

Be Birmingham Executive Board Item 3 Appendix 2

Comprehensive Area Assessment

Area Assessment Thematic Partnership Self Assessments

May 2009

Birmingham Children and Young People Partnership

How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

This is about engagement and involvement. There is recognition that agreeing priorities is a political process (particularly for locally elected councillors). The inspectorates' role is not to challenge legitimate political choice but to support democratic decision making by ensuring processes are robust.

1. Birmingham is one of the first local authorities to commission epidemiology on the wellbeing of children. Over 6000 children and 500 families were directly consulted (January-March 2007). The high quality evidence from this work has had a significant influence on our strategy. The findings suggest that Birmingham - like many cities - should be doing less, more consistently and more intensively. We have since repeated the surveys in 2008 and carried out further analysis to identify the particular experiences and needs of vulnerable groups to inform our service plans and intervention strategies. We will repeat both surveys annually to assess progress. This needs analysis has also informed the development of the city's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. In this way our strategic priorities are based on a thorough needs analysis and research of the local context. This was acknowledged as a major strength in the 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of children's services.
2. Six priority outcomes were identified through the epidemiology: improving children's physical health, behaviour, emotional health, literacy and numeracy, social literacy and job skills (with each of these needing different interventions at successive stages of children's development). These six priorities have been agreed by the Children's Trust.
3. Various outcomes have been analysed by ethnicity and by locality. These include under 18 conception rate, childhood obesity, NEET and achievement at Key Stages. This allows delivery plans to focus on improving overall outcomes whilst also meeting needs in specific hotspots and specific communities.
4. The OFSTED Tellus2 survey gives disaggregated information on the attitudes and behaviours of children and young people, in Birmingham, concerning use of alcohol and drugs, bullying, health and physical activity, anxieties and aspirations, involvement and engagement. From this, bullying has been identified as a local priority - underpinned by a local indicator in the 2008-11 LAA. The Tellus3 survey found:

Measures where Birmingham children score better than average:

- Drinking alcohol and taking drugs is below average.

- Less likely to worry about friendships or health.
- Less likely to say they have been bullied.
- More positive about school.
- More likely to visit library/museum.
- More likely to think parks and play areas are good.

Measures where Birmingham children score worse than average:

- Feeling healthy.
 - Eating 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables.
 - Number of days during the week doing sport/being active.
 - Participating in adult-led group activities outside school.
 - Worrying about crime and feeling safe on public transport.
 - Less likely to hope to go to university when they leave school.
5. Vulnerable groups of children and young people (eg. those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities [LDD]) are assessed and regularly reviewed in order to understand their specific needs, and how these change over time. Linked with CAF and Early Support, a wider integrated assessment is being used to bring greater coordination to the needs of those with complex needs. Following wide consultation and a review of the Inclusion Strategy and the Integrated Strategy for Disabled Children and Young People, we have developed “A Common Approach to Vulnerable Children”, which provides guidance for all developments in respect of children and young people with additional and complex needs. This is being incorporated into the updated version of the Brighter Futures strategy. Our Children’s Trust has adopted the Birmingham Charter for Disabled Children and Young People, based on the national EDCM Charters for PCTs and Local Authorities. This, alongside the standards set out in Aiming High for Disabled Children Core Offer, will drive progress towards integration. We have successfully developed a “single view of the disabled child” which is an amalgamated database where there is some level of LDD or complex need. This multi-agency approach to data has informed both our Short Breaks Strategy and transition developments especially in improving information, advice and guidance.
6. Communities are engaged via local governance arrangements and, through these, groups and individuals can express their needs on specific themes. There are established mechanisms for the engagement of children, young people and their families:
- An Engagement and Participation Unit has been established. This will provide support to agencies across the city on how to engage children and young people.
 - There is a commitment to the ‘Hear by Right’ standard, signed up to by all duty to co-operate agencies.

