

Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan

2009-2011

Every Child, Every Young
Person, Every Agency, One Plan



Review of Progress
June 2009

Introduction.

The Children and Young People's Plan is a strategic document setting out the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's vision and 10 local priorities for children and young people in Worcestershire. It shows how agencies are working together to improve services and make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in the county.

This is the first annual review of Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan for 2008-2011. The review covers activity that has taken place during the period from the launch of the plan in May 2008 until April 2009. An updated action plan for April 2009 to March 2010 has also been prepared and can be found at:

<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wcc-edu-cypp-action-plan-2009-2010-v7.pdf>.

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Foreword by Chair of Worcestershire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and Lead Member for Children's Services.

In May 2008, the Worcestershire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership published the Children and Young People's Plan for 2008-2011, setting out its vision and priorities for all children and young people in Worcestershire aged from 0-19 years, and some groups of vulnerable young people up to the age of 25, as well as their families. This marked a new phase of cooperative working for Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. The Action Plan that was published alongside the Children and Young People's Plan set out what partners were going to do to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in the county.

This is the first annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan for 2008-2011.

The review outlines how all children's services partners have been working together to improve outcomes for children and young people in the county during the last 12 months. The progress reported here acknowledges how professionals and agencies have worked together to improve the life chances of children and young people in Worcestershire. The review celebrates success by outlining the progress made for each of the 10 priority areas contained in the Children and Young People's Plan. Those areas where improvements still need to be made are identified. These are the areas where progress in delivering the activities has, for a variety of reasons, been slower or more difficult, than expected.

In July 2008, a Joint Area Review of services for children and young people in Worcestershire was undertaken by Ofsted. The Joint Area Review inspected services for looked after children; those for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; and how we safeguard our children and young people. It also looked at how we managed our services. Ofsted judged Worcestershire to be good and this was confirmed by Ofsted's Annual Performance Assessment – an assessment of all services for children and young people that took place in Autumn 2008. The Joint Area Review also indicated that the County Council's longstanding relationship with its partners was strong and that the Children and Young People's Plan set a clear direction for services for children and young people that is well endorsed by stakeholders.

It is against this background that the Children and Young People's Partnership believes that this review and the updated action plan provide a renewed focus and sound basis to move forward.

The partnership is confident that it can continue to work towards achieving the vision set out in the Children and Young People's Plan for 2008-2011 - that we want Worcestershire to be the best place for children and young people to grow up.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Marcus Hart
Cabinet Member with responsibility for children and young people



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gail Quinton', written in a cursive style.

Gail Quinton
Chair of Worcestershire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Reporting on Progress.

Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan strives to make sure that Worcestershire is the best place for children and young people to grow up by ensuring that every child and young person in the county is safe, happy, healthy, valued, respected and trusted and has fun achieving success. The plan identifies ten priorities for change:

Our priorities are:

Be healthy

1. Support all children, young people and their families to choose healthy lifestyles.
2. Ensure all children have a healthy start to life.

Stay safe

3. Identify and deal effectively with bullying and support all children, young people and families who have been affected by it.
4. Ensure that all children and young people are safe and protected, and support those who are at risk of harm and neglect.

Enjoy and achieve

5. Raise the achievement of all children and young people.
6. Ensure that all children, young people and their families have access to positive things to do and enjoy in their communities.

Positive contribution

7. Enable all children and young people to be responsible citizens and recognise the contribution they can make.

Economic well-being

8. Ensure that all young people are able to access appropriate education, employment and training opportunities and make progress.
9. Ensure all young people are equipped with essential life skills and have support to move successfully into adulthood.
10. Enable children and young people to grow up in prosperous communities.

For each priority there are a number of improvements that are needed. These were identified from the information contained in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment as well as through consultation with children, young people, families and professionals. The Children and Young People's Plan also has three cross-cutting themes which are incorporated into all of the priorities - narrowing the gap, supporting families and making services accessible.

The Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan for 2008/09 sets out the activities that are required to achieve these improvements, as well as how we will

tell if these actions have made a difference. Progress in delivering the Children and Young People's Plan and whether activities are having an impact on the lives of children, young people and families has been monitored during the last 12 months through robust performance management processes that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership have in place (see page **).

How well have we done?

The next section of this report:

- provides evidence of the progress we have made in delivering the activities contained within the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan. There is a separate section for each of the five Every Child Matters outcome areas;
- outlines the activities that have been successful and states what impact they have had;
- highlights activities where progress has been slower than expected or those aspects identified by the Joint Area Review and Annual Performance Assessment as areas for improvement. These inform the updated action plan for 2009 – 2010.

A note on national indicators

Indicators from the government's National Indicator Set have been used to help determine whether the activities contained in the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan have led to an improvement in outcomes for children, young people and families in Worcestershire. These indicators have been measured nationally for the first time in 2008/09. Consequently, at the time of writing, data for some of the national indicators has yet to be finalised and both national and regional bench marks for our results were not available. The measurement of some indicators has been deferred nationally.

Children and Young People in Worcestershire are Healthy.

What we said we would do.

The Children and Young People's Plan contains the following priorities and areas for improvement:

Priority one: support all children and their families to choose healthy lifestyles.

Areas for improvement:

- Fewer children and young people who are obese or overweight.
- Fewer young people at risk from using alcohol.
- Fewer children and young people with mental health problems.
- Fewer young women under the age of 18 becoming pregnant.

Priority two: ensure all children have a healthy start to life.

Areas for improvement:

- Fewer deaths of infants.
- Fewer babies born with a low birth weight.

Priority One.

Support all children and their families to choose healthy lifestyles. Fewer children and young people who are obese or overweight.

How have we improved outcomes?

The Joint Area Review report says that "there are highly ambitious programmes to support healthy lifestyles.....with good outcomes.....Worcestershire is making good progress with healthy schools, with 99% engaged in the programme, although young people say they would like more affordable school meals."

In addition, the 2008 APA report for Worcestershire states that "Healthy lifestyles are promoted well. Children and young people are generally healthy and effective action is being taken to tackle longstanding healthy inequalities."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:

NI 52: The take-up of school lunches has been determined through an annual survey by the School Food Trust. The total take-up of meals in primary schools was 36%. In secondary schools it was 33.5% and in special schools it was 68%. These figures provide a baseline for further measurement.

NI 55: Obesity amongst primary school age children in the reception year in the 2007/08 measurement programme was 8.4%. This provides a baseline for further measurement.

NI 56: Obesity amongst primary school aged children in year 6 in the 2007/08 measurement programme was 16.8%, which provides a baseline for further measurement. The target was 15.3%.

What have we achieved?

- 75% of schools have obtained full Healthy School status – Worcestershire reached its target for December 2009, 9 months ahead of schedule.
- The percentage of schools signing up to the Million Meals Campaign has increased from 16% in September 2008 to the target of 50% in March 2009.
- There has been an increase in the percentage of schools with an action plan to increase the take-up of hot school meals from 7% in December 2008 to 30% in March 2009.
- The capacity of key community staff to promote healthy lifestyles for families and vulnerable young people in targeted communities with high obesity levels has been increased and a resource pack for use by staff has been developed.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The roll-out of the new requirements of the National Child Measurement Programme for all Reception and Year 6 children in state-maintained schools.
- The provision of further support to early years settings to enable them to achieve the relevant healthy settings standards.
- The replacement of unhealthy food and drink items with healthy options in leisure centres.
- The introduction of healthy lunch box initiatives in schools and early years settings.
- The commissioning and implementation of a range of weight management interventions for prevention and treatment of obesity in children.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority One Support all children and their families to choose healthy lifestyles. Fewer young people at risk from using alcohol.

How have we improved outcomes?

The 2008 APA report for Worcestershire states that "healthy lifestyles are promoted well. Children and young people are generally healthy good local knowledge about health needs and closely monitored strategies have resulted in effective targeting of.....substance misuse treatment services for young people."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:

NI 17: 14.4% of residents completing the Place Survey responded within the high perception category of anti-social behaviour (a total score for each respondent is calculated based on the responses to the seven questions). Scores vary quite widely across the districts in Worcestershire, from the highest of 21.1% in Redditch to the lowest of 8.9% in Malvern Hills. Teenagers hanging around the streets and rubbish or litter lying around are the most commonly cited forms of anti-social

behaviour, although only a third on average say these are a very or fairly big problem in their area.

