerating Neighbourhoods (OI01)		
Claire Higgins	December 2009	
<p>The overall status of this outcome remains amber. Achievement of the year end target for NI153 remains unlikely if the current target is retained. However there are on-going discussions with Go East and the development of a business case concerning renegotiating of this target.</p> <p>There is some positive progress to report during the quarter in terms of projects underway to address long term unemployment, for example the Working 4 U project, which aims at decreasing the number of residents with no qualifications. The launch event in Westwood was a great success with 35 people assessing the event and a further 28 signed up for information and advice.</p> <p>Other initiatives include: NLDC – funding was secured to run three courses across the three neighbourhoods to improve the employability of local residents. The course in Westwood around employability skills has been very successful with 70% retention rate. The course is due to run in Bretton in January 2010 and in Paston from April 2010. Mears Academy – Set up via a partnership between Cross Keys Homes and Mears, is achieving strong outcomes with broader delivery programmes planned. A sports development course is being run in partnership with PCC – seven people attending. Those attending are highly motivated to get into this as a career and a further course is planned to enable them to gain sufficient qualification to move in this direction. Projects and funding applications to tackle fuel poverty (NI187) are also proceeding with some very positive outcomes being demonstrated. Probable public sector expenditure cuts could affect this income stream going forward. The renegotiation of the economic indicator targets plus the increased momentum created by the NRSP (Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Strategic Partnership) is evidence of the commitment to address this outcome together with some positive benefits coming forward.</p>		

Improving Health (OI02)		
Christine Bellairs	December 2009	
<p>The overall RAG status is RED.</p> <p>The risks are with NI39 alcohol harm related hospital admissions; NI 112 u18 conceptions and NI123 16+ stop smoking.</p> <p>It is generally accepted that the targets for NI 112 are unachievable nevertheless there is a strategy and action plan in place. The new SARC at Rivergate has been opened and expect this to have positive impact.</p> <p>There is a recovery plan for NI123 refreshed to increase the number of referrals into the NHS stop smoking service, particularly through GP practices. Community based health trainers also trained and have personal targets. Comms strategy implemented wef Jan 2010 with additional funding from SHA. NI123 rag AMBER.</p> <p>NI39 visioning day for alcohol harm reduction outcomes taken forward.</p>		

Supporting Vulnerable People (OI03)**Neil Greenfield***December 2009*

The overall RAG rating is amber but overall most targets are performing well.

Action plans are being reviewed and key responsibilities looked at following changes in staff and accountabilities.

Work is continuing on **NI50** around partnership working and the development of the commissioning strategy.

NI130 is currently red with an end of year forecast for amber. A full dataset for monitoring self directed support is being developed for use by the steering group.

NI150 is still red and we will not know if this is going to change until we receive the appropriate stats. The mental health trust has an action plan around data collection which is being monitored through the contract performance group.

Improving Skills in Education (OI04)**Mel Collins***December 2009*

The overall status of this outcome is amber.

We are expecting to achieve our 2010 targets in the following areas:

NI72 - Early Years Achievement

NI79 - L2 by age 19

NI73 - Level 4 in English and maths

NI87 - Persistent Absence Rates

NI93 - Progression data in English and maths between KS1 and KS2

NI163 - Working Age Population qualified to a L2 and L3.

We are also optimistic that challenging 2010 targets will be reached for all Children in Care indicators and KS2 attainment for Black Minority Ethnic children.

Four targets remain very challenging for 2010:

NI92 - Narrowing of the gap target for early years

NI75 - 5+A*-C in English and maths

NI165 - Working age population qualified to L4

NI117 - Reducing NEETs.

A key area of success recently has been the release of validated KS2 data which was slightly better than expected for English, placing us 106/153 LAs for 'English and maths' combined and 78/153 LAs for maths; boys' maths being 45/153.

The main area of risk is **NI75**: although we had a 4% uplift in 2009 results we were still 9% below target and well below National Average data. However 2009 data put us 3rd in relation to 10 statistical neighbours for improvement. To achieve 2011 targets results will need to increase by 11%.

Plans for addressing this risk include working with the whole team of secondary head teachers to support poorly performing schools, challenging and intervening in our 4 most needy secondary schools, appointing additional secondary advisers to target the most vulnerable schools and cohorts of young people, rigorous quality assurance procedures ensuring the team are 'doing the right things, in the right schools at the right time'. A Children's Trust workshop in January 2010 will also ensure that improving learning outcomes is owned by all Children's Trust partners.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 10
16 MARCH 2010	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Paulina Ford, Performance Scrutiny and Research Officer

Contact Details – 01733 452508 or email paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN – 1 MARCH TO 30 JUNE 2010

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Council's Forward Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The Plan contains those key decisions, which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) will be making over the next four months.
- 3.2 The information in the Forward Plan provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information.
- 3.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

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**PETERBOROUGH CITY
COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN
1 MARCH 2010 TO 30 JUNE 2010**

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 MARCH 2010 TO 30 JUNE 2010

During the period from 1 March 2010 To 30 June 2010 Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

This Forward Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions and it will be updated on a monthly basis. The dates detailed within the Plan are subject to change and those items amended or identified for decision more than one month in advance will be carried over to forthcoming plans. Each new plan supersedes the previous plan. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Plan and submitted to Lindsay Tomlinson, Senior Governance Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 01733 452483). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to lindsay.tomlinson@peterborough.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 452238.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed and the papers listed on the Plan can be viewed free of charge although there will be a postage and photocopying charge for any copies made. All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk. If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Plan, please submit them to the Governance Support Officer using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this plan.

NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH:

- Opportunity Peterborough Business Plan
- Affordable Housing Fund allocation for Stanground South
- Economic Participation Programme – Funding Allocations
- Adult Drug Treatment Plan
- Supporting People Programme: Independent Living Support Service
- Extension to Hampton Hargate School

MARCH

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
Culture Trust To agree whether to proceed with the Trust as set out in the Cabinet decision of 12 October 2009	March 2010	Cabinet	Strong & Supportive Communities	All relevant stakeholders as appropriate	John Harrison Executive Director-Strategic Resources Tel: 01733 452398 john.harrison@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
Opportunity Peterborough Business Plan To endorse the draft Opportunity Peterborough Business Plan 2010/13.	March 2010	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth	All relevant stakeholders as appropriate	Gillian Beasley Chief Executive Tel: 01733 452302 gillian.beasley@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
Refreshed Local Area Agreement (LAA) To sign off the refreshed LAA prior to its submission to the Government Office	March 2010	Leader of the Council	Environment Capital	Relevant stakeholders and for a including Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	Christina Wells Head of Strategic Improvement & Partnerships Tel: 01733 863604 christina.wells@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p>Carbon Challenge - Option Agreement and Collaboration Agreement To authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Executive Director Strategic Resources, Head of Legal Services and Head of Strategic Property to agree the final wording of and enter into: 1) an Option Agreement with the Developer of the Carbon Challenge Site; and 2) a Collaboration Agreement with the public sector Partners for Peterborough City Carbon Challenge.</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Growth and Human Resources</p>	Sustainable Growth	Internal departments as appropriate	<p>Gillian Beasley Chief Executive Tel: 01733 452302 gillian.beasley@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p> <p>100212 CC CMDN</p> <p>100204 CC - Public Report</p>
<p>Affordable Housing Fund Allocation for Stanground South To award funding from the affordable housing fund to Cross Keys Homes to enable the delivery of 80 affordable homes at Stanground South.</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Growth and Human Resources</p>	Sustainable Growth	All appropriate stakeholders will be consulted	<p>Anne Keogh Housing Strategy Manager Tel: 01733 863815 anne.keogh@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>

<p>Economic Participation Programme Approval for the Executive Director, Operations to authorise alterations to the schedule of funding allocations on the Programme in 2009-10 and 2010-11 up to the value of £150,000 per project.</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Regional and Business Engagement</p>	Strong & Supportive Communities	Internal departments as appropriate	<p>Anne Senior Economic Participation Manager Tel: 01733 864106 anne.senior@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR) Authority to award the contract in partnership with the Police and Cambridgeshire County Council for the procurement of ANPR cameras to provide real time journey time data</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development</p>	Environment Capital	External and internal stakeholders as appropriate	<p>Susan Fitzwilliam Development Officer Tel: 01733 452441 susan.fitzwilliam@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Local Transport Plan Capital Programme of Works 2010/11 To approve the proposed programme of works for 2010/11</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development</p>	Environment Capital	Consultation will be undertaken with the relevant internal stakeholders and with the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	<p>Sally Savage Senior Project Support Worker Tel: 01733 452655 sally.savage@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p>Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2010/11 The Plan is required by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) and sets out how the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) will meet the targets and priorities it has identified locally in relation to tackling drugs.</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development</p>	Commission for Health Issues	<p>Consultation has been undertaken with the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board; SPP Delivery Board; SPP Adult Joint Commissioning Group for Drugs; local service providers; and the local service user group, SUGA</p>	<p>Karen Kibblewhite Community Safety And Substance Misuse Manager Tel: 01733 864122 karen.kibblewhite@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
<p>PCC Building Schools for the Future Programme - ICT Managed Service To approve delegations for the procurement of the ICT Managed Service</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	<p>Consultation will be undertaken with head teachers, Building Schools for the Future project team, DLT, Schools IT Working Group</p>	<p>Brian Howard PFI Project Manager Tel: 01733 863976 brian.howard@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>

