

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008/09

Outcomes for Children and Young People

Be Healthy

Our overall judgement is Outstanding (grade 4) * *using grade descriptors published by Ofsted in relation to the inspection of children's services*

Key Achievements

- In the Health Care Commission Annual Health Check 2007/8 both Liverpool PCT and Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust were rated as excellent for quality of services and good for use of resources. The Women's Hospital was rated good for quality of services and excellent for use of resources. The Core Standards were fully met. Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust also achieved World Health Organisation accreditation as a health promoting hospital – the first in England.
- The Alder Hey specialist CAMHS Tier 3 service, delivered through three geographical teams, has incorporated a novel method of responding to demand. It is the 'Choice and Partnership Approach'. Whilst this does not address the needs of all referrals, it has significantly reduced waiting times for many.
- The 'Father and Sons' project led by Alder Hey for Black and racial minority communities was a highly successful and innovative intervention utilising culturally appropriate methods of working.
- The FAST (Families and Schools Together) project is a well evidenced community engagement approach being delivered for the first time in the UK in Liverpool, led by an Alder Hey clinician.
- We are developing a Targeted Mental Health service in schools as part of the phase 2 roll-out. This will provide innovative and holistic services to pupils aged 5 to 13 years at risk of, and/or experiencing, mental health problems; and their families. The schools where the service will be based from August 2009 are Clifford Holroyde, Ernest Cookson, Hope and Lower Lee schools, together with the Pupil Referral Unit.
- 88% of 5 to 16 year olds received 2 hours of physical education and sport per week (up from 55% in 2005).
- 84% of 11 year olds could swim 25 metres (up from 50% in 2005)
- A "Transforming school food" strategy was launched and a £4m three - year programme funded by Liverpool PCT with salad bars provided to 55 schools and free hot meals in Pupil Referral Units.
- The Liverpool *Hit the Ground Crawling* support project for young fathers, was awarded 2nd place at the annual Liverpool Women's Hospital's Excellence Awards in the category of partnership working

- The success of SmokeFree Liverpool has been followed up by SmokeFree Kids with a social marketing campaign and multi-agency action to reduce exposure of children to second-hand smoke.
- Liverpool PCT set up an Accident Board to co-ordinate a review, produce and monitor an Accident Prevention Strategy under the chair of the Director of Public Health, who also chairs the Child Death Overview Panel.
- There is evidence of narrowing the gap in terms of infant mortality and a target to reach the England average by 2014.
- Due to increased investment of resources the number of children waiting for speech and language therapy was reduced from 351 in April 2008 to 270 in September 2008. Further investment was agreed which will reduce this again.
- A new short-breaks unit for disabled children was opened, jointly funded by Liverpool PCT and City Council.

Stay Safe

Our overall judgement is Good (grade 3) * *using grade descriptors published by Ofsted in relation to the inspection of children's services*

Key Achievements

- The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation improved from 79% to 92%.
- The percentage of children in care who were adopted rose from 7.9% to 8.5%.
- The Common Assessment Framework Co-ordinator post has been successful in promoting the use of the Common Assessment Framework, with numbers exceeding targets, and an evaluation of the quality of the CAFs completed has been commissioned from Barnardo's.
- A focus on identifying privately fostered children led to 9 children being identified throughout the year, as opposed to none in the previous year.
- The school attendance of Looked After Children placed in Liverpool was better than the local authority average and the number of looked after children missing 25 or more days dropped for the second consecutive year from 19.5% in 2006 to 13.1%.
- Opening of a new residential home for young people.
- Successful bid to pilot a Social Care Practice for Looked After Children.
- Collaboration between Merseyside Police and Children's social care staff on Operation Staysafe was picked up as best practice and promoted in the Youth Crime Action Plan.
- Improved commissioning of placements for children in care resulted in substantial savings and improved quality assurance monitoring.

- A further 2% reduction in bullying reported by children in the annual Anti-bullying audit.