NI 22: 32.4% of respondents to the Place Survey think that parents take enough responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area. Just under half (47%) disagree that parents take enough responsibility. The extent to which residents think parents take enough responsibility for the behaviour of their children varies across Worcestershire districts, ranging from over two in five among Malvern Hills residents to just over one in five of Wyre Forest residents. These results are to be expected, though given the fact that residents in areas such as Wyre Forest and Redditch are also most likely to say that teenagers hanging around is a big problem in their area.

NI 41: 23.4% of respondents to the Place Survey perceive drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem in the area in which they live.

NI 115: 11% of young people participating in a survey reported either frequent misuse of drugs/volatile substances or alcohol, or both.

What have we achieved?

- A joint programme with Trading Standards for targeting under-age alcohol sales has been established and 51 test purchase operations have taken place, during which 9 sales to underage customers were made.
- Identified neighbourhoods in Redditch and Worcester City were targeted for trader compliance relating to under-age alcohol sales, resulting in the issue of fixed penalty notices and written warnings to some traders.
- Targeted Youth Support delivery has commenced in hotspot areas for alcohol-related anti-social behaviour or crime, and the use of the Substance Misuse Screening Tool has led to referral of young people for treatment.
- A teaching resource pack on alcohol awareness has been developed and disseminated to schools.
- High profile seasonal campaigns that raised awareness around sensible drinking, drinks, teenage pregnancy and existing services took place at Christmas and prior to the 2009 summer exam period.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- Raising awareness of safe and sensible alcohol consumption amongst young people and their parents.
- The reduction in the number of under-18s presenting with alcohol related problems, particularly in geographical hotspot areas.
- Further enhancement of the provision of alcohol related support and treatment to young people and families through specialist projects and a review of alcohol treatment provision.
- The training of Early Intervention Family Support workers and other professionals in schools in brief intervention work.
- The implementation of the national strategy to improve guidance to parents and young people on safe drinking.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority One.
Support all children and their families to choose healthy lifestyles.
Fewer children and young people with mental health problems.

How have we improved outcomes?

The JAR report for Worcestershire indicates that "access to Child and Adolescent Health Services (CAMHS) is satisfactory overall. The strategy links preventative and non-specialist services to wider emotional well-being strategies Development of target setting and evaluation of a comprehensive service is at an early stage. Some vulnerable groups have good access to consultation and advice and are referred promptly to specialist services.....An action plan to fill key vacant psychologist posts and improve the previously long waits for all non-urgent specialist services has been successfully implemented. CAMHS tackled the waiting list for assessment robustly in May 2008 and waiting times for non-urgent assessments are now minimal. As a result, the number of children and young people waiting for treatment has significantly reduced."

In addition, the 2008 APA report states "the CAMHS services strategy is effective. There is good integration of CAMHS with a wide range of services. Emotional well-being is at the heart of services in children's centres and extended schools...."

The annual performance review of CAMHS services in Worcestershire that took place in April 2009 confirms that "Worcestershire CAMHS have improved steadily over recent years and ...it is clear that partnership working is effective with CAMHS being described by partners as more easily accessible and working towards a more consistent and universal provision in school and other settings."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:

- NI 50:** 66% of young people report that they enjoy good relationships with their family and friends. This provides a benchmark for further measurement.
- NI 51:** Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services has provisionally been rated as 3, covering the availability of 24 hour cover , learning difficulties and disabilities full service, services of 16-17 year olds and early intervention/health promotion in universal settings (where 4 is good and 1 is inadequate).
- NI 58:** The average results of the child level Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire of looked after children aged 4-16 years was 14.7 (within a range of 0 to 40 where a score of 0 is good). The emotional and behavioural health of looked after children is assessed through the use of a 'primary carer' Strengths and Difficulties behaviour screening questionnaire. It covers details of emotional difficulties, conduct problems, hyperactivity or inattention, friendships and peer groups, and also positive behaviour. This information was collected for the first time in 2008 and provides a baseline for further measurement.

What have we achieved?

- CAMHS services have been developed for 16-19 year olds, including services for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and those with a dual diagnosis.
- Access to Tier 1 and 2 CAMHS services for children and young people

has been improved by developing pathways between Tier 3 and 2 and by increasing capacity.

- The number of Young Gateway Workers and Primary Mental Health Workers has increased and recruitment of Tier 1 and 2 CAMHS workers is taking place.
- Young Gateway and Tier 3 Primary Mental Health Workers have raised awareness and provided mental training sessions on mental health issues impacting on children and young people to workers operating in Tiers 1 and 2.
- Information packs on mental health issues have been sent to all schools.
- Worcestershire has been successful in its bid for Targeted Mental Health in School projects.
- Choice And Partnership Approach (CAPA) has been introduced and has led to a decrease in waiting times for Tier 3 CAMHS services to 6-8 weeks for an initial appointment.
- Emergency CAMHS assessment and treatment out of hours has been developed and a protocol is in place for each team.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The development and implementation of a Joint Adolescent Health Action Plan.
- The implementation of the You're Welcome criteria (YWC) across all services for young people.
- Further development of CAMHS for children and young people with both learning disabilities and mental health problems and for 16-19 year olds, including services for those young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and those with a dual diagnosis.
- Further expansion and improvement in access to Tier 1 and 2 CAMHS for children and young people by developing pathways between Tier 3 and 2, and increasing capacity.
- Further development of transition arrangements between CAMHS and Adult Mental Health Services and other services.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority One.

**Support all children and their families to choose healthy lifestyles.
Fewer young women under the age of 18 becoming pregnant.**

How have we improved outcomes?

The JAR report says "Improved planning and resources have resulted in an improvement in the quality of sex education in schools. There are some early local indications that targeted intervention has brought about a decline in pregnancy rates in young women under 18 in areas with the highest proportions of teenage pregnancy. Data available locally indicates that teenage pregnancy rates are below the national average and declining more sharply; the area has confidence that they are on course to reach the national reduction target."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the

following national indicator:

NI 112: The under-18 teenage conception rate has decreased from 35.1 per 1,000 in 1998 to 32.9 per 1,000 in 2007, compared to a national rate of 41.7 per 1,000. The target for 2010 is 23.3 per 1,000.

What have we achieved?

- A multi-agency data set has been agreed and the Teenage Pregnancy Joint Commissioning Group receives and uses up to date data to inform prioritisation and commissioning of services.
- Schools and Pupil Referral Units with teenage pregnancy hotspot wards in their catchment have been targeted for PSHE, and Sex and Relationships Education.
- 15 of the target schools have audited their provision and are working on meeting the PSHE criteria for Healthy Schools Status.
- 14 target schools have implemented the L8r programme (a DVD resource) as part of their curriculum and staff have been trained in its use.
- The Sexual Health Policy for looked after children has been reviewed and relevant staff have received training in sexual health, with children's homes implementing the L8r programme.
- Advice to parents of teenagers on sex, relationships and managing teenage behaviour has been made available and practitioners are being trained to work with parents of teenagers.
- Young-person centred contraception and sexual health services, including Time4u, have been reviewed. Services are being re-commissioned, with additional provision in FE colleges and high schools.
- High profile media and seasonal campaigns on sexual health have been delivered, raising the profile of the c-card and emergency contraception.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The improvement in access for looked after children to information, advice, guidance and contraception.
- The completion of a review and re-design of young person-centred contraception and sexual health services in schools, pharmacies, GP surgeries and youth settings.
- The further establishment of contraceptive and sexual health services in Further Education colleges.
- Continued extension of the multi-agency dataset from which to generate a needs assessment to inform commissioning of services.
- The continued targeting of schools with hotspot wards in their catchment, special schools, PRUs and looked after children for PSHE and Sex and Relationships Education.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

**Priority One.
Ensure all children have a healthy start to life.
Fewer deaths of infants.
Fewer babies born with a low birth weight.**

How have we improved outcomes?

There are no comments in the JAR or APA reports pertaining to this area for improvement.

