

Suffolk's Children and Young People:

A Summary of the Suffolk Assessment, including emerging priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan 2006.

This summary document highlights the key findings from the Suffolk Assessment. The Suffolk Assessment reviews current outcomes for children and young people in Suffolk, against the Every Child Matters Outcomes framework, and seeks to provide an evaluation of the contribution of services and organisations to these outcomes. It draws on joint self-evaluation exercises across the children and young people's strategic partnership in 2005, the *ECM Autumn Survey of Children and Young People*, and a wide range of reports from and interviews with organisations working to meet the needs of children and young people, and their parents and carers.

This document summarises what we have found out and what, as a consequence, are the emerging areas for development that we think should be at the heart of the Children and Young People's Plan. The document also reviews significant service developments proposed to deliver the change for children programme. It can be read as an independent document, but readers are encouraged to refer to the full Suffolk Assessment for a more comprehensive analysis, to understand the range of partnership working in place and to review the evidence behind the headlines.

You are invited to comment on the evidence and the emerging priorities on the consultation response form available on the Suffolk County Council web-site.

The consultation runs from February 13 to March 13 2006.

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What we know about children and young people in Suffolk

Suffolk is the eighth largest county in England, with a current population estimated at 678,100. 42% of the population lives in rural communities. The population in Suffolk is growing – up to 2011, it is predicted there will be a rise of 6.5% (an increase of 43,300) across the County

The Under –19 Population

- There are currently 157,660 children and young people aged 18 and under in Suffolk, representing 23.1% of the total population. 23.8 % of this group is currently under 5 (37,544). The population of children and young adults is expected to stay fairly stable over the short-term, but with a slight reduction to 159,800 by 2011.
- Pupil numbers have risen from 94,097 to 100,545 over the last 11 years (1995 to 2006). It is expected that the school population will remain close to 99,000 over the next five years.
- There are only six out of 175 wards in the County where the percentage of black or minority ethnic residents exceeds the national average of 9.08% – two in Forest Heath and four in Ipswich. The school rolls show that 8.3% of pupils at Suffolk maintained schools have a black or minority ethnic background
- The percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals varies across the county, from 4.8% in Mid-Suffolk to 15.9% in Ipswich.
- In March 2005 there were 6003 children in need, 405 children and young people on the Child Protection Register and 663 Looked After Children.
- In January 2006 1,088 children and young people were registered on the No Limits database. This database is maintained by the disabled children's specialist team which actively supports around 600 of these children and young people. The latest census data gave the number of disabled children in the county as nearer to 7,000.
- In January 2006 there were 3,612 children with a statement of special educational need.
- 15,249 children were identified by their schools as having special educational needs requiring School Action or School Action Plus – or around 15.2% of the school population.
- 5% of households in Suffolk are lone parents with dependent children, compared to 6.5% nationally.

Being Healthy: The aims of this outcome include being

- Physically healthy
- Mentally and emotionally healthy
- Sexually healthy
- Supported to adopt healthy lifestyles
- Supported to choose not to take illegal drugs.

What we know

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services links closely with the delivery of the Every Child Matters outcomes. Effective partnership working between health, education, social care and other partners is an expectation and requirement to improve outcomes.

What we want

BH1. Improved data and intelligence sharing between partners in support of better outcomes

The physical health of children and young people: What we know

- Suffolk's low birth weight rate is 6.9%, below the national average of 8% of births below 2500gms. We have a PSA target to reduce this further to 5.9%
- Rates of smoking during pregnancy vary across the county, from 24.3% in Waveney to 15.2% in Suffolk Coastal
- Rates for initiation of breastfeeding also vary, recording lowest in Waveney at 62.8% and highest in Suffolk Coastal at 75.1%
- Infant and child mortality rates at all stages are lower than national averages
- Immunisation rates at age 5 are better than the national average
- 86% of Looked After Children have an annual health and dental check – significantly better than the national average of 77.3%.
- In line with national trends, children in the east of England are increasingly overweight. In 2002 5.7% of boys and 20.7% of girls aged 2-15 were reported as overweight, and a further 6.6% of boys and 5.8% girls as obese.

What we want

BH2. fewer pregnant women smoking and more to initiate and maintain breastfeeding, particularly in target areas
BH3. fewer children overweight or obese

Healthy lifestyles: What we know

- Healthy Eating objectives have been developed in collaboration with schools, health professionals and catering contractors and include the supply of nutritionally balanced meals, sourced locally wherever possible.
- In July 2005, 77% of pupils were meeting the target for pupils to be involved in at least 2 hours of physical activity per week, against a national target of 75%.
- Inspection visits to childcare providers and schools report generally good support offered for the adoption of healthy lifestyles

What we want

BH4. all children and young people to have the opportunity to be involved in sport and/or physical activity in and out of school, including children and young people vulnerable to exclusion, or with additional need.