- Children in care and children with LDD are involved in reviewing their own needs, eg. via a personal education plan or a transition pathway plan in which the young person's views are recorded, and in reviews of their action plans.
- The voices and experiences of children and young people are increasingly being incorporated into planning processes (eg. the Birmingham Children and Young People's Parliament has been established; children and young people played a major role in the development of the city Strategy for Special Provision and this culminated in the design of posters designed by children and young people themselves - which were sent to all schools with key messages from the strategy; young people as members of the Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee; child representative to Education Meetings in children's homes; formal consultation events with views being fed directly to the Strategic Director of Children's Services; CAMHS service users have contributed to GOWM service reviews).
- A Champion for Disabled Children and Young People is in place, developing structures and processes for the engagement of disabled young people in strategic planning. This is a joint appointment between the Local Authority and the Children's Society.
- Plans are being developed for the co-ordination of parental engagement across children's services, building on the extensive participation of parents/carers in the development of the Strategy for Special Provision and the strategy for transforming short breaks services for disabled children and young people.
- The consultation with parents on the Strategy for Special Provision has led to the development of a website called "parents' views count" and regular meetings for parents to give their views and hear about developments. The website is designed to engage parents about a range of issues linked, in the main, to SEN and disability. Longer term plans will extend the range of issues covered.
- The Children in Care Council is being further developed to discuss issues that are specific to children and young people in care and care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Board meets with the CIC Council formally on a quarterly basis. The CIC Council links to the Birmingham Children and Young People's Parliament in order that the voice of children in care is heard.
- There are effective processes for consulting and gathering the views of children in care and their carers and feedback from young people is used to modify service delivery. Young people complete the 'what do you think' survey to ensure their views on their assessment and programmes are taken into account. The system is on-line and provides an opportunity for young people to

participate in their statutory reviews and care planning processes.

The system is also used by the Youth Offending Service.

- The Children's Rights & Engagement Service supports, advocates and actively involves children and young people in care and care leavers, enabling them to communicate their views and be involved in their own care plan.
 - A visiting advocacy service is provided to the city's 27 children's homes to assist children and young people to actively engage in the way the home is managed and run.
 - The percentage of children in care who participate in their statutory reviews is improving, though not to the extent that we would like to see. To ensure greater involvement of young people in care during the statutory review process, a number of initiatives have been put in place. For example, all young people are given cards with contact details by the chair of the review meeting; a DVD is being produced in different languages providing information and encouraging participation; a web link to the Safeguarding Board website is being established, with details on a young person's right to be involved and how meetings can be arranged around their work or study place.
 - Within health, children and young people are regularly consulted on service developments, in areas such as CAMHS, hospital services (Birmingham Children's Hospital) and primary care services.
 - A diverse group of teenagers - The Young People's Focus Group - considers planning applications and gives views on behalf of the young people of the city. The group has a high representation of young people from minority ethnic communities, including African and African-Caribbean, Indian, and particularly Pakistani.
7. The Tellus3 survey shows that, in Birmingham, children and young people's views are listened to in relation to their school and most feel they are able to give their views about the local area eg. through a questionnaire, school council, a youth parliament or meetings outside school. Inspection findings indicate that children and young people in all schools and early years settings are actively encouraged to make a positive contribution.
8. A new Positive Activities for Young People Youth Forum was created in 2008. There is a network of 12 young people's decision-making groups across the city. 3,000 young people have been involved in putting proposals together for external funding and around 250 involved in the assessment process. At least 27,000 young people have engaged in positive activities of their choice through the outcomes of these decisions. Consultation with young people is also a feature of youth activities organised by the Youth Offending Service. The service also uses the Viewpoint system to

engage with young people and to gain their views on the services they receive. This has provided important feedback and enabled the service to improve key areas. Mechanisms for involving children and young people, including vulnerable groups, in decision-making processes was cited as a major strength in the 2008 APA.