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicator:

NI 126: Early access for women to maternity services. There is no data currently available for this national indicator.

What have we achieved?

- Smoking cessation pathways for pregnant women have been reviewed and smoking rates at delivery have improved.
- A pre-conceptual care plan has been implemented to address obesity, diabetes, substance misuse and epilepsy and pathways are in place for pregnant women with these conditions.
- The NHS Acute Trust has received baby-friendly accreditation and the PCT and children's centres have achieved 'certificates of commitment.'
- The target of a 2% increase in the initiation of breastfeeding has been reached.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- A reduction in substance misuse in pregnancy by implementing joint pathways that lead to a co-ordinated and consistent response by services and assess the impact of approaches.
- The development and implementation of a maternal and infant feeding strategy and launch of Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme for employers.
- Ensuring that 90% of women have seen a midwife or a maternity health care professional for health and social care assessment of needs, risks and choices by 12 completed weeks of pregnancy.
- The implementation of a countywide targeted breast-feeding peer support programme.
- Enabling women to have a choice of services for their ante-natal care, place of birth and post-natal care in accordance with Maternity Matters.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

What else do we need to do to ensure that the children and young people in Worcestershire are healthy?

The JAR and APA reports also indicated that we should:

- improve performance on securing health and dental checks for looked after children (this has been included in the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan for 2008-2011).

Children and Young People in Worcestershire Stay Safe.

What we said we would do.

The Children and Young People's Plan contains the following priorities and areas for improvement:

Priority three: deal effectively with bullying and support children, young people and families who have been affected by it.

Area for improvement

- Fewer children and young people experience bullying.

Priority four: ensure that all children and young people are safe and protected and support those who are at risk of harm and neglect.

Areas for improvement

- Fewer families experiencing domestic abuse.
- Improve road safety for children and young people.

Priority Three. Deal effectively with bullying and support children, young people and families who have been affected by it. Fewer children and young people experience bullying.
How have we improved outcomes?
<p>The Joint Area Review report for Worcestershire made the following comment relating to bullying: (<i>Children and Young People</i>) "said they feel safe in schools, when out and about in their areas and in their homes. These views are more positive overall than those found nationally and were confirmed by the comments of young people inspectors met during the review. Extensive consultation has helped reshape proposals for a revised anti-bullying strategy, building on effective practice in schools."</p> <p>Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicator:</p> <p>NI 69: 53% of young people and children stated that they had experienced bullying at least once or more in the 4 weeks prior to the survey that is used to calculate this indicator taking place. This provides a baseline for future measurement.</p>
What have we achieved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In April 2009, 75.8% of schools had achieved Healthy School status and therefore meet the criteria of the anti-bullying charter. This is good progress towards the target of 80% by 2010.• All Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board agencies have implemented an e-safety pledge and acceptable use policies.• Schools are taking action to ensure that their pupils are safe when using the internet at school.

- Awareness of bullying and racist incidents was raised at an anti-bullying conference that took place in July 2008.
- Worcestershire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bullying Task Group has published its report and made clear recommendations for addressing bullying. An action plan to implement its findings is being implemented.
- Events have been held for professionals working with children on how to address bullying.
- A system for recording bullying and racial incidents that can be used by practitioners, young people and parents is under development and 11 schools are piloting its use ready for full implementation in September 2009.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- Full implementation of the anti-bullying strategy and OSSC action plan.
- Ensuring that schools formally commit to the Anti-Bullying Charter for Action.
- Supporting schools in the development of their anti-bullying policies.
- Increasing the percentage of schools implementing e-safety monitoring software and signing the e-safety pledge.
- Implementation of the system for recording bullying and racial incidents that can be used by practitioners, young people and parents in all schools.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Four.

**Ensure that all children and young people are safe and protected and support those who are at risk of harm and neglect.
Fewer families experiencing domestic abuse.**

How have we improved outcomes?

The Joint Area Review report for Worcestershire said that “Youth Forum members, the police, health representatives and voluntary organisations such as Worcestershire Women’s Aid have contributed to effective multi-agency strategies on hate crime and domestic violence. Greater awareness among partners has resulted in more rigorous multi-agency protective action and appropriately increased referrals to children’s services.”

The 2008 APA report for Worcestershire indicated that “the wide range of support services, including partnerships with health and voluntary sector providers, minimise the incidence of abuse and neglect and prevent children coming into care.”

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicator:

NI 32: Repeat incidents of domestic abuse. This national indicator is not due to be measured until 2009/10.

What have we achieved?

- Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences have been developed and introduced across the county.
- An ongoing public awareness campaign on domestic abuse, its effects and the services available has taken place.
- The capacity of domestic abuse services in rural areas has been enhanced through outreach services.
- Domestic abuse support services have been developed further to respond to the needs of black and minority ethnic groups and men, with an increase from 17.5 hours to 85 hours of support achieved. There is the capacity to support a maximum of 28 family units at any one time.
- A web-based directory of domestic abuse services has been published and has achieved 2449 hits in the last 12 months.
- Training for frontline workers on domestic abuse and the services available has been attended by 144 professionals.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The development of a high profile public awareness campaign in November 2009 on domestic abuse, its effects and services available.
- The implementation of common risk assessment processes across all partner agencies to identify all children and young people exposed to domestic abuse and enable earlier information sharing and response.
- The development of data collection on reporting of domestic abuse crimes involving children.
- The identification of service users who are resident in rural areas through the use of postcode data.
- The implementation of training to raise awareness and improve understanding of domestic abuse.
- The development of an awareness raising checklist for schools and educational establishments to identify 'forced marriage' and 'honour-based' abuse situations and signpost to support services.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Four.

**Ensure that all children and young people are safe and protected and support those who are at risk of harm and neglect.
Improve road safety for children and young people.**

How have we improved outcomes?

The APA report for Worcestershire (2008) indicated that "children and young people's views have had a good impact on improving the safety of their environment, such as safer routes to school."

The JAR report says that "pupils have been influential in setting safe routes to school. The number of serious road accidents suffered by children up to the age of 15 has decreased at a significantly faster rate than nationally and is very low."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:

NI 48: The percentage change in number of children killed or seriously injured during the 2008/09 compared to the previous year was 15.38% compared to 16% in 2007/08 (based on a 3 year rolling average).

NI 198: This indicator measures the mode of transport for children travelling to school. Of the 5-16 year olds in Worcestershire, 29.7% travel by car, 4% car share, 5.6% use public transport, 46.3% walk, 0.9% cycle and 13.4% travel by other means.

What have we achieved?

- The Bikeability scheme has been implemented in all middle schools in the county and 8595 children have been trained to ride bicycles safely.
- There has been a decrease in road traffic accidents involving children riding bicycles from 7 accidents in 2007/08 to 1 in 2008/09.
- 12,176 children aged 7-11 years have participated in pedestrian training.
- 235 young people have participated in the Pass Plus scheme for young drivers.
- A pre-driver training programme has been developed by partners and will be implemented from September 2009.
- The education and training on road safety project for children and young people in Oldington and Foley Park has been completed and has included theatre productions, production of a road safety DVD, driving exercises for 16 years olds, graffiti projects, car mechanic training and bicycle rebuild and maintenance exercises.
- 77 young people with learning difficulties and/or a disabilities began Travel Training, of which 26 completed their training. Practitioners were trained to deliver Travel Training and 127 are actively delivering training.
- 21 schools participate in the Walking Bus Scheme and have plans for sustainability.
- 83% of schools have developed a Travel Plan.
- 46% of children and young people walk to school.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- All of the above activities will continue to be rolled-out during 2009-10.

What else do we need to do to ensure that the children and young people in Worcestershire stay safe?

The JAR and APA reports also indicated that we should:

- increase social care staff capacity and ensure the quality and consistency of management systems and practice in the contact, referral and assessment services;
- ensure that appropriate additional training in safeguarding is provided for staff working with children with disabilities;

- improve the timeliness of initial assessments which remains below the national average and that of statistical neighbours.

Actions relating to these areas for improvement have been included in the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan for 2008-2011.

Children and Young People in Worcestershire Enjoy and Achieve.

What we said we would do.