Mental health and emotional well being

What we know

- Between 10% and 20% of children and young people have a mental health problem, and a small percentage will experience severe mental illness.
- Good mental health supports an individual's capacity to make the most of his/ her life and abilities.
- In Suffolk some aspects of access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health services have been identified as being of significant concern:
 - support for children and young people with learning disability with mental health problems,
 - out of hours support,
 - support for 16 and 17 year olds
 - waiting times
- Research has identified a range of risk factors known to impact on mental health such as levels of deprivation or a family history of mental health problems. It also identified groups of children and young people particularly at risk, such as Looked After Children, young people in the youth justice system, and factors such as bullying, substance misuse and truancy. Using this information enables estimates to be made of the likely prevalence of child mental health problems, given the population and characteristics of Suffolk. For example, using this methodology it is estimated that 840 young adolescents (between 10 and 14 years old) will have an Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and that up to 1,768 young people of the same age may attempt suicide.

What we want

- BH5. all children and young people to develop emotional resilience and emotional intelligence
- BH6. children and young people experiencing problems affecting their mental health or emotional well being are identified and helped at an early stage, especially identified vulnerable groups
- BH7. waiting times for access to CAMHS to be within national norms
- BH8. children and young people with learning difficulties have their mental health needs addressed
- BH9. secure and appropriate mental health services for children and young people around the clock
- BH10 appropriate service for adolescents within hospital and emergency care mental health services

Sexually healthy

What we know

- The rates of teenage conceptions for under 16s and under 18s have reduced and we are on track to meet the targets of halving the under-18 conception rate by 2010, and establishing a firm downward trend in the under 16 rate. There has

been a conception rate reduction of 12.5% per 1,000 women aged 15-17 between 1998 and 2003.

- Overall the rates of conception are now lower than the national rates (at 37.5 per 1,000 young women aged 15-17, compared to 46.6 nationally). However, there are "hot-spot" wards in Ipswich and Lowestoft where the rates are two and sometimes three times higher than the national rate.
- High quality and comprehensive sex and relationships education is a core theme of Personal, Social and Health Education work in schools, and has been identified by children and young people themselves as a priority.
- There is concern about the rise in sexually transmitted infections presented by young people aged 16 to 25. New episodes seen at specialist clinics in the region rose by 81% between 1995 and 2003.

What we want

- BH11. rates of teenage pregnancy to continue to fall, and that this fall is seen across all areas, especially where the rate is currently higher than average
- BH12 young people can access high quality information and advice on sex and relationships issues in confidence
- BH13. a reduction of sexually transmitted infections

Supported to choose not to take illegal drugs:

What we know.

- During 2004, 3557 young people engaged with substance misuse services at Tier 2 and 380 at Tier 3¹.
- It is estimated that 2,650 children under the age of 15, and 3262 under the age of 19 are living with parental substance misuse in Suffolk.
- The Drug and Alcohol Action Team jointly commissions across all four tiers of substance misuse service. This includes children and young people up to 19 years of age and focuses on interventions to children of parents who misuse drugs and alcohol as well as young people who are using/misusing substances.
- There is a specific emphasis on targeted services to young people who are vulnerable to misusing drugs and alcohol including children looked after, young offenders, excluded pupils and truants.
- Tier 2 focus is targeted prevention with vulnerable young people. The focus is on early identification and intervention. Often these young people have a wide variety of needs and will require services that meet all of their needs in a coherent way.
- Middle and Upper Schools have been encouraged through the Schools Advisory Service and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to review their substance misuse provision and to become involved in using the Drug Use Screening Tool. They have also been urged to consult with the Norfolk Community Alcohol Service - Outreach service (NORCAS) if they have more specific concerns.
- Tiers 3 and 4 are specialist services both at an operational and strategic level. Over the next year Tier 3 provision will be consolidated and expanded in order to provide a comprehensive high quality service. Current Tier 3 services are commissioned from NORCAS
- There are only a very small number of deaths of children and young people directly attributable to drug taking. Numbers of drug-related mental health or behavioural problems are not yet available

¹(services are classified in 4 tiers with Tier 4 being supporting the most complex cases)

What we want

- BH14 Firmer integration of substance misuse services within generic provision to children and young people at Tier 2 and 3
- BH15 Tier 3 provision developed in partnership with the Children and Young Peoples Directorate and NORCAS