9. West Midlands Police Children and Young People's Strategy sets out how the Force and partners will continue to engage with educational establishments, providing a proportionate response across a number of themes, including: engaging with children and young people; children and young people as victims and witnesses; those at risk of offending. The Safer School Partnership is a key vehicle for this activity.
10. As part of the National Healthy Schools Status, schools have to consult with all young people on each of the healthy schools themes, with issues arising being part of the action plan. At December 2008, 98% of our primary, secondary and special schools were engaged in the programme. An online survey function implemented in April 2008 has now gathered perception data on school provision from over 8000 children and young people. Schools use their own data to identify appropriate interventions to address physical and emotional health for their own population, and derive quantitative outcomes. The Primary Sex and Relationships programme consults with pupils to ascertain their levels of knowledge and understanding relating to issues of growing up, relationships and personal development in order for schools to develop SRE policy and practice relevant and appropriate to their populations and communities. The Birmingham PE, Schools Sport and Club Links Analysis 2008 report found that on average the eleven School Sport Partnerships in Birmingham have achieved improvements in each of the survey areas in comparison to 2006/2007. The Healthy School Programme includes criteria for schools to identify barriers to pupil participation in physical activities and clubs, and to use pupil consultation to highlight a broader range of activities that will encourage uptake amongst more resistant young people. The Early Years Healthy Settings Programme runs in parallel to the Healthy Schools Programme and is currently working with 60 diverse settings, including private and voluntary nurseries, children's centres and play groups. The programme provides support and training to parents on healthy eating and diet. All settings engaged in the programme are required to provide an hour of physical activity each day.
11. The Connexions service includes trained young people on all interview panels and a Youth Board. Young people have been trained as

'mystery shoppers' and surveys of young people and other forms of feedback are used to help shape the services offered by Connexions. Pupils have taken part in the interview process for the heads and deputy posts in the Behaviour Support Service.

12. Throughout the above there is the mix of 'universal' surveys and the additional opportunities for particular groups (particularly underachieving/disadvantaged groups) to contribute views on the services available/to be developed. There are also established mechanisms that identify the needs of schools.
13. In terms of meeting the needs of delivery organisations, the Audit Commission Schools Survey (2008) showed most schools were satisfied with the level of support provided by the Local Authority on improving children's health, child protection needs and child protection training which were rated as "above satisfactory". But the 2008 survey highlights difficulties in accessing health and social care services, and concerns about the effectiveness of support services for smoking and substance misuse and promoting sexual health. Our plans to strengthen social care (see section 3 on 'prospects for future improvement') will respond directly to the criticism about access to social care services. Within health, work is being undertaken to address access issues by developing services more locally and closer to home or where the patient s. Through the work on special schools health input will be redesigned to ensure it works effectively in partnership to provide he quality and capacity needed. The 'your welcome' standards are being rolled out across GP practices to ensure that young people feel able to go to their GP for advice and support. Other inspections and external reviews are used to identify development needs across delivery systems.
14. The approach that is based on this range of relatively robust information is an ambitious one that is putting prevention, and meeting the diverse needs of children and young people through a mix of whole-population and targeted support, as the priority. The six priority outcomes at paragraph 2 are then used as a barometer for measuring progress.

How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?

This is about assessing current and recent performance, though not just by looking at LAA priorities. It will include questioning whether data hides inequality and whether priorities need to be reviewed in the light of changes, such as the economic downturn.

15. The 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) rated the overall performance of Children's Services as 'adequate'. The ECM outcome of Being Healthy and the capacity to improve were also rated adequate and the Making a Positive Contribution and Achieving Economic Wellbeing outcomes as both 'good'. The Council's performance on two categories was marked down - Staying Safe (to inadequate) and Enjoying and Achieving (to adequate). The APA identified a number of strengths in safeguarding issues but aspects of children's social work, and serious case reviews were identified as areas for development. It identified significant strengths in schools but the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, schools causing concern and exclusions were identified as areas for development. An Improvement Notice related to children's social care was agreed in February 2009.
16. Fostering and adoption arrangements in Birmingham are improving. The Adoption Service received a good rating by Ofsted in 2007. The inspection of private fostering in August 2007 reinforced the view of JAR inspectors that considerable progress had been made in developing policies and procedures, but that the identification of privately fostered children and young people in the area was inadequate. We are benchmarking our practice with other local authorities to identify improvements in assessment processes, unit costs and fees to carers. With respect to compliance of residential care placements with national minimum standards and regulations, inspections of our care homes have been favourable overall. Changes of care placements are well managed and moves minimised. Placement stability was highlighted as a major strength in the 2008 APA. Some examples of performance from the 2008 APA dataset in relation to fostering and adoption indicators are shown below:

Percentage of LAC adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the agency deciding that the child should be placed for adoption	Performance consistently better than statistical neighbours and national average since 2001/02.
Percentage of children aged at least 10 and under 16 looked after (excluding those placed with parents) who were in foster placement or placed for adoption	Performance has increased year-on-year since 2005/06.
Percentage of children aged under 16 who had been looked after continuously for at least 2½ years, who had lived in the same placement for at least 2 years, or were placed for adoption	Improving since 2004/05 and in line with statistical neighbours and national average.

Looked after children with three or more placements	Performance is in the very good band, with a score of 13.
Percentage adopted or placed for adoption within 12 months of adoption decision	Performance is better than statistical neighbours and the national average.

17. The numbers of children in care are higher than similar authorities and the national average. We have analysed the high numbers of children in care in relation to deprivation in Birmingham and that demonstrates the significant relationship between numbers in care and levels of deprivation. We are taking action to ensure the size of the children in care population reflects local need. Our intention is to reduce entry to the care system through better preventative work and family support, reduce the time children spend in care, and improve care planning.
18. In relation to the levels of children with a child protection plan who had previously had a child protection plan, our performance has consistently been in Ofsted's "good or very good" band since 2003/04. In 2007/08 all children with a child protection plan were allocated a social worker.
19. On core assessments, performance is improving. We are closing the gap with statistical neighbours and national averages year-on-year. We have seen some improvement on initial assessments, though not yet to the extent that we would want to see.
20. The contribution of services to improving children's health is adequate and is improving in significant respects - eg. recent data suggests a sustained drop in infant mortality (though rates remain unacceptably high), and a narrowing of gaps when compared to the national rate of increases in the number of young people taking part in physical activity. The 2008 APA highlighted as major strengths: promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools; access to young people's services for substance misuse; services to promote the health of children in care, including regular reviews of health plans, including dental and optical checks.
21. The latest teenage conception figures released by ONS in February 2009 (for 2007) show that the under-18 conception rate for Birmingham fell from 53.2 per 1000 girls aged 15-17 in 2006 to 52.8 in 2007. Birmingham has achieved a 9.5% decline, compared to a

8.2% decline across the region and a 10.7% overall decline nationally. To improve outcomes a targeted approach is being taken through priority schools and youth services to focus on “hotspot” areas and wards with low educational attainment. This includes:

- Targeting of priority schools with high levels of teenage pregnancies. (Ten priority schools were targeted in 2008. We now have plans in place to extend the programme to an additional 10 schools with effect from September 2009. PCT partners and the City Council are working together on these plans.)
- Developing a Targeted Youth Support Team to work with priority schools.
- Developing an Active Case Management scheme within termination providers to reduce repeat abortions.

The Teenage Pregnancy Executive Board has been restructured and performance management arrangements strengthened. A dedicated teenage pregnancy co-ordinator is in post. 2008/09 will see better identification of individuals at risk and training for staff so they can better signpost and support sexually active young people and work to tackle repeat abortions. Teenage pregnancy is included as a priority in the LAA.

In recognition of the challenge of achieving the teenage conception target, we are working with GOWM to identify effective practice from other local authorities that have achieved, or anticipate, success. In addition to this and in order to accelerate progress, we have also requested specific support from GOWM in the following areas:

- Improving sex and relationship education in schools - specialist expertise in the development and delivery of mechanisms to implement SRE for our black and minority ethnic communities.
- Making effective use of local data - information system support to enable the monitoring and surveillance of key indicators and identify gaps.
- Improving communication to young people and stakeholders - to raise awareness of and access to services. We plan to build on emerging ideas from South Birmingham PCT to create a city-wide marketing plan.