The Children and Young People's Plan contains the following priorities and areas for improvement:

Priority five: raise the achievement of all children and young people.

Areas for improvement

- Improve children and young people's achievement in mathematics across all key stages.
- Improve achievement of children and young people from low socio-economic backgrounds and black and ethnic minority ethnic groups.

Priority six: ensure that all children and young people and their families have access to positive things to do and enjoy in their communities.

Area for improvement

- More children and young people participating in positive activities, particularly those living in targeted hotspot areas and/or from targeted groups.

<p>Priority Five. Raise the achievement of all children and young people. Improve children and young people's achievement in mathematics across all key stages.</p>
<p>How have we improved outcomes?</p>
<p>The APA report for Worcestershire states that "the Council's school improvement strategy...has contributed well to narrowing the performance gap that exists between schools.....the upward trend of improvement at Key Stage 4 is faster than that occurring in similar councils and nationally."</p> <p>Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:</p> <p>NI 94: 74% of pupils made two levels of progress in Key Stage Two mathematics. This provides a baseline for further measurement.</p> <p>NI 100: 48% of children in care reached level four in mathematics at Key Stage Two. This figure provides a baseline for future measurement.</p>
<p>What have we achieved?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising, career fairs and collaborative approaches have taken place to increase the number of newly qualified teachers applying for posts in mathematics in Worcestershire schools. • Newly qualified mathematics teachers have attended continuing professional development training and have been supported by

Advanced Skills Teachers.

- Teachers' subject knowledge of learning and teaching in mathematics has been enhanced through consultant support and training of 400 teachers.
- The Assessing Pupil's Progress pilot has been extended to more schools and training in its use has taken place.
- A virtual Headteacher for looked after children has been appointed and a targeted revision/home tutor programme has taken place for pupils sitting Key Stage Two and Key Stage Four tests in summer 2009.
- The Early Years numeracy initiatives coordinated by children's centres has been implemented.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- Further improvements in teacher recruitment, retention and knowledge in mathematics as well as their understanding and use of progression and assessment.
- The continuation of the provision of targeted support/intervention for schools and clusters where underachievement in mathematics is the greatest.
- Decreasing the number of schools showing significant underachievement in mathematics at Key Stage Two and Key Stage Four.
- The continuation of the roll-out of Assessing Pupil's Progress pilot.
- The promotion of Quality First Teaching in mathematics that includes targeted intervention and fit-for-purpose pedagogy to address the needs of underperforming groups.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Five.

**Raise the achievement of all children and young people.
Improve achievement of children and young people from low socio-economic backgrounds and black and ethnic minority ethnic groups.**

How have we improved outcomes?

The JAR report indicates that the "Integrated Service for Looked After Children (ISL) supports children through their schooling, working closely with carers and schools, and providing periods of intensive, individualised, multi-agency support. The educational attainment of looked after children has improved at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4. The gap between their attainment and that of all children in school in Worcestershire is narrowing."

The APA report for Worcestershire states that "an outstanding range of additional support for looked after children has improved the educational attainment of looked after children at Key Stages 2 and 3, and the attainment gap with other children in Worcestershire has narrowed.....very effective support is provided to Traveller families resulting in many younger Traveller children being integrated into mainstream schools."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:

- NI 81:** The inequality gap in the achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19 was 30%. The target was 28%.
- NI 82:** The inequality gap in the achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19 was 53%. The national average is 53.2%.
- NI 92:** There was a 35.9% gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Profile and the rest, thus falling short of the target of 32.2%.
- NI 102:** The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages Two was 29% and at Key Stage Four was 31.8%. This is a baseline for further measurement.
- NI 106:** Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education. The data for this indicator is not available until late July 2009.
- NI 107:** Key Stage Two attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups was:
- 61.8% of Asian pupils achieved Level 4 in English and mathematics.
 - 73% of Mixed pupils achieved Level 4 in English and mathematics.
 - The number of both Black pupils (17) and Chinese pupils (13) for was smaller than 30, so the indicator was not calculated for these groups.
- NI 108:** Key Stage Four attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups was:
- 45.8% of Black pupils achieved 5 A*-C. including English and mathematics at GCSE.
 - 37.5% of Asian pupils achieved 5 A*-C. including English and mathematics at GCSE.
 - 41.8% of Mixed pupils achieved 5 A*-C. including English and mathematics at GCSE.
 - 35.7% of Chinese pupils achieved 5 A*-C. including English and mathematics at GCSE.
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What have we achieved?

- Implementation of the National Primary Strategy, including targeted support to underperforming and low attaining pupils with particular emphasis on Pakistani and Bangladeshi pupils at Key Stage 2.
- Implementation of the National Secondary Strategy, including targeted support to underperforming and low attaining pupils with particular emphasis on Black African/Caribbean groups at Key Stage 4.
- Implementation of Minority Ethnic Achievement Programme and Gypsy Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme to support achievement of pupils from black and ethnic minority groups.
- The percentage of Pakistani pupils with level 4+ in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 has increased from 49.2% in 2006/07 to 55.4% in 2007/08.
- The percentage of Mixed White/Black Caribbean pupils with level 4+ in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 has increased from 56.1% in 2006/07 to 68.5% in 2007/08.

- The percentage of Pakistani pupils gaining 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics has risen from 29% in 2006/07 to 30.4% in 2007/08.
- The percentage of Mixed White/Black Caribbean pupils gaining 5+ A*-C at GCSE including English and mathematics has risen from 28% in 2006/07 to 41% in 2007/08.
- Early intervention family support has been delivered in 21 children centres areas to support the achievement of families.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- Devising, delivering and evaluating coherent Raising Achievement Plan in line with DCSF 'Narrowing the Gap' guidance in 3 school pyramids.
- The continued implementation of relevant achievement programmes to improve achievement of children from ethnic minority groups at all key stages.
- The monitoring the performance and achievement of pupils in the Acorn hard-pressed categories across all high schools and the use of this to trigger intervention.
- Implementation of the 1-1 tuition programme in Worcestershire schools.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Six.

Ensure that all children, young people and their families have access to positive things to do and enjoy in their communities. More children and young people participating in positive activities, particularly those living in targeted hot spot areas and/or from targeted groups.

How have we improved outcomes?

The JAR report for Worcestershire states that "excellent provision is in place for (looked after) children to enjoy many physical and cultural opportunities. These include individually planned programmes and participation in the holiday programme which more that 80 children and young people attend each year.....Special schools and the voluntary sector provide a good range of recreational, leisure and cultural facilities."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:

- NI 19:** There were 63 offences per 100 young offenders over the 9 months to December 2008. This provides a baseline for future measurement.
- NI 43:** 4.2% of young people within the Youth Justice System received a conviction in court and sentenced to custody. This is better than the target of 5%.
- NI 110:** 72.2% of young people had participated in positive activities within the 4 weeks prior to the survey that is used to calculate this indicator

taking place. This provides a baseline for further measurement.

What have we achieved?

- Targeted Youth Support delivery has led to over 900 young people living in targeted hotspot areas participating in over 1800 positive activities provided by the Youth Support Service.
- Improved Targeted Youth Support and multi-agency service delivery, along with the opening of new youth centres in St Johns, Worcester and Evesham.
- 78% of wards in Worcestershire have positive activities listed on the Plug and Play website.
- All 'eligible' care leavers have access to leisure passes.
- Looked after children have greater access to community and leisure activities, including summer activities, family fun days, free music lessons in schools and concessionary leisure passes.
- Improved information provision on positive activities available to children, young people and families through initiatives such as the provision of information kiosks, Family Services Directory and the development of Parent Information Points.
- There has been one refurbished or new fixed play area provided in every District; six new innovative play spaces have been provided as part of the Play Builder Pilot and five new innovative activity places for young people aged 13 and above have been developed.
- The V-talent programme and other supported schemes, such as Duke of Edinburgh Award, have made additional volunteering opportunities available to young people, including those from vulnerable groups.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The implementation of a robust local commissioning framework as part of the new Children's Trust arrangements to ensure the provision of high quality positive activities.
- The further development of formal arrangements with District Councils to provide reduced cost leisure opportunities for care leavers and other vulnerable children and young people.
- An improvement in access to positive activities (including those taking place on Friday and Saturday evenings) in response to local need.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

What else do we need to do to ensure that the children and young people in Worcestershire enjoy and achieve?