Enjoy and Achieve

Services dedicated to raising the achievement of children and young people are judged to be good. * *using grade descriptors published by Ofsted in relation to the inspection of children's services*

The focus on narrowing the achievement gap against national outcomes ensures continued rates of improvement at Key Stage 4 that build on improvements in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key stages 1, 2, and 3 - an achievement sustained over a period of several years. Some significant achievement gaps have been narrowed or closed in respect of specific vulnerable groups targeted for additional support and intervention.

Schools receive effective support to develop innovative curriculum approaches matched to the needs of the pupils. The four Travel to Learn Partnerships have focused, through the Partnership Support and Challenge process, on developing a wider range of curriculum offers, including diplomas, to better meet the needs of learners. We link closely with the BSF team to ensure Wave 6 design briefs reflect the innovative curriculum opportunities that will be available as the 14-19 reform programme is rolled out. Effective support has been provided to enable schools to build on the implementation of Assessment for Learning, ensuring that increasing numbers of pupils are actively engaged in their own learning, in self-review and peer review. Support has been effective in enabling schools to play a full part in the city's Capital of Culture year.

Effective consultation with schools has ensured that plans are in place to address the issues of leadership succession. Procedures leading to the appointment of head teachers have been successful in the main.

Services provided to schools by the teams within the service are increasingly well-coordinated. The balance of support and challenge provided to schools is effective. There is appropriate focus on those schools that give cause for concern. Local Authority funding proposals for the 13 National Challenge schools were accepted and national curriculum advisors are all in place.

Key Achievements

- **Early Years Foundation Stage:** NI 72 showed an improvement of 4.2% in increasing the number of children who achieved an average FSP score of 78+points at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. NAA rating NI 72 judged our FSP data to be secure
- **Key Stage 1:** attainment in reading and writing at L2B+ has improved and narrowed the gap with national outcomes. Performance in mathematics has also improved at L2C+ and L2B+ and is now in line with national outcomes. Performance in mathematics at L3 is better than national outcomes
- **Key Stage 2:** significant improvement at L4+, year on year, change being upper quartile for English and mathematics combined and within the top 40 local authorities for 2007-2008. Improvements in English, reading and mathematics at

L4+ are also upper quartile. As a result, performance at L4+ in both English and mathematics is closing the gap with national outcomes

- **Key Stage 3:** Liverpool made significantly higher gains at L5 and L6 than were made nationally in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science. Liverpool is now in line with national attainment for level 6 in English at key stage 3
- **GCSE:** following strong year on year progress, Liverpool pupils achieved as well as all pupils nationally by the 5A*-C GCSE and equivalent measure in summer 2008
- **14 to 19:** Liverpool has been particularly successful through the "Gateway Process" and by September 2009, nine of the first ten diplomas will be an option in most parts of the city.
- **EMTAS/LACES:** through sharply focused support programmes for individuals and groups, vulnerable Black and racial minority and looked after learners have made significant progress in many subject areas and key stages this includes a "recently arrived" young person who sat the Arabic A level and achieved a result that placed her in the top 10% nationally
- **Neighbourhood Learning Directors** have worked successfully on the implementation of the statutory duty to cooperate by developing effective partnership working arrangements within and across schools, neighbourhoods and agencies to safeguard vulnerable children and families and have also maintained a programme of tailored support to individual and groups of schools through Learning Networks
- **Behaviour/Attendance:** Liverpool schools have continued to make significant progress in reducing persistent absence, exceeding the DCSF target. The reduction in the level of exclusions from schools has been maintained and additional resources have been invested in behavioural support strategies in schools, including support for parents

Make a Positive Contribution

We judge our work in this area to be good with some outstanding features as we continue to embed active participation of children and young people into service design and delivery; and continue to make excellent progress in increasing the number of young people on pathways to success through engagement in positive activities, reductions in NEET and effective actions to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime.