Staying Safe: The aims of this outcome include children and young people being safe from
Maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
Accidents injury and death
Bullying and discrimination
Crime and anti-social behaviour and
Have security, stability and are cared for

Children and young people are safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation: what we know

- 100% of children on the Child Protection Register and children looked after are allocated to a Social Worker. Suffolk's performance remains well above both its comparator group and the national performance averages.
- 100% of Child Protection Reviews and 95% of Looked After Children's reviews take place within timescale (2004/05). These performance outturns are well above both Suffolk's comparator group average and the national average.
- The percentage of *initial assessments* completed within timescale has increased from 57% in 2002/03 to 74.6% in 2004/05 and our planned result for 2005/06 is 80%.
- The percentage of *core assessments* completed within timescale, has risen from 40% in 2002/03 to 76% in 2004/05 .
- The number of children placed on the Child Protection Register for 2004/05 is relatively high at 406 or 27.3 per 10,000 of the under 18 population.
- The number of re-registrations on the Child Protection Register is still relatively high at 16.4% in 2004/05. Our planned performance for 2005/06 is 12%.

What we want

- | | |
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| SS1 | The establishment of a Safeguarding Board by April 2006. |
| SS2 | The identification of effective family support projects and programmes that may be developed on a countywide basis to help divert children away from the child protection system |
| SS3 | Establish and develop professional networks to support the work of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children |

Children and young people are safe from accidental injury and death: what we know

- Council play facilities are subject to rigorous Health and Safety risk assessments and procedures
- Domestic violence accounts for a quarter of all violent crime in Suffolk
- The number of young people, aged 16 and 17, KSI on Suffolk's roads during 2005 totalled 57 (3 fatalities and 53 seriously injured).

What we want

- | | |
|-----|--|
| SS4 | work across children's and adult services to better protect children being placed on the Child Protection Register due to the increase in the incidence of domestic violence being reported. |
| SS5 | the reduction in the number of children and young people killed or seriously injured on the roads of Suffolk. |

Children and young people are safe from bullying and discrimination:

What we know:

- There were 501 racist incidents reported in Suffolk schools in 2004/5: 95% of these involved verbal abuse, 6% involved physical assault or intimidation.
- The results of a recent survey of 1700 pupils suggest that bullying is seen as a major issue by children and young people in Suffolk schools. The findings include the following:
- 82% of children between the aged of 5 and 11 years said *Yes* to the question *'I would tell an adult if someone was being unkind or bullying other children in my school.'*
- 27.6% of the young people surveyed aged 11 to 18 years said *'That bullying is a big problem in my school'*.
- 35.5% of 5 to 11 year olds answered *Yes* to the question *'Sometimes I don't want to go to school because other children are nasty to me'*
- Only 27.4% of 11 to 18 year olds said *Yes* to the question *'Everyone in their school is treated fairly and with respect'*
- 58.1% of young people aged 11 to 18 years of age said *'There is bullying going on that the staff don't notice'*

What we want

- SS6 to support teachers in managing behaviour and addressing issues of bullying and harassment in schools
- SS7 to increase the self esteem of all pupils and mutual respect

Children and young people are safe from crime and anti social behaviour in and out of school: What we know

- This aim is measured by the Performance indicator; *The fear of crime and anti-social behaviour (HO/CIS/CPS)*. Suffolk's youth justice board relies on the British Crime Survey as the source for this data. Reducing the fear of crime is monitored through a local Criminal Justice Board Key Performance Indicator.

What we want

- Section to follow

Children and young people have security and stability and are cared for:

What we know

- The short-term stability of Looked After Children's placements is defined as, *The % of looked after children at the end of the year who experienced 3 or more moves during the first twelve months of their care*. This was 9% in 2004/05.
- The health of Looked After Children is measured by *The percentage of LAC who received a medical and dental check during the year* which was relatively high at 88% for 2005/06.
- The long-term stability of LAC placements *is the number of children who have been in care for 4 years and in the same foster care placement for the last 2 years* This was 49% in 2004/05
- We require improved choice and range of foster carers, and recruiting foster carers from the black and ethnic minority community is a priority.

What we want

- SS8 to minimise the number of Looked After Children, and increase alternative provision
- SS9 to improve the support being offered to foster carers from a range of specialist services

SS10 improved links with the black and ethnic communities to ensure the successful recruitment and retention of carers.