The JAR and APA reports also indicated that we should:

- ensure that local authority data collection and analysis systems are developed to measure achievement and progress made by children and young people working below National Curriculum levels;

- ensure effective Personal Education Plans are in place for all looked after children;
- improve the percentage of children, at the end of the Foundation Stage, meeting the national benchmark for PSE scale and CLL scale.

Actions relating to these areas for improvement have been included in the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan for 2008-2011.

Children and Young People in Worcestershire Make a Positive Contribution.

What we said we would do.

The Children and Young People's Plan contains the following priorities and areas for improvement:

Priority seven: enable all children and young people to be responsible citizens and recognise the contribution they can make.

Areas for improvement

- More children and young people participating in decision making and giving their views on the local area.
- More children and young people with positive attitudes to diverse communities.

Priority Seven.

Enable all children and young people to be responsible citizens and recognise the contribution they can make.

More children and young people participating in decision making and giving their views on the local area.

How have we improved outcomes?

The JAR report for Worcestershire states that "A Children in Care Council, 'Who Cares, We Care!' has been established and a group of children and young people have helped to develop the Council's Pledge for Looked After Children. Almost all looked after children participate in their reviews and various creative methods....have been used to ensure that each child can make a meaningful contribution and be heard.....The local authority has a strong track record of enabling these children and young people (those with learning difficulties and disabilities) to make a positive contribution to their community. This begins with some excellent practice in schools and extends to consultation exercises such as Making Life Better and the Child's Voice conferences. The Youth Opportunities Fund is used to fund activities through Funding Lots of Stuff (FLOSS) to involve and support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in local decision making.'

In addition, the APA report says that "children and young people's involvement in making decisions about services is given a very strong focus by the council. Good numbers of children and young people, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, have their views represented through well established school councils and the youth cabinet to inform reviews of services....All looked after children's reviews are held on time with a very high proportion contributing their views."

There are no national indicators that are relevant to this area for improvement.

What have we achieved?

- A virtual Youth Forum has been established and Youth Cabinet members are working with District Forums to represent young people's views locally.
- A young person's representative has been appointed to and participates in the Children and Young People's Partnership Joint Commissioning Board.
- Young People's Engagement Forums are operational and young people have obtained ASDAN accredited qualifications and been trained as FLOSS assessors.
- The Children In Care Council has been established and has developed a pledge for looked after children.
- The V-talent scheme has been implemented and the vulnerable young people participating have been fully engaged in all aspects of the programme.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The provision of opportunities for representative groups of children and young people to meet together to share initiatives and concerns.
- The establishment of mechanisms by which young people are engaged in the structures and decision making of the Children's Trust.
- Embedding the Involving Children and Young People's Award across the partners.
- The completion of Leading Improvement for Looked After Children and Young People (LILAC) and establishment of a Care Leavers Forum to advise on service design and delivery.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Seven.

Enable all children and young people to be responsible citizens and recognise the contribution they can make.

More children and young people with positive attitudes to diverse communities.

How have we improved outcomes?

There are no references to this area of work within the APA and JAR reports.

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicator:

NI 23: 26.7% of Worcestershire residents participating in the Place Survey perceive that people in the area not treating one another with respect and dignity is a problem. Not being treated with respect and consideration appears to be more of a problem among younger people with 37% of those aged 18-34 seeing it as a big problem.

What have we achieved?

- The support to schools and early years settings in the teaching of

citizenship and equality and diversity has been improved by the provision of support, training and network groups.

- The facilities at the Finstall Centre have been enhanced to provide a single point of focus for development and support of English as an Additional Language, ethnic minority achievement and community cohesion.
- The Persona Dolls project has been expanded into children's centres and the Early Years English as an Additional Language Toolkit has been rolled out across early years settings.
- The iCoCo Community Cohesion Project has been implemented in all 9 pilot schools and good practice is being disseminated to other schools.
- More opportunities for young people and their families from different communities to engage with each other have been provided in children's centres, with over 550 new clubs established and over 1700 families participating.
- The Youth Cabinet has produced a Youth Manifesto and Action Plan, in which community cohesion can be identified as a key theme.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The commissioning of a new support service for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and families, and for schools.
- The development and implementation of a Promoting Community Cohesion in and Around Schools Strategy and Plan.
- The improvement in the support to citizenship subject leaders to develop their capacity in the management and teaching of citizenship at Key Stages 3 & 4, especially aspects relating to community cohesion.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

What else do we need to do to ensure that the children and young people in Worcestershire make a positive contribution?

The JAR and APA reports also indicated that we should:

- provide more opportunities for representative groups to meet together to share initiatives and concerns, and so enhance the capacity of the groups further;
- improve the re-offending rates of some groups of young people which are increasing, such that overall rates are now significantly higher than the national average.

Actions relating to these areas for improvement have been included in the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan for 2008-2011.

Children and Young People in Worcestershire Benefit from Economic Well-being

What we said we would do.

The Children and Young People's Plan contains the following priorities and areas for improvement:

Priority eight: ensure that all young people are able to access appropriate education, employment and training opportunities and make progress.

Areas for improvement

- More young people benefiting from information, advice and guidance before the age of 14.
- More young people in employment, education and training at age 19.

Priority nine: ensure all young people are equipped with essential life skills and have support to move successfully into adulthood.

Areas for improvement

- More young people from vulnerable groups moving into accommodation.
- More young people better prepared for adulthood.

Priority ten: enable children and young people to grow up in prosperous communities.

Area for improvement

- Fewer children and young people living in poverty.

Priority Eight. Ensure that all young people are able to access appropriate education, employment and training opportunities and make progress. More young people benefiting from information, advice and guidance before the age of 14.
How have we improved outcomes?
<p>There are no comments in the JAR or APA reports that relate to the information, advice and guidance.</p> <p>Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:</p> <p>NI 75: 47.5% of pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics. This did not meet the target of 55%.</p> <p>NI 78: There were 3 schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieved five or more A*-C or equivalent, including English and mathematics. This is the baseline from which future measurement will take place.</p> <p>NI 79: 75% of young people achieved a Level 2 qualification by the age of</p>

19, thus meeting the target of 75%.

NI 80: 52% of young people achieved a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19, meeting the target of 52%. This is higher than the national average of 49.8% and statistical neighbours.

NI 81: There is a 30% inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19. The target was 28%.

NI 82: 53% of young people eligible for Free School Meals achieved a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19. The target was 58.5%

NI 85: The post-16 participation rate in physical sciences (A level Physics, Chemistry and mathematics) was 839. This provides a baseline for further measurement.

NI 90: 126 young people took-up 14-19 learning diplomas. This provides a baseline for further measurement.

NI 91: Over the last 12 months, there has been an increase in the percentage of 17 year olds participating in education or training from 79.3% to 82%.

NI 117: 5.3% of 16-18 year olds were not in education, training or employment, compared to a national average of 6.7%. This provides the baseline for future measurement.

What have we achieved?

- Support has been provided to schools and 14-19 consortia to develop information, advice and guidance (IAG) as part of curriculum delivery in years 7-9. In March 2008, 95% of year 11 indicated that they were very satisfied with the IAG they had received.
- The percentage of young people achieving level 1 by the end of Key Stage 4 has increased from 90% in 2002/03 to 92.7% in 2007/08.
- The percentage of young people reaching level 2 at age 16 has improved from 53% in 2002/03 to 63.1% in 2007/08.
- Additional IAG support has been provided by the Connexions Service for 'at risk' and vulnerable learners.
- The September Guarantee has been met for year 11s and for 17 year olds.
- Over 130 events aimed to raise aspirations of young people to progress to higher education have been held in target communities, and the percentage of young people progressing to higher education has risen from 21% in 2003 to 33% in 2007.
- The percentage of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities retained in learning beyond the age of 16 has been rising year on year from 69.3% in 2006 to 80.4% in 2008.
- Guidance has been delivered to consortia to support recruitment to new 14-19 diplomas and the Foundation Learning Tier, with 126 young people accessing new diploma courses in 2008/09.
- 40 vulnerable young people have participated in SMART programmes and 94 in other engagement programmes.
- The percentage of young people in target areas of Worcester City retained in learning beyond the age of 16 has increased from 52.9% in 2007 to 60.6% in 2008.
- The percentage of young people in target areas of Kidderminster retained in learning beyond the age of 16 has increased from 52.4% in 2007 to 59.2% in 2008.