Key Achievements

- The number of young people gaining an accredited outcome as a result of their participation in youth work continues to increase from 49% in 2007-08 to 65% in 2008-09. The National Youth Agency report published January 2009 indicates Liverpool is ranked 6th highest for performance in this area and ranked 14th for the number of young people who participate in activities. The number of young people in contact with the service has increased by 39% when compared with figures for 2007-08.
- The Creative Café project led by young people won a National Youth Service award.
- The YOF allocation process was changed following the recommendations of young people and as a result 2 substantial capital projects are being developed each year to ensure a long term legacy. Projects being developed in 2008-09 include Knotty Ash Youth Centre being developed as a specialist music provision with additional grant being provided by the Home Office for £48k of musical instruments. Consultation with young people also resulted in the Youth Capital Plus being

invested in development of an Integrated Youth Support Centre in an area providing pupil referral unit/alternative education provision during the day and evening/ weekend provision for the local community.

- School Councils have influenced a range of policies and services in schools including school meals, playground facilities, anti bullying initiatives, First Aid training for pupils, recycling and school travel plans. The Tellus Survey indicated 15% of those surveyed felt their views were valued a 'great deal' compared with the national average of 12%.
- The number of looked after children and young people who participated in statutory reviews has increased from 79.3% in 2007-08 and is on track to achieve 92%.
- Auditing of children and young people with disabilities/SEN in selecting out of school provision indicated 99% of 'first choice' being arranged. 20% of young people were surveyed in September and the evaluation indicates high levels of satisfaction with young people identifying increases in socializing/friends and confidence as major outcomes.
- The number of young offenders on the pathway to success by being in education, or employment with training at the end of their order has increased from 73.08% in 2007-08 and is on track to exceed the target of 77.5% (December figure of 79.3%). This compares well with the national average (2007-08) at 71.7% and other core cities which ranged from 54.6% to 68.2%.
- The range and quality of suitable accommodation for young offenders has increased through joint work with Supporting People and housing. Two young offenders moved into their own flats as part of this work. The service target of 90% for suitable accommodation is being exceeded and currently stands at 96%.
- The DISARM Strategy for tackling knife, gun and gang issues was developed across Children's Services, Community Safety, the Third Sector and Merseyside Police and other key partners including community representation. In 2007/08 the service saw a decrease by almost 5% on the previous year. The revised outturn for first time entrants sets an ongoing target of a year on year reduction of 5% which although not unachievable is a significant challenge. The number per 1000 still compares well with other core cities (Liverpool 12 per 1000, Newcastle 37 per 1000). The measure for the rate of re-offending has changed this year from numbers of young people to numbers of offences. A comparison of the same period for 2007-08 with 2008-09 for rate of re-offenders shows a reduction from 24.2% to 17.9%. The mid point data for the new measure is on track at 57 (target 162) but there is currently no national or local comparator data for this performance.
- Arrangements for Integrated and Targeted Youth Support are active through Team around the School and Locality Teams. Case studies are available to show multi - agency early intervention bringing about positive outcomes for young people.

Achieve Economic Well-Being

We judge that the actions taken to support children and families towards maximising their economic wellbeing to be good with some outstanding features.

An example has been the outstanding participation of children and young people in the European Capital of Culture initiatives of 2008; this participation is assured in the activities planned for 2009 and beyond. In these activities in particular, children have designed their own contributions and within the mass take up offered by universal opportunity there has also been targeted opportunity ensuring disabled children and those from Black and racial minority communities and their parents have also become fully involved. The overall

contribution of children and young people to these enormous community programmes was outstanding.