22. Trends in childhood obesity continue to rise, with 11.3% of reception children reported as obese and 11.7% overweight. To improve performance, a rolling programme of training for schools is in place to support self-evaluation and validation processes. In terms of physical activity, good progress is being made.

Obesity in 11 year olds is a priority in the 2008-11 LAA. The overall 2007/08 target of 22% was missed by 0.1% although in the Heart of Birmingham PCT 2007/08 data shows a reduction in childhood obesity prevalence of 0.7%, contrary to national trends. We have proposed a 'step change' strategy to support alignment with our predicted trajectory and 2010/11 target.

This 'step change' involves:

- Targeting specific areas of the city where childhood obesity levels are highest.
 - Targeting school children in Years 3, 4 and 5 and promoting participation in named physical activity and nutritional initiatives.
 - Targeting families most at risk.
 - Establishing a formal network of parents, community organisations, faith groups and local businesses through which local communities and ethnic groups most at risk, can be reached, engaged and empowered.
 - Undertaking environmental audits that assess the environments of local communities and their 'fitness for purpose' with respect to best practice in nutrition, physical activity and health, and preventing and tackling obesity.
 - Developing local community, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health Guarantees. These strategies are currently under consideration by the Children and Young People's Board and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
 - The Gym 4 Free initiative has also been introduced and is being rolled out across the city.
23. Good progress is being made to improve the mental health of children and young people. This has been achieved by reconfiguring services in the community and by better responding to need through existing services. A 3-5 year strategy for CAMHS linking strongly to the Brighter Futures Strategy is in place. PCTs are investing in an extra LAC Nurse, which will allow improved support for care leavers. The CAMHS partnership has also agreed a proposal for an increase in three CAMHS workers. This will allow an improved service for this group who have a 40% likelihood of mental health problems (compared to the general population of 10%).

The CAMHS partnership has provided additional investment for two additional school nurse posts to support the one already in post (one for each PCT locality) with mental health expertise, to provide stronger earlier intervention and monitor those most at risk. This is part of the ongoing investment in early intervention emotional wellbeing services.

Specialist CAMHS is working on a service redesign programme that will more clearly identify the support provided to universal services in early intervention and prevention and the proportion of the service given to one on one work. Development of multi-agency care pathways and a clearer definition of specialist CAMHS thresholds will also help with access to services.

24. In recognition of the need to improve co-ordination and gaps in service to disabled children and young people, an Integrated Strategy for Disabled Children and Young People is being implemented.
 - Progress is being made in relation to robust needs analysis and data to inform planning and service design, implementation of the Early Support Programme and Transition Pathway Planning.
 - Key data sets holding information on disabled children have been combined and analysed to give a population profile on disabled children broken down by age, ethnicity, disability and geographical ward. This indicates there are 15,500 children with special needs in the city, of whom 3,000 have significant or profound needs. Work is underway to map groups of young people to provision such as children's centres and the youth services to improve take-up of services.
 - The Early Support Programme is being implemented for disabled children aged 0-5 years. Our approach - mainstreaming and ensuring Early Support is integral to the role of all Early Years professionals - has recently been recognised as an example of good practice by the national lead for Early Support (Elizabeth Andrews). Three launch events were held in 2008 to raise awareness about the programme - these were attended by over 250 multi-agency professionals. A programme of training for front-line practitioners (also multi-agency) is in place with almost 200 staff taking part. An Early Support Training adviser has been recruited and undertakes impact assessments to Early Years settings to assess how the training is being used. An Early Support audit tool is being devised and is expected to be issued in the Summer.
 - For disabled young people aged 13-19 years, Transition Pathway Planning is being implemented. This is a person-centred approach recognised by the national Valuing People team. A programme of training has been in place since October 2007. To date, 47 out of 120 schools, including all special schools with secondary age

pupils, and mainstream schools have received the training and are using the Transition Pathway. Around 130 multi-agency staff representing Connexions, health, social work teams and the voluntary sector have received the training alongside schools. Around 100 Transition Pathway plans have been completed and work is underway to aggregate data and needs analysis from these plans to inform commissioning of post-16 provision and other services.