<p>PCC Building Schools for the Future Programme - Approvals Processes To agree the approval processes for the programme</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Ward councillors, relevant portfolio holders and internal departments as appropriate	<p>Brian Howard PFI Project Manager Tel: 01733 863976 brian.howard@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Award of Contract - Nene Valley Primary School To award the contract for an extension to the school</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal departments as appropriate	<p>Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer Tel: 01733 863975 alison.chambers@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Award of Contract - Heltwate School To award the contract for refurbishment of the school</p>	March 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal departments as appropriate	<p>Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer Tel: 01733 863975 alison.chambers@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p>Supporting People Programme: Independent Living Support Service To approve a contract between Peterborough City Council and NHS Peterborough to jointly commission existing housing related support services where social care is also provided or the services meet local or national priorities and strategy through the NHS Peterborough commissioned Independent Living Support Service, for an initial term of 3 years from 1 April 2010 with the discretion to extend this on an annual basis to a maximum of 5 years.</p>	<p>March 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Commission for Health Issues</p>	<p>Supporting People Providers Forum, Core Strategy and Development Group and the Commissioning Body.</p>	<p>Belinda Child Housing Strategic Manager Tel: 01733 863769 belinda.child@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
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<p>Hampton Children's Centre The development of a children's centre facility in the grounds of Hampton Hargate Primary School. The facility will comprise rooms for a larger pre-school as well as multi function rooms to develop a range of services predominantly for children under 5 and their families</p>	<p>March 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</p>	<p>A range of people and organisations have been consulted through the process. Ongoing consultation will take place in working with parents to ensure the service delivered from the facility meet local needs</p>	<p>Pam Setterfield Assistant Head of Children & Families Services (0-13) Tel: 01733 863897 pam.setterfield@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
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<p>Section 75 Pooled funding arrangements for substance misuse services</p> <p>Variation to the existing partnership agreement under the National Health Act 2006 to pool funding from NHS Peterborough and PCC to commission drugs services. The variation takes into account the slight changes to governance and structure of the former Drug and Alcohol Action Team, now part of the Safer Peterborough Partnership, and additional funding made available to NHS Peterborough for integrated drug treatment within HMP Peterborough.</p>	March 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Commission for Health Issues	Internal stakeholders as appropriate	<p>Paul Phillipson Executive Director Operations Tel: 01733 453455 paul.phillipson@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
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<p>Connected Care Peterborough To authorise the acquisition of the long lease of 102-104 Bridge Street, Peterborough by the city council from which NHS Peterborough will deliver the Connected Care model under the Council's Economic Participation Programme</p>	March 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth	Local residents, ward councillors, relevant Cabinet Members, local MPs	Paul Phillipson Executive Director Operations Tel: 01733 453455 paul.phillipson@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Sale of Land at Dickens Street Car Park To authorise the Cabinet Member and the Chief Executive to negotiate and conclude the sale of the surplus land</p>	March 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth	Consultations will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders and ward councillors	Andrew Edwards Head of Strategic Property Tel: 01733 384530 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Surrender of Lease To agree the acceptance of the surrender of a lease</p>	March 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth	Internal consultations as appropriate and with ward members	Andrew Edwards Head of Strategic Property Tel: 01733 384530 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p>Disposal of the Former Lady Lodge Site Sale of the site subject to detailed planning consent for the development of a 70 bedroom care home for the elderly</p>	<p>March 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Ward councillors and internal departments as appropriate</p>	<p>Andrew Edwards Head of Strategic Property Tel: 01733 384530 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
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APRIL

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Joint Service Centre at Hampton To commence the procurement process for a design and build contract for the provision of new leisure and library facilities at Hampton as part of the joint service centre in partnership with NHS Peterborough</p>	<p>April 2010</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture</p>	<p>Strong & Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member of Community Services, ward councillors, affected divisions within PCC and potential user groups in Hampton.</p>	<p>Fiona O'Mahony Hampton Joint Service Centre Project Director Tel: 01733 863856 fiona.o'mahony@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made</p>

MAY

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO DECISIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY

JUNE

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Extension to Hampton Hargate School Authority to award a contract for the construction of an extension to Hampton Hargate Primary School</p>	<p>June 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with relevant stakeholders, internal departments and ward councillors as appropriate.</p>	<p>Isabel Clark Planning & Development Manager Tel: 01733 863914 isabel.clark@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made</p>

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Communications
Strategic Growth and Development Services
Legal and Democratic Services
Policy and Research
Economic and Community Regeneration
Housing Strategy
Drug Intervention Programme and Drug and Alcohol Team

CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT Nursery Lane, Fengate, Peterborough PE1 5BG

Property Services
Building & Maintenance
Streetscene and Facilities
Finance and Support Services

STRATEGIC RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Finance
Internal Audit
Information Communications Technology (ICT)
Business Transformation
Performance and Programme Management
Strategic Property
Human Resources
Customer Services

CHILDRENS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT Bayard Place, Broadway, PE1 1FB

Families and Communities
Commissioning and Performance
Learning

ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT Bridge House, Town Bridge, PE1 1HB

Planning Services

Building Control Services

Cultural Services

Transport and Engineering Services

EMERGENCY PLANNING

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

CITY CENTRE SERVICES

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