Key Achievements

- The Childcare Information Strategy has put in place measures which are based on meeting the full range of needs. Diverse groups of parents and carers are offered a good range of flexible and affordable childcare places. The information about this range of child-care opportunities is outstanding and the support available to minimise the financial stress on families of childhood activity is very good.
- The Children Centre programme is ahead of national targets, providing families with excellent advice and support through multi-agency and partnership working, especially for hard to reach groups. Information is provided in 11 languages not including English.
- The Children's Information Service has excellent links with Job Centre Plus and with community and childminder networks to ensure that parents/carers get appropriate advice on benefits and tax credit exemptions. Families can easily access adult and community learning opportunities to improve job prospects and their learning skills. Targeted initiatives with free childcare to encourage parents to return to work/training have been successfully rolled out as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

- As evidenced by the Joint Area Review report published in 2008:

the 14-19 Learning Partnership provides effective strategic leadership and direction for the development of 14-19 provision. Working groups are in place to effectively manage and implement a strategy for the curriculum, and provide information, advice and guidance. A Vulnerable Learners' Group has quickly established priorities based on a good analysis of needs and performance data. School consortia or 'collaboratives' have been well established, improving the quality of 16-19 education, training and collaboration between schools, the further education college and work-based learning providers. Post-16 provision, underpinned by the Learners Entitlement, has broadened the curriculum, increased the mobility of young people, and raised rates of recruitment and attainment significantly to enable the partnership to meet the government's September Guarantee of a place in learning for all young people at the end of Year 11. Good action plans are in place in most collaboratives to take the work forward, although a few do not set specific, time-limited targets.

- In addition, the Liverpool 14-19 Partnership includes all stakeholder groups and oversees all developments relating to capital plans, quality assurance and protocols. The group ensures the effectiveness of partnership provision through an annual cycle of review and challenge. There is a clear plan in place for the delivery of the Entitlement by 2013 and all schools and colleges have been involved in the development of the plan. School specialisms and planned BSF facilities have informed the identification of lead institutions for each Diploma line.
- To manage the extended curriculum schools and colleges have been grouped into four 'Travel to Learn Partnerships' each having a linked 14-19 officer. These partnerships are building on existing good practice in collaborative delivery and include special schools. These partnerships are responsible for the local delivery of the entitlement and as part of their remit, plan infrastructure development collaboratively including:
 - Partnership management of DSG funding for practical learning:
 - Partnership management of transport

- Partnership Curriculum planning 14-19 including maximising BSF opportunities and school specialisms
 - Partnership Quality Assurance;
 - Partnership Information Advice and Guidance arrangements.
- Liverpool has gained a reputation of being at the forefront of diploma delivery, in particular in the innovative approaches to delivering diplomas. We have already developed off-site provision but have ambitious plans, using other capital funds, to create Diploma Learning Zones in key sectors which reflect the economic growth in the local area. The roll out of the first five diploma lines commenced in September 2008 and Liverpool is one of only ten areas in the country to do so.
 - Information Advice and Guidance has high priority at all levels. The 'i-chooseliverpool' brand includes both an online and paper based prospectus, a suite of support materials, an *i-choosediplomas* resource includes a common application system. All aspects of the brand are produced in consultation with a learner user groups and are recognised nationally as effective practice.
 - Good collaborative working between individual schools and the college underpins the ongoing improvement of achievement at 14-16. The proportion of young people gaining five or more A*-C grades at GCSE has risen significantly from 40.2% in 2002 55.3% in 2006 to 66.1% in 2008. This places Liverpool above the national average for the first time.
 - The 14-19 partnerships continue to work to agencies to narrow the gap in attainment for vulnerable learners and to improve the percentage of looked after children age 16 engaged in education employment and training and support their transition from children's to adult services. The provision of Skills Clubs and a flourishing Increased Flexibility Project continues to be highly effective in providing pathways for those at risk and disadvantaged to ensure continued participation and improved progression and attainment.
 - The proportion of young people achieving a level 2 qualification to age 19 has increased to 64% and Level 3 to 35%.
 - NEET has now fallen to 9.0% (September 2008) and is now only 0.5% above the national average. Strategies are in place to deliver the raising of the compulsory age of participation.