- A continuity of support mechanism for young people with LDD in transition is being implemented. Improved transition from the Disabled Children's Team to Adult Care is being delivered as well as improved Person-Centred Transition Planning across 45 schools and their partner agencies. The Council has developed a Transition Framework policy for transition from childhood to adulthood for vulnerable young people. This is now being implemented including much improved information, advice and guidance on transition. This is clearly related to LAA priorities (eg. NEET strategy delivery).
 - The PCTs and the Council are working together as part of a national pilot on the 'In Control' approach to personalised budgets. This is being developed across children's and adults' services in both organisations.
25. Significant work is in progress regarding transformation of short break services and the introduction of national Core Standard (AHDC) for disabled children and their families. In April, the Local Authority was notified it had met the Readiness Criteria for short breaks funding and has been awarded its full allocation for 2009-2011. A joint strategy and commissioning plan is in place and a Third Sector Commissioning Prospectus has been issued to procure services from the voluntary sector. This includes increased school holiday provision, youth clubs, befriending schemes and a social inclusion hub to improve access to play, leisure and sport facilities.
26. Tellus3 survey data shows the figure reporting never having being bullied is 63% locally compared with 56% nationally. There is, also, a difference in the percentage of children and young people who think that their school deals very well with bullying or think bullying is not a problem in their school - 28% in Birmingham compared to 25% nationally. 15% thought their school dealt badly with bullying, slightly lower than the national average (16%). This attests to the effectiveness of our strategies to reduce bullying. However, since more still needs to be done on bullying as a link to wellbeing, it is a local priority in the LAA. Nevertheless all schools have a clear

anti-bullying policy (100% target achieved), and we have a multi-agency Bullying Reduction Action Group which reports to the Safer Partnership.

27. Multi-agency support for all types of bullying includes written anti-bullying guidance, our anti-bullying website and a resources list. All the guidance is currently being updated to ensure it covers new areas such as cyber bullying. In particular we have implemented a clear action plan for tackling homophobic bullying, supported by the Stonewall Education Champions scheme. An annual event is held for professionals working in the area of bullying and this year attracted over 300 participants. A parallel event for 150 pupils was held during anti-bullying week. In relation to bullying more generally, partners have developed the Tooled Up For School and Respect initiatives to engage and encourage young people to build safer and stronger communities. Tooled Up For School specifically focuses on deterring young people from carrying offensive weapons and ending teenage knife culture. We have drawn together over 5000 children to say 'NO TO KNIVES IN BIRMINGHAM'. Organised through the Reducing Knife Crime strategy and joint work with colleagues in WM Police, the youngsters will also take part in a year-long activity in school, culminating in work in the schools on a young people's strategy for reducing knife crime. These hard-hitting initiatives are making an impact, with pupils and teachers at pilot schools providing very positive feedback. In addition, the Bully Buster Project, designed and delivered by young people themselves, provides victims with information, advice and advocacy and works with perpetrators to help them take responsibility for their actions. The 2008 APA identified the impact of our work to combat bullying, harassment and discrimination as a major strength.

28. A number of related interventions are in place with schools, for example:
 - Bus Monitoring Scheme - where Year 10 pupils act as "prefects" on the bus and report incidents such as bullying, smoking, swearing, nuisance behaviour to the dedicated school contact for action to be taken. (These prefects do not become involved in incidents and their identity is never revealed to the pupils.) For more serious incidents such as criminal damage and assault, the school contact will inform the Safer Travel Police Team. The pupils are told that there is a Bus Monitoring Scheme but they are not told who the monitors are.