- Information on choices at 14 and progression pathways has been provided to parents and carers, including through the Area Wide Prospectus.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- To improve the percentage of young people achieving level 2 qualifications by age 19.
- The further development of the Area Wide Prospectus in order to provide information on courses accessible within the county and beyond.
- The provision of further support for schools and consortia to develop Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) as part of curriculum delivery in years 7, 8 and 9.
- The continued promotion of continuity in IAG for 14–19 learners, with targeted individual support for those individuals who are most vulnerable and at risk of being NEET.
- The continued provision of information on choices at age 14 and progression pathways to parents and carers.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Eight.

Ensure that all young people are able to access appropriate education, employment and training opportunities and make progress.

More young people in employment, education and training at age 19.

How have we improved outcomes?

The 2008 APA report for Worcestershire indicates that "over the last three years, the proportion of young people aged 16-19 who are not in education, employment or training has fallen faster than in similar councils and nationally and is now lower than in similar councils and nationally....the percentage of young people achieving level 3 qualifications is above that achieved by similar councils.....the high quality 14 to 19 strategy provides a diverse range of curriculum opportunities, including those in rural area of the county."

In addition, the JAR report confirms that "a good overall range of post-16 provision results in a lower percentage of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, who are not in education, employment or training than in similar authorities."

Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:

NI 45: 76.1% of young offenders were engaged in suitable education, employment or training. The target was 60%.

NI 91: Over the last 12 months, there has been an increase in the percentage of 17 year olds participating in education or training from 79.3% to 82%.

- NI 117:** 5.3% of 16-18 year olds were not in education, training or employment, compared to a national average of 6.7%. This is the baseline from which future measurement can take place.
- NI 148:** 50% of care leavers were in employment, education or training. The target was 60%. This is the baseline from which future measurement can take place.
- NI 174:** Skills gap in the current workforce reported by employers. The data for this indicator is not currently available as the survey used to measure this indicator takes place every two years.

The annual 14-19 Progress Check undertaken by the Government Office for the West Midlands that took place in Autumn 2008 noted that "good progress continued to be made on most areas covered by the Progress Check..... The overall assessment on the 8 Qualitative PIs was Amber Green with 4 of the PIs assessed as Green. Overall score of both quantitative and qualitative PIs was also Amber Green."

What have we achieved?

- The 14-19 curriculum has been reconfigured to engage learners and provide clear progression pathways, with all 5 consortia ready to deliver diplomas from 2009/10.
- The percentage of young people progressing from level 1 to 2 between the ages of 16 and 19 has risen from 32.5% for those who were 19 at the end of the 2005/06 cohort to 40.4% for 2006/07.
- The quality and range of provision for learners with special educational needs (SEN) has been improved leading to an increase in the percentage of young people with SEN who reach level one at the age of 19 from 50.5% in 2006/07 to 58.4% by 2007/08.
- Targeted projects have taken place to develop retention in learning in the Evesham/Pershore and Upton/Malvern areas and to improve the take-up on education and training in target areas of Worcester City.
- A targeted project to improve the post-16 engagement of disaffected/vulnerable learners through brokerage of personalised vocational and personal skills based options has been implemented.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- The development and increased provision of work based learning in line with the role of the National Apprenticeship Service and a reduction in numbers in employment without training.
- The continued reconfiguration of the 14 – 19 curriculum model and learner entitlement to engage learners and provide clear progression routes, including the implementation of diplomas.
- Improving the quality and range of provision for low achieving learners aged 14-19 years with Special Educational Needs, those eligible for free school meals and other vulnerable groups.
- Improving the take up of Education Maintenance Allowance.
- The development of sustainable local and county wide actions to address barriers of transport and learner movement to sites of learning and employment (particularly in rural areas).

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan

for 2009-2010.

Priority Nine. Ensure all young people are equipped with essential life skills and have support to move successfully into adulthood. More young people from vulnerable groups moving into accommodation.
How have we improved outcomes?
<p>The APA report for Worcestershire reports that "the percentage of care leavers living in suitable accommodation has risen from 82% to 92.3% and is now better than statistical neighbours and national averages."</p> <p>Outcomes for children, young people and families have been measured using the following national indicators:</p> <p>NI 46: 96.9% of young offenders have access to suitable accommodation. This is above the target of 95%.</p> <p>NI 147: 84.2% of care leavers live in suitable accommodation. This is below the target of 94%.</p>
What have we achieved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of housing and support options for young adults with LDD have been developed and there has been an increase young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 living in supported accommodation from 13.6% in August 2008 to 14.6% in March 2009.• Countywide information on adapted properties for those with physical disabilities has been collated and adaptations have been completed for 15 children aged 0-16 years and a further 5 young people aged 16-21 years.• A new range of supported accommodation for vulnerable young people in Kidderminster and Bromsgrove has been contracted and sites for building have been identified.• The Family Intervention Project has been developed to prevent family eviction and homelessness resulting from children and young people's anti-social behaviour.• Mediation by 'Relate' has enabled 9 young people to be reconciled with their families and a further 7 to be placed in alternative accommodation with the provision of support from their family.• Two youth homeless co-ordinators have been employed to co-ordinated access to accommodation and support.
What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The continued development of a range of housing and support options for young adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.• The extension of the Wyre Forest Family Intervention Project (FIP) to cover the whole county.• The continued establishment of consistent approaches to providing adaptations to accommodation across all District Councils.• Decreasing the number of young people and families with children

becoming homeless.

- Decreasing the number of 16/17 year olds in bed and breakfast temporary accommodation.
- Decreasing the number of young people who are homeless in South Worcestershire.
- The improvement of data and management information on the housing needs of families in Worcestershire to inform planning.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Nine.

**Ensure all young people are equipped with essential life skills and have support to move successfully into adulthood.
More young people better prepared for adulthood.**

How have we improved outcomes?

The APA report for Worcestershire indicates that "the percentage of care leavers living in suitable accommodation has risen from 82% to 92.3% and is now better than statistical neighbours and national averages." The JAR report states that "support for care leavers is adequate overall. Services are improving, but not sufficiently quickly. A designated senior post-16 manager is being established in all local Further Education Colleges following very positive outcomes from a pilot in Worcester. Several young people have been supported to consider going to university this year.....Most young people stay in care until they are 18 with a good continuation rate beyond this....The ration of care leavers in education, employment or training is 0.68%. This is below performance in similar authorities (0.75%) and nationally (0.76%)."

There are no national indicators relevant to this area for improvement.

What have we achieved?

- Person centred approaches to transition planning for pupils with SEN have been embedded and 100% of year 9 transition reviews were attended by the young person.
- Consistent approaches to supporting looked after children and care leavers in accessing and sustaining further education have been established.
- There were 1027 work experience placements in public service organisations in 2008.
- All schools were supported to deliver PSHE including financial capability education and skills to become successful parents and PSHE CPD programmes for teachers and school nurses have been delivered.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- A review of specialist service provision for young people with long term health conditions and their transition from paediatric to adult health services by March 2011.

- The continued establishment of mechanisms for supporting LAC and care leavers to access and sustain further education and employment-based training.
- Further implementation of the Think Family Project.

These areas for development are addressed in the revised CYPP action plan for 2009-2010.

Priority Ten.
Enable children and young people to grow up in prosperous communities.
Fewer children and young people living in poverty.

How have we improved outcomes?

The JAR and APA reports do not contain reference to this area of improvement.

Outcomes for children, young people and families will be measured using the following national indicator:

NI 116: The proportion of children living in poverty. The method for calculating this indicator has not yet been published by central government.

What have we achieved?