Enjoying and Achieving: This outcome's aims are that children and young people should

- Be ready for school
- Attend and enjoy school
- Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school
- Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school
- Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation

What we know

- Ofsted inspections of schools carried out during the 2004/5 academic year judged that schools were effective in the standards achieved, the development of pupils attitudes and values, in providing a good standard of teaching and learning, with good care, guidance and support under good leadership and management.
- All schools belong to one of 18 community clusters which are developing an extended schools programme. Childcare services, use of premises and resources by the community, and additional study support are amongst the range of new offerings now on stream or in development.
- 48,000 Suffolk Youth Cards have been issued to children and young people in Suffolk up to the age of 19 offering discounts to users on travel and other services, out of a potential target group of 95,000. Around 30% of the cards have been issued to young people aged 16-19.

What we want

- EA1 schools to maintain their generally good standards as reported by Ofsted , including in the new ECM outcome areas.
- EA2 all children and young people to have access to a range of opportunities offered through the extended schools programme
- EA3 more children and young people to use the Youth Card to access education and leisure opportunities

Be ready for school

What we know

- In December 2005, there were 333 registered providers of integrated childcare places in the county, offering 19,700 places
- By 2008, Suffolk will have 34 Children's Centres around the County. Six will be in place by April 2006.
- A good quality early education place is accessible and free of charge for all three and four year olds whose parents want one. Inspections of settings by Ofsted indicate that provision is generally good or very good
- Suffolk children score in line with national patterns on the Foundation Stage Profile– performing best in disposition and attitudes, and least well in linking sounds and letters and writing. Early indications are that children in Sure Start local programme areas perform less well than Suffolk children generally.

What we want

- EA4 sustainable school-age childcare available in identified localities
- EA5 improved access to integrated services for families and children through a countywide network of Children's Centres

EA6 the gap in Foundation profile scores in Sure Start local programme areas to be closed

Attend and enjoy school

What we know

- Attendance rates in primary and secondary school compare favourably with the national average. Attendance at primary schools (in the 2004/5 academic year) was 94.91% in primary schools and 92.66% at secondary schools – an overall rise of 0.14%, which reflected the national picture.
- Identified schools and pupils are supported in improving their attendance through a range of intervention strategies.
- The percentage of Looked After Children missing 25 days or more from school was 17.9% in 2004/5 compared to a national average of 12.1% in 2003/4.
- Over a third of Suffolk teenagers reported frequent feelings of anxiety and stress, and that younger pupils are most likely to be made sad by feelings of being alone, having no-one to play with or by people being nasty to them. These feelings can impact on attendance at school and success in activities.
- 236 young carers have been supported in attending school and taking part in other activities enjoyed by their peers. It is estimated there may be over 4,000 young carers in the county.

What we want

EA7 persistent truants to improve attendance

EA8 improved attendance in identified schools

EA9 more pupils to stay motivated through access to a broader curriculum

EA10 the emotional well being of all pupils to be acknowledged and needs addressed (link to Being Healthy)

Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school

What we know

- Our performance at Key Stage 1 (pupils aged 7) is good compared to national figures. In 2005, results at level 2 and above show improvements from the previous year, and were bigger than gains made nationally. Performance at Level 2b is a useful indicator of the potential to achieve the expected Level 4 at age 11 – and in 2005, there were encouraging gains of 2% in reading, 1% in writing, but a drop of 1% in mathematics.
- At Key Stage 2 performance since 2002 has generally improved but at a much slower rate than our comparator authorities. Furthermore, Suffolk's performance is below the national average in English, mathematics and science. At Level 4 and above (the expected level), there was a 1% gain in English, but no change in either mathematics or science. Writing dropped by 2% to 61%. Children who achieve Level 2 at aged 7, are expected to achieve Level 4 at aged 11 – but in Suffolk, this conversion rate is low.
- We failed to meet DFES targets at Key Stage 2 in 2005, and will need to make gains of 3% at Level 4 and above in English and a 7% improvement in mathematics to meet the adjusted targets for 2006.
- In 2005, there were 16 schools who fell below the government floor target of 65% of pupils achieving level 4 and above in English and 34 in mathematics.

- Over the last three years there have been significant differences between the 2 and 3-tier school systems. The 2005 results have confirmed this gap, although it narrowed slightly. Underperformance in mathematics whether by schools in the 2 or 3 tier systems is identified by the advisory service and intensive support offered.
- At both key stages, boys generally perform less well than girls
- Analysis of the performance of children from minority ethnic backgrounds, and Looked After Children must be treated with caution because of the very small numbers involved in some of the ethnic groups, and the fluctuating cohort of LAC. In 2005, pupils from Chinese and Indian backgrounds performed significantly better than any other group at Levels 4 in English and mathematics, and the performance of pupils from African-Caribbean heritage continued to be of concern.
- The educational performance of children with a statement of special educational needs showed good gains in English and mathematics at level 4.