- See Something, Say Something - this campaign was launched in 2008, and is a reporting service whereby pupils (and the public) can text, email or phone information through. This information is then fed into the Safer Travel tasking meetings, where the team decide where to deploy resources and take action.
 - School presentations - Safer Travel Police Team, National Express and Centro all give presentations to pupils explaining how to travel safely and how to report incidents. This is currently being reviewed and will take a structured approach to fit in with PSHE guidelines. The new style PSHE/ Safer Travel presentation will begin in September 2009.
 - School Travel Plan - every school must have a School Travel Plan by 2011. Safer Travel interventions are recommended in actions given to the school.
29. The percentage of children in care who had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months and had an annual health assessment was 74% in 2007/08 compared to 85% for statistical neighbours and nationally. Whilst this is below target, significant efforts have been made to ensure full and timely health assessments are carried out and for these to be systematically recorded and monitored. A medical team consisting of a dedicated doctor and nurses co-ordinates work to meet the health needs of children in care. The 2008 APA highlighted services to promote the health of children in care as a major strength.
30. All outcomes from the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile have improved from 2007 and six of the Local Authority's early years outcomes targets for 2008 have been exceeded. This is an encouraging outcome given the increasing proportion of young children in the city who do not have English as their first language and the high proportion of children who live in areas of social deprivation. Disaggregation by locality and by ethnicity has led to increased targeting of support. (It is worth noting that 75% of our children in early years live in Super Output Areas (SOAs) that are in the bottom 30% SOAs nationally. When relative deprivation is taken into account as measured by children eligible for free school meals, Birmingham's Foundation Stage performance in 2008 was above the statistical neighbour and England averages.) Delivery of enhanced training opportunities to head teachers to increase the effective leadership of Early Years Foundation Stage is now underway. This will target the leaders of those schools in the most deprived areas of the city to ensure increased skill and proficiency to meet the learning needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

31. In terms of standards and achievement across all Key Stages, overall, younger children in Birmingham do less well than their peers in statistical neighbour authorities and the national average. This is particularly the case in the Foundation Stage and at KS1 and is affected by a 5% increase in the number of children with EAL over the last five years and new arrivals into the city eg. Somali children.

However, at each key stage the picture improves until at KS3 achievement is better than statistical neighbours in the core subjects and by KS4 achievement significantly exceeds statistical neighbours in 5+ GCSE including English and maths. Performance is also above the national average for 5+ GCSE and the gap with the national average on 5+ GCSE including English and maths has closed to just 2%.

As part of the National Challenge for secondary schools and the Raising Above Floor Targets Strategy developed for primary schools, we have developed a robust approach to introducing school improvement partnerships, including structural solutions, to address underperformance at all phases. Although it is still early to evaluate the impact on pupil attainment and progress, initial signs as indicated by school tracking data are positive that such partnerships make a rapid difference to school improvement.

32. There remain a number of disparities between the achievement of children and young people from different ethnic groups in the city. The largest underachievement is amongst pupils from poorer families, the largest cohort of which are White disadvantaged pupils. There is some evidence to show that the gap is narrowing for some groups for some key stages. This is particularly evident at KS4. In addition there are many case study examples on closing the gap in performance for different ethnic groups such as the Raising African Caribbean Achievement Case Study at the Ishango school. Attainment is in the worst quartile nationally for mixed groups but this does not differentiate between mixed groups or the relative proportions of each group in each local authority. When mixed groups are disaggregated into White/Black Caribbean, White/Black African, White/Asian, Other mixed groups Birmingham's results are similar to the national average for these groups.

We are working closely with senior staff from National Strategies for West Midlands and are involved in the early roll out of 11 Tuition Strategy to address specific areas of pupil underachievement. We are collaborating with the National Strategies to develop a Local Authority bespoke approach to 'closing the gaps' for all groups of

pupils within the city. This has included a review, in conjunction with National Strategies, of current EMA provision to ensure data analysis, targeted intervention and personalised support and provision for all pupils underperforming is coherent and directed in accordance with their learning needs.