- Choice has been promoted for families of children with severe and enduring disabilities through the use of Direct Payments.
- 225 young children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have been included and supported in mainstream early years settings and 127 were supported by the Special Support Team.
- There were an additional 46 places for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in specialist childcare provision and holiday play schemes.
- Child care settings have been trained to offer high quality child care to children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities through initiatives such as the launch of the Inclusion Development Programme in Speech, Language and Communication, area SENCo training, training on planning for children with SEN and courses on the Code of Practice.
- There has been an increase in affordable childcare provision in areas identified by the Childcare Sufficiency Survey as having a deficit in provision, with 21 new childminders, and 5 new Ofsted registered groups equating to 100 new childminder places and 126 places in group provision.
- Family literacy, language and numeracy programmes have been delivered to 714 learners.

What areas require further development in 2009 – 2010?

- These activities will continue to be implemented in 2009/10.

What else do we need to do to ensure that the children and young people in Worcestershire benefit from economic well-being?

The JAR and APA reports also indicated that we should:

- ensure that pathway plans are in place for all looked after children;
- further develop support services for care leavers;
- ensure access to sufficient suitable accommodation to meet the needs of vulnerable care leavers.

Actions relating to these areas for improvement have been included in the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan for 2008-2011.

Service Management.

Children's Trust arrangements: the national and local picture.

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 and DCSF Children's Plan published in 2008 indicate that effective Children's Trust arrangements must be in place in every local authority area by 2010. The Trust must deliver measurable improvements that will have an impact on all children, young people and their families and "have consistent, high quality arrangements to provide identification and early intervention for children and young people who need additional help". Local areas have the flexibility to tailor local arrangements to local circumstances and priorities, thereby ensuring that the needs of children, young people and families in the area are responded to and met most effectively. In particular, the Children's Trust should focus on:

- narrowing the gap by improving outcomes for particular groups of children and young people (mainly the vulnerable groups) who are not doing as well as their peers, whilst also improving outcomes for all. This is already one of the three cross cutting themes in Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan;
- prevention, and the early identification of children which need additional support;
- empowering parents and carers, and respond more effectively and quickly to children and young people themselves;
- effective planning and commissioning of services and the flexible use of pooled budgets;
- improving integrated working between professionals working with children and young people;
- overcoming barriers to the sharing and use of information.

Consequently, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership are currently reviewing their arrangements and will publish a programme for change that outlines the reconfigured Children's Trust structure and process for achieving it.

Next Steps for Children's Services.

Alongside the reconfiguration of the Children's Trust arrangements, the Children's Services Directorate is currently reviewing its activities and considering how to transform the way that it delivers services to children, young people and families. The creation of an integrated and effective Children's Service should enable the directorate to:

- fully understand the range of needs of children, young people and families, and develop services that fully address these;
- possess a Children's Service workforce that is appropriately and highly skilled, is confident, can challenge itself and others and is fulfilled;
- have integrated and embedded systems which enable collaboration and early effective practice;
- have clear and understood performance management which supports effective resource management and service prioritisation;

- operates with a culture of collaboration, and whereby vision and values are evident through behaviours.
- have clear strategic planning processes held together by an effective governance and accountability framework.
- sustain and improve on its current performance.

The review will enable the Children's Service Directorate to be in the best position to respond most appropriately to the challenges of recent initiatives such as the Building Schools for the Future, as well as to provide a local response to national issues such as those highlighted in the Lord Laming Report. In addition, the review will enable arrangements to be made for integration of the Connexions Service and the relevant functions of the Learning and Skills Council into the Directorate.

Performance Management.

Performance management of the Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan has been undertaken during the last 12 months using the structures outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011. In addition to the arrangements for performance management of the CYPP, the activity of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is also monitored via the arrangements for performance management of the Local Area Agreement, the National Indicator Set and Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Joint Area Review of Worcestershire identified that:

“performance management is good. There are clear and robust performance monitoring processes...at partnership levels....which has resulted in good and improving performance indicators.....Internally, the partnership has a good understanding of most aspects of its own performance....As a consequence it has focussed successfully on those areas (of underperformance) to drive improvement.”

However, the Joint Area Review recommended that there should be more transparency in reporting on performance management to elected members to ensure public accountability. Consequently, we are now reporting on performance every six months to Worcestershire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee. Performance management seminars for County Council and District Council Elected Members are also held.

It also said that, in the long term, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership should ensure targets in all plans are clearly linked to resources and outcomes. The Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan takes the first steps towards this.

Performance management arrangements will be reviewed as part of the review of the Children's Trust.

Joint Commissioning

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership established revised arrangements in May 2008 to ensure a stronger focus on joint commissioning.

The new Joint Commissioning Board agreed that the joint commissioning priorities would be:

- teenage pregnancy / sexual health;
- child and Adolescent Mental Health;
- children with disabilities;
- speech language and communication needs.

A formal agreement has been drafted under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006, which sets out how Worcestershire NHS and the County Council will work together and pool resources in order to deliver improved outcomes in the priority areas. This agreement will be signed off in autumn 2009, following completion of a review of governance arrangements.

Joint commissioning sub-groups have been established for all four priority areas, building where appropriate on existing partnership arrangements. The review of Children's Trust arrangements will ensure that joint commissioning is embedded and effective.

Consulting with children, young people and families.

During the last 12 months we have continued to listen to the views of children, young people and their families and we believe that it is important that there is a real and visible commitment to engaging children and young people at every level. A list of the main consultations that have taken place can be found in Appendix One.

A major focus of consultation activity over the last twelve months has been consulting with children and young people who have a disability and their families about the short break services they receive and the activities they take part in. The consultation took the form of focus groups with children and young people and a questionnaire for parents and carers, as well as ongoing dialogue with service providers, including the voluntary and community sector. The consultation has indicated that:

- children and young people with disabilities and their families would like more information on what activities are available. Cost and accessibility of activities were also seen as barriers to participation;
- whilst children and young people with disabilities enjoy their specialist groups, they would like to attend these more frequently and they would also like to be able to have better access to mainstream activities.
- there can sometimes be a lack of specialist or appropriate equipment or specialist support workers that would facilitate involvement in mainstream provision.

These issues are being addressed as part of the Joint Commissioning arrangements and the Aiming High for Disabled Children project.

The national Tellus3 Survey of young people in Worcestershire schools was undertaken in May 2008. The results indicate that Worcestershire performs significantly better than the national average in the following areas of the survey:

- young people feeling safe around their local area;
- young people feeling safe in school;
- young people finding it easy to get help with their school work when they need it;
- young people giving their views to a school council;
- young people ranking their local area as a very poor place in which to live.

However, the results of the survey also indicate that young people in Worcestershire worry more about their school work; feel that their schools could do more to address bullying and that their views could be listened to more in the decisions made about their local area. The new Children and Young People's Plan action plan for 2009-2010 addresses these issues.

In the last twelve months, the following activities were supported by the Joint Engagement Management Group:

- following the Big Questionnaire in autumn 2007, the Youth Cabinet launched 'The Youth Manifesto' in June 2008. This outlines the main issues that were identified by young people in the Big Questionnaire and states

what they would like to see changed and who can assist them in making those changes. The document has been formally recognised by key strategic forums (e.g. Local Strategic Partnerships, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, the Safeguarding Board) and has been used to drive future developments.

- the Integrated Youth Support consultation in August 2008 aimed to obtain the views and opinions of young people and their families on how better coordinated services could be provided to ensure improved outcomes for young people, their families and their communities.
- the 'Who Cares We Care Council' is currently undertaking a survey with all looked after children and young people aged 3 – 18. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate and refresh the Pledge that the Children in Care Council (Who Cares We Care) presented to, and was agreed by, the Corporate Parenting Board in April 2008.

An in-depth consultation with Children, young people and their families around the Children Trust arrangements is currently being undertaken and, in line with the Children Trust Developments, the Joint Engagement Management Group is reviewing its role and responsibilities.