What we want

- EA11 to sustain the above average attainment in core subjects at Key Stage 1
- EA12 to raise standards at Key Stage 2, particularly in mathematics,
- EA13 to reduce the attainment gap for identified pupil groups
- EA14 to convert the good performance in Key Stage 1 to at least the expected levels at Key Stage 2

Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation

What we know

- Partnership with parents is generally judged good in Ofsted reports of schools and childcare provision.
- Borough and district councils publish annual directories of sports and leisure facilities, and many offer programmes of summer leisure and learning activities.
- The youth service and voluntary sector provide a range of opportunities and activities which support personal and social development. This includes opportunities open to all as well as targeted schemes for vulnerable groups.
- Surveys of young people have consistently identified the need to reduce the cost of access to leisure services as a priority. The development of the Suffolk Youth Card has assisted in reducing the cost of transport for children and young people, and fees and charging policies for leisure centres are reviewed with this in mind.
- A number of cultural pathfinder projects are exploring the ways in which access to sporting and cultural experiences can enhance and enrich the lives of children and young people.

What we want:

- EA15 All children and young people to have access to sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities in their free time
- EA16 Maintenance and development of support for children and young people at risk of being excluded from participation in sport/ recreational activities

Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school

What we know

- At 14 the performance of Suffolk pupils in the Key Stage 3 assessments is generally very good, achieving above national averages in English, mathematics and science.

- At Key Stage 4, the culmination of statutory education, only 2.1% of Suffolk pupils failed to gain any passes at GCSE, compared to a national average of 2.6%. 58.3% of pupils achieved 5 A*-C grades, and this is 1.2% above the national average.
- The gap between girls' and boys' performance in English remains significant at 13%, though writing for boys did improve in 2005. Performance in mathematics and science at level 5 shows little difference between boys and girls.
- The Government floor target is that 50% of students should achieve Level 5 by 2008. Only one Suffolk school failed to meet this target for English in 2005, and all schools cleared it in mathematics and science.
- At Key Stage 4, GCSE results have shown a steady improvement over the last 10 years, and remain higher than the national average, though the gap is closing as the rate in Suffolk improvement slows down.
- The new points score record for pupil attainment has shown a significant gain of over 10 points from 352 in 2004 to 362.2 in 2005, suggesting that a more flexible and inclusive curriculum is now evolving. The gain places Suffolk 7 points above the national average, though the rate of improvement in Suffolk is slower.
- Further changes for 2006, to focus more closely on English and mathematics will have implications for local results and some schools.
- The performance of girls and boys remains different, with a gap of 6% on the new measure between girls on 49% and boys on 43%. It is anticipated that the introduction of a more inclusive curriculum should help to motivate boys and play to other strengths, and thus reduce the gap.
- The performance of pupils with minority ethnic backgrounds has been monitored and Indian, Chinese and Bangladeshi pupils all exceeded the projections made for them. The small numbers involved make it unwise to draw any trend conclusions from this. However, the significantly lower performance of pupils from African-Caribbean heritage (29% 5 A*-C compared to the county average of 58.3%) means that this continues to be a priority.
- Of the cohort of 50 Looked After Children sitting GCSEs in 2005, 20% achieved at least 5 A*-C grades. 66% gained at least 1 GCSE, a fall of 5% from 2004. *Targets based on Fischer Family Trust data are being used to provide more personalised targets for this group. Check LAA*
- The Suffolk target for 2006 is for 63.5% of pupils to achieve 5 A*-C grades. This will be quite challenging given the result for 2005 of 58.3%. However, the points score target of 363 points is very close to the 362.2 points scored this year.
- The government floor target is that at least 25% of students will achieve 5 or more A*-C grades by 2006. In Suffolk there is currently just one school below this threshold.

What we want

- EA17 good performance maintained at Key Stage 3
- EA18 improved performance at GCSE to meet targets
- EA19 to close the gap in achievement for all groups vulnerable to underachievement including Looked After Children etc..

Make a Positive Contribution

This outcome seeks to promote children and young people's positive engagement with others and with their community and environment. It also aims to promote the routine involvement of children and young people in the design and delivery of services they use, and to ensure they are equipped to manage challenge and change as they move into adulthood. It also highlights the responsibilities of children and young people as members of educational and social communities to adopt appropriate behaviour at all times.