Equality and Diversity

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is committed to equality of opportunity and it values the diversity that exists amongst the children, young people and families in Worcestershire. Our continued commitment to equality and diversity is demonstrated in the values outlined in the full version of the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011. The plan's cross-cutting theme, narrowing the gap, has enabled the partnership to sustain its focus on improving outcomes for particular groups of children such as those from black and ethnic minority groups and those with learning difficulties and/or a disability. This annual review has already highlighted a number of areas where we have had an impact for such groups of children and young people. These include:

For black and ethnic minority groups:

- improved achievement for black and ethnic minority groups at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 (see page ***);
- the National Primary Strategy has been implemented with emphasis on the achievement of Pakistani and Bangladeshi pupils at Key Stage Two;
- the National Secondary Strategy has been implemented with a focus on the achievement of Black African/Caribbean pupils at Key Stage Four;
- the Minority Ethnic Achievement Programme and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement programme has been implemented to support the achievement of pupils from these groups;
- raising awareness of bullying and racist incidents in schools and the implementation of a pilot system to record such incidents;
- expansion of domestic abuse support service to respond to the needs of black and ethnic minority groups;
- schools and early years settings have been provided with extra support and training in the teaching of citizenship;
- the Finstall Centre has been developed as a single point of focus for the development and support of English as an Additional Language, ethnic minority achievement and community cohesion;
- the Persona Dolls project and English as an Additional Language Toolkit have been rolled-out across early years settings and children's centres;
- the iCoCo Community Cohesion Project has been implemented in 9 pilot schools and good practice is being disseminated.

For looked after children and care leavers

- the provision of low-cost leisure passes for looked after children, eligible care leavers and some families on low incomes;
- training of staff in children's homes on sexual health and the L8r programme;
- the appointment of a virtual head teacher for looked after children and the implementation of a targeted revision programme for those taking Key Stage Four and Key Stage Two tests;
- 48% of looked after children reached level four in mathematics at Key Stage Two, the achievement of looked after children at Key Stages Two, Three and Four has improved and the achievement gap between looked after children and that of all children in Worcestershire is narrowing;

- there has been additional provision of physical and cultural opportunities for looked after children, including free instrumental music tuition in school and holiday programmes;
- a pledge for looked after children has been developed.

For children and young people with a disability and/or learning difficulty:

- the analysis of educational achievement data for those working below national curriculum levels has been developed;
- CAMHS have been developed for children and young people with LDD who have a dual diagnosis and has been graded as level 3 in the CAMHS annual performance review;
- a range of housing and support options for young adults with LDD have been developed and there has been an increase in the young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 living in supported accommodation;
- countywide information is available on adapted properties for those with physical disabilities and adaptations have been completed for 15 children aged 0-16 years and a further 5 young people aged 16-21 years;
- person centred approaches to transition planning for pupils with SEN have been embedded and 100% of year 9 transition reviews were attended by the young person;
- further commissioning of £475,000 for short breaks provision and £283,000 capital expenditure for adaptations to venues and vehicles, following consultation with children and young people and their parents/carers.

The Children and Young People's Partnership will continue to strive towards improving these outcomes further, and also address the areas for improvement identified by the JAR and APA such as improving educational achievement for pupils with special educational needs.

List of relevant documents.

Children's Trusts: statutory guidance on inter-agency cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families, DCSF.

Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – Every Child, Every Young Person, Every Agency, One Plan – Action Plan.

Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – Every Child, Every Young Person, Every Agency, One Plan – Executive Summary.

Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – Every Child, Every Young Person, Every Agency, One Plan – Full Version.

Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 – Every Child, Every Young Person, Every Agency, One Plan – Young People's Version.

List of acronyms.

APA	Annual Performance Assessment
ASDAN	Award Scheme Development Accreditation Network
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Health Service
CAPA	Choice and Partnership Approach
CLL	Communication, Language and literacy
CPD	Continued Professional Development
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
FIP	Family Intervention Project
FLOSS	Funding Lots of Stuff
GRT	Gypsy, Roman and Traveller
IAG	Information Advice and Guidance
ICoCo	Community Cohesion Project
ISL	Integrated Services for Looked After Children
JAR	Joint Area Review
LAC	Looked After Children
LDD	Learning Disabilities and Difficulties
LILAC	Leading Improvement for Looked After Children
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NHS	National Health Service
NI	National Indicator
NIS	National Indicator Set
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education
OSSC	Overview and Scrutiny and Steering Committee
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PSE	Partners for Social Enterprise
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
YWC	You're Welcome Criteria

Appendix One

List of main consultations undertaken with children, young people and families between April 2008 and March 2009.

Title of Consultation	Purpose	Dates	Method	With Whom	Area of the county
Home to School travel and transport policy 2008/09.	To consult on Worcestershire County Council's policy for home to school transport services. It covers eligibility for free transport, assistance available for those not entitled to free transport, procedures for applying for transport, the appeals process and a code of conduct for pupils and students using transport arranged by the County Council.	March-April 2008.	Reports.	Parents/carers.	Countywide.
Redditch Library Refurbishment Public Consultation.	To gain comments, feedback and suggestions on plans for the forthcoming refurbishment of Redditch Library, and offer the opportunity to gain awareness of the plans and how related works will affect the library service during the refurbishment period.	April-May 2008.	Comment/visitor feedback card, exhibitions and presentations, focus groups, public /open meetings.	Children and young people aged 0-19 years, parents/carers.	Redditch.
Supporting People Young People's Strategic Review.	To ascertain young people's views on what housing support services they would like to operate in North Worcestershire. The service would be aimed at vulnerable young people who need support in order to get or maintain a tenancy independently. The consultation aimed to ascertain why a young person may use a housing support service, what their expectations of services are and how a support service might help them to achieve independence.	April – July 2008.	Focus Groups, public/open meetings.	Parent/carers, Young people aged 13-19 years.	Wyre Forest.
Diglis walk/cycle bridge and supporting links	The purpose of this consultation is to raise awareness and understanding of the Diglis Walk/Cycle Bridge and supporting schemes and to ask for public opinion about the schemes to better understand the surrounding community's needs, concerns and aspirations.	May 2008.	Compliments, comments and complaints, exhibitions and presentations, leaflets, media, public/open	Parents/carers	Worcester City

			meeting, Public Notice.		
St Johns Library Public Consultation.	A consultation on possible changes to St John's Library building using a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.	May-July 2008.	Area Forums, exhibitions and presentations, face to face survey, leaflets, mad, sad and glad boards.	Children and young people aged 0-19 years, parents/carers.	Worcester City.
Integrated Youth Support Strategy.	The County Council and its partners want to develop integrated provision for positive activities (educational and recreational leisure time activities), information, advice and guidance and targeted support for young people who have additional needs. To develop this with partners who support young people will require new ways of working. In this context the Council wants to develop local commissioning of services and is proposing that positive activities should be the first activity to be developed this way. The proposals offer a key role to local strategic partnerships.	June – September 2008.	Area Forums, exhibitions and presentations, reports, Scrutiny exercise, user forums and networks.	Parents/carers, young people aged 13-19 years.	Countywide.
Consultation on the possible closure of Malvern Hills Primary School.	To consider and consult on future options for a school that has been identified by Ofsted as being in 'Special Measures' and with significant numbers of surplus places.	August-September 2008.	Public /open meeting, Public Notice.	Children aged 5-13 years, parent/carers.	Malvern Hills.
Worcestershire's child care sufficiency survey.	This consultation gives the opportunity for people to comment on the Worcestershire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and highlight any relevant issues or concerns they may have.	January-March 2009.	Electronic survey / web survey, media.	Children aged 5-13 years, parent/carers.	Countywide.
Consultation on the possible closure of Elgar Technology College to allow for the establishment of a new academy.	To explain the option of opening a new academy in September 2009 in place of Elgar Technology College.	January – March 2009.	Area forums, mad, sad and glad boards, Public Notice.	Children and young people aged 5-19 years.	Worcester City.
Improvement to play facilities at Worcester Woods Country Park.	To inform a decision about the design of new play facilities at Worcester Woods Country Park.	May – June 2009.	Comment / visitor feedback card, on site survey.	Children and young people aged 0-19 years, parents/carers.	Worcester City.
Diglis Green Childcare sufficiency research consultation.	To investigate the need for after-school childcare.	May 2009.	Face to face survey, focus groups, public / open meeting.	Parent / carers.	Worcester City.