The specific aims of the outcome are for children and young people to

- Engage in decision-making and support the community and the environment
- Engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school
- Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate
- Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges
- Develop enterprising behaviour

Engage in decision-making and support the community and the environment

What we know

- In May 2005 Suffolk's Involvement Strategy for Children and Young People – "Having My Say" was published. Signatory partners are conducting an audit using this document to analyse current and potential opportunities for children and young people to be involved in service development and delivery.
- There are many examples of good practice in specific services, where children and young people are active decision-makers and fully involved in the services they use. This is a particular feature of Children's Fund projects, the Youth Service and Connexions. Examples would include the "Speaking Up" groups which provide a forum to support the participation of disabled young people; young people trained by Connexions have taken part in interview panels for new senior posts in the Children and Young People's Directorate; Suffolk Coastal District Council has developed locality youth forums where officers and elected members can meet directly with young people to listen to their views.
- 95% of Looked After Children communicated their views to their statutory review.
- 26% of young people agreed that their views were taken into account when decisions are being made about the services they use
- School Councils are encouraged in all schools. Although not all children and young people feel they are effective most agreed they were a good idea and a third wanted to become more active in the running of their school.
- 1802 young people are currently involved in the Millennium Volunteer programme across the county: 507 will have completed their 200-hour award between April 2004 and March 2006.

What we want

- MPC1 a consistent and planned approach to consultation activities involving children and young people
- MPC2 outcomes of consultation shared with contributors and used to improve services across the partnership
- MPC3 provide evidence through audit that the wishes and feelings of young people are appropriately considered in their care plans
- MPC4 all schools to have active School Councils
- MPC5 increased opportunities for volunteering for young people

MPC6 to use the experience and successful work done by the Youth Service, Connexions and the voluntary sector in developing young person centred services to improve involvement work.

Engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school

What we know

- Historically Suffolk has had a high exclusion rate from its schools. In 2003/4 permanent exclusions rose by 6% nationally – in Suffolk, the increase during the same period was 21%. A multi-agency action plan to address this issue has produced the first reduction in permanent exclusion figures in Suffolk in four years. A fall of 24% was recorded at the end of the 2004/ 5 academic year, with all areas and all phases showing a reduction.
- Ethnic minority pupils are over-represented amongst excluded pupils (9% of excluded pupils are from minority ethnic groups, compared to 6% of the total school population being from minority ethnic groups), and the percentage of girls amongst the excluded cohort is also rising – 11% in 2002/03 to 17% in 2004/5. Looked After Children are also more at risk of exclusion – they represented 7.4% of the excluded group in 2004/5.
- There was an increase in young people's re-offending rates in Suffolk from 44.6% to 53.2% between 2003 and 2004. The rates are higher in the higher tariff sentencing options - assessment analysis shows that young people represented in these cohorts are more likely to have multiple and complex needs that underpin their offending behaviour.
- In 2004, all young people referred by the Youth Offending Service to CAMHS with acute mental health difficulties were assessed within 5 working days, and 98% of young people with non-acute mental health difficulties were assessed within 15 working days.
- In 2004/5 only 2.6% of LAC were given final warnings and convictions, which is lower than the national average
- There is a wide range of preventative initiatives operating around the county targeting children and young people at risk of disaffection, supported by partners in the Youth Offending Service, the police, borough and district councils and others.

What we want

MPC7 to reduce the number of permanent exclusions from school still further

MPC8 to maintain preventative work to support children and young people who have offended or are at risk of offending

MPC9 to reduce rates of re-offending

MPC10 to improve access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health services assessment for young people with behavioural problems

Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate

What we know

- Over a quarter of pupils in high schools reported that there was a big problem with bullying and that bullying went on in schools unnoticed by teachers. Pupils living in towns were almost twice as likely to say this was the case as pupils in rural areas (31% compared to 16%), but there were no significant differences between boys and girls or between white or minority ethnic respondents.
- Younger pupils overwhelmingly reported being bullied as the worst thing about school, and a third said that they sometimes didn't want to go to school because of other children being unkind.
- Younger pupils had high levels of confidence in teachers being able to resolve this issue. This was in marked contrast to the responses from pupils in high schools. Only 41% of older pupils felt confident reporting bullying, and a third felt there was insufficient support available.
- Monitoring of racist incidents in schools shows that the majority of incidents involve verbal abuse and that boys are more likely to be both perpetrators and victims.

What we want

MPC11 to reduce the levels of bullying happening in schools

MPC12 to support all pupils to deal with conflict and anxiety constructively and effectively

MPC13 to reduce fear of bullying and harassment and increase the confidence of children and young people that their concerns will be addressed.

Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges

What we know

- National research shows that transition from primary to secondary school can have a significant impact on subsequent success on a personal as well as an educational level. Transition between schools in Suffolk has been a priority focus since 1995, and work to reduce the negative impact which school transition poses for many pupils has received national recognition.
- It is estimated that there are 4,000 young carers in Suffolk aged 5 to 19. 235 young carers were supported by Suffolk Young Carers group during 2004/5, to have respite breaks and participate in social groups and clubs and go on outings.
- Services for children with additional need have been reviewed against the National Service Framework Standard 8 – Disabled Children and Young people and Those with Complex Health Needs. The Transition Teams have identified two priorities for action around the integration of specialist services in early years provision, especially through children's centres, and improving transition for young people.
- Across the county in 2004/5 92% of eligible, 97% of relevant and 94% of former relevant care leavers had Pathway Plans – a comprehensive and individualised support plan for each care leaver. The Leaving Care Policy is now being revised and the move to integrated services is offering the chance to review the delivery of support to care leavers and build improved links with community education and Connexions.

- Nationally, around 35% of 10 to 15 years olds report that they have been the victims of crime. Statistically, young people are more likely to experience repeated crime. In Suffolk, young victims aged 8 to 13, are offered services by Juvenile Victim Liaison Workers such as mediation, information updates and obtaining letters of apology from the offender. Research indicates that participating in face to face meetings generally has positive effects on the victim's well being and may assist in reducing re-offending

What we want

MPC14	all children to have a successful transfer to secondary school provision
MPC15	families whose young children have additional need to have services built around them - the "team around the child" model
MPC16	improved transitional reviews for young people with learning disabilities
MPC17	children and young people with additional needs to take part in mainstream activities and make successful transitions to adulthood.
MPC18	young people with additional needs to be in control of the services they want to access
MPC19	care leavers to have integrated support which addresses their full range of needs, including health needs

Achieving Economic Well-Being

This outcome addresses how young people are supported in securing opportunities for education, employment and training as they move into adulthood, and the need to address environmental factors which impact on children and young people and their families - principally freedom from poverty, and access to decent housing. The provision of affordable childcare, the creation of sustainable economic communities, and access to transport and material goods are also desired states.

The specific aims are to

- Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school
- Be ready for employment
- Live in decent homes and sustainable communities
- Have access to transport and material goods
- Live in households free from low income.

What we know

- Participation in higher education has historically been low in Suffolk, and without a university in the county, those young people who do graduate often remain away from the area once they enter employment. This has resulted in a lower than average proportion of the population being qualified at level 4 and above (20.9% compared to 24.9% nationally).
- It is planned to establish a university campus in Suffolk, opening in 2007, as a joint venture between Essex University and the University of East Anglia.

What we want

AEW1 that the development of local university provision will contribute to raising the aspirations of young people and increasing the proportion progressing to higher education study.

Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school

What we know

- Post 16 education in Suffolk is offered at school sixth forms, and at four colleges across Suffolk
- In November 2005, 82.74% of young people who had completed their statutory education in the summer had entered some form of structured learning – 47% in school sixth forms, 29% in FE colleges and 6% in work-based training. A further 7% were employed, with no training, and 7% were reported not engaged in education, training or employment. This is an increase in participation of 16 year olds in structured learning compared with 2004.
- For the 2003 statutory leaver cohort, a record number have now entered higher education - 1,467 students, and there has been a very slight rise of those now recorded as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) - 106 students, against 97 in 2004 or 3.99%
- The numbers of care leavers engaged in education, training or employment has risen from 41.7% in 2001/02 to 65.9% in 2003/04, with an outturn of 70% for 2004/05. This is higher than both the IPF and national figures.
- There is a Local Area Agreement target to reduce the % young people aged 16-18 who are NEET to 6.65% by 2008.

- Achievement post 16 is below what might be expected given the consistently good performance of students at GSCE/equivalent. Advanced level performance has been improving gradually over the last few years and for the first time in several years the average points scored per pupil exceeded the national average. However, the average points per entry achieved in 2005 at GCE A level or equivalent was 78.4 - this is still below the national average (79.6) and some distance from the 2008 LAA target of 83 points per entry.
- The 14-19 Strategy Group is focusing on four key strands of work
 - Developing the curriculum
 - Providing high quality information, advice and guidance
 - Raising the achievement of young people in Suffolk
 - Supporting high quality local delivery
- Locality groups of education and training providers are developing proposals to improve breadth and choice, quality and value for money, and proposals for structural change are being considered in the light of the wider review of school provision in the County.

What we want

- AEW2 to realise the Suffolk 14-19 Learning Entitlement for all young people in the county.
- AEW3 more 16 to 18 year olds to be engaged in structured learning and concurrently reducing the percentage of young people in the NEET category
- AEW4 to develop the county's capacity to offer highly specialised diploma routes in all 14 lines of learning to all young people by 2013.
- AEW5 to accelerate the rate of improvement in advanced level attainment to enable the PSA target of 83 points per entry to be achieved by 2008

Live in decent homes and sustainable communities

What we know

- Access to decent homes is a fundamental expectation for all families, but is especially important for vulnerable groups or individuals in challenging circumstances, such as care leavers. Being able to locate suitable accommodation and to sustain this is a prerequisite for sustaining continuation into employment or education.
- Suffolk is in touch with 82% of its care leavers aged 19 and 84% of them are in suitable accommodation.
- A number of schemes have been developed across the county addressing the housing needs of young vulnerable people, involving social care services, voluntary organisations, and local councils.
- Councils across the county perform well by national standards in minimising the length of stay in short-term accommodation (Bed and Breakfast/ Hostel accommodation), and are making good progress towards the national Decent Homes Standard.
- Councils are working to ensure that social housing meets the Decent Homes Standard by 2010, whether the housing stock is managed directly, or is devolved to another body

What we want

- AEW6 vulnerable young people to have access to decent and sustainable accommodation, including care leavers
- AEW7 all social housing to meet the Decent Homes Standard on or before the target date of 2010
- AEW8 the use of short-term accommodation to be reduced

Delivering the Change for Children agenda in Suffolk

This section reviews major service developments underway which will deliver the change for children agenda and so contribute towards improving outcomes for children and young people. They will provide an underpinning framework for the integration of services, cohesion in planning and responsiveness to need.

Service Quality

What we know:

The Annual Performance Assessment (APA), introduced in 2005, assesses the county council's contribution to improving outcomes for children and young people, and focuses on its education and social care functions. The inspection letter was published on 1 December 2005. The Inspectors considered that the children's service consistently delivers above minimum requirements for users with very good prospects for further improvement. It noted good practice, and some areas for development, which are included in the full assessment document.

During 2005 we conducted a Suffolk-wide evaluation of our services and needs which led to the Suffolk Assessment, the companion document to this summary. In 2007/8 Suffolk will be subject to a Joint Area Review - an inspection of all services for children and young people.

What we want:

CC1. To maintain and improve the quality of outcomes and services whilst managing the substantial change programme ahead

Service Development

What we know:

In 2005, the Children's Future's Programme Team reported on the Discovery Phase of investigation into realigning services into a new Children and Young People's Directorate. Plans for the new directorate aim to:

- Ensure better outcomes for children, young people and their families;
- Improve processes and access to services;
- Provide greater efficiencies;
- Enable earlier identification and support for children and families in need.

The proposals put forward and agreed by Cabinet in November 2005 define a service structured around the child at home at the centre of their community.

The new integrated Children and Young People's Directorate brings together children and families' social care, children's health services, the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) early years and childcare and education. The Directorate will work with the voluntary and community sectors and other organisations to deliver the services needed by children, young people and their families. Eighteen Community Clusters have been established based on the catchment areas served by groups of schools and these will provide the building blocks for integrated service delivery. Extended Schools and Children's Centres provide major opportunities for developing a more joined-up and effective response to need.

This will require an ambitious work programme including the development of governance, accountability and commissioning arrangements to facilitate joint working across all partners; further development of specialist services for children with additional and complex needs; and strategies for training and development of the children and young people's workforce.

Work is already underway to find better ways to involve children, young people, their parents and carers in the design, delivery and review of services, alongside first phase implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), improved information sharing and putting in place the integrated system for children and young people.

What we want:

- CC2. Better outcomes for all children and young people
- CC3. a Children's Trust that plans, commissions and delivers joined up services for children and young people, and their families at county and local level
- CC4. integrated local service delivery teams supported by joint structures for governance, management and leadership
- CC5. a clear strategy to develop the workforce so that it has the skills and capacity to deliver the best quality outcomes for children and young people.
- CC6. inter-agency data sharing systems and case management systems (such as the Common Assessment Framework) to support performance improvement and forecasting and service delivery.

School Provision

What we know:

In January 2006, The County Council's Cabinet authorised a major review of school organisation in Suffolk - the key consideration being whether the children and young people of Suffolk are best served by the current arrangement of schools, or whether an alternative system would offer additional benefits. A number of significant, inter-linked developments made the proposal a timely one:

- concern about pupil performance at key stage 2 and post 16.
- the need to increase the rate of participation in education and training post-16,
- the need to expand applied and vocational opportunities for all pupils post-14
- demographic changes
- development of integrated children's services at community level
- the need to seek consensus on the pattern of provision in advance of capital funding becoming available from the Building Schools for the Future programme (possibly from 2008)

What we want:

- CC7. To ensure that the pattern of educational provision is fit for purpose and able to respond to national and local developments in children's services, the needs of pupils and the roles and responsibilities of schools