33. The trajectory is for all children and young people to show improvement across Key Stages, with nominated groups improving at a faster rate than average - via some universal work and some targeting (both on teaching and learning, and on underlying social/emotional factors that inhibit learning) on the basis of interventions at group, locality and organisation level. We have set targets to close the gaps at each Key Stage, with an emphasis on children from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly White boys and girls eligible for free school meals, Pakistani boys, African/Caribbean boys and children with EAL in the early years where the gaps are currently the widest.

34. We are undertaking a range of activities to reduce the number of schools causing concern. These include:
 - A focus on early identification, early intervention and prevention.
 - The most experienced advisers selected as team leaders for the most challenging schools.
 - Deploying head teachers strategically to provide intensive support.
 - Extension of the successful pilot work regarding federations and collaborations.
 - Governor support and training on all matters relating to staff development and performance management/capability.

35. Birmingham has seen an overall trend of continuous improvement in reducing pupil absences since 1995, when absence was a significant problem in the city. 2007/08 data shows we have achieved a 14% (national average 9.9%) reduction in absence over 2003-08 - a significant achievement against the PSA target of 8%. Persistence absence in secondary schools has reduced to 5.5%, bringing it below the national average and only 0.5% away from the national 5% target for 2011. Attendance in primary schools fell in 2007/08 from 94.3% to 93.8%. This is 0.25% better than our predicted outcome taken from the first two terms data but still falls 0.9% behind the national average of 94.7%. (The impact of Eid falling in term-time is around 0.7% for primary schools and therefore this accounts for the majority of this shortfall.) In February 2009, together with head

teachers, we raised our concerns with DCSF, GOWM and National Standards regarding the inequity of treatment of non-Christian religious observation within the current attendance regulations.

36. The education and training needs of children in care are given a high priority. School attendance for this group is improving. The overall attendance rate for 2008 with more than 25 days absence was 12.8%, compared to the national average of 13% (on target to achieve the February 2010 Improvement Notice target of 12.3%, in line with statistical neighbours) and their average educational performance overall is similar to the national average.
37. The city's Pupil Referral Unit within the Behaviour Support Service (BSS) is notified of all permanently excluded pupils and works with schools and alternative providers to meet youngsters' educational needs and to reintegrate them back into mainstream settings. BSS received the "Leading Aspect" Award for this work and was judged by Ofsted to be good with outstanding features. In 2007/08 permanent exclusions were the lowest for the previous 5 years. There was a 20% reduction from 2006/07. During the autumn term of 2008/09, permanent exclusion has continued to fall from 125 in autumn 2007 to 60 in autumn 2008. Whilst the number of instances of fixed term exclusion has risen by around 16% these have been of short duration. 97% of all fixed exclusions are less than 6 days. Therefore the number of days education lost to fixed period exclusion has reduced by 25%.
38. The city's Positive Behaviour in Schools strategy has been launched this academic year, with a strong multi-agency Advisory Behaviour Group taking the strategic lead, supported by groups of secondary and primary head teachers, and groups with a focus on continued professional development and data. The strategy is closely linked to the development of behaviour partnerships as described by the DCSF.
39. The proportion of young people in Birmingham achieving a full level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (the level 2 target) has risen from 62.4% at the end of academic year 2005/06 to 65.1% for 2006/07. It has been increasing at a faster rate than regional and national averages, though it is still below them. The proportion with level 3 at age 19 is rising more slowly, from 38.8% to 40% over the same period. Tellus3 survey data shows Birmingham children are less likely than CYP nationally to hope to study to go to university when they leave school (49% compared with 54% nationally).

40. Overall, both participation numbers and success rates for 16-18 year olds on vocational and work-based learning programmes have increased in recent years, though in some cases they are rising from a low base. Overall success rates for young people on work-based learning level 2 Apprenticeships rose from 51% in 2005/06, to 61% in 2006/07, and 64% in 2007/08 and are now around the regional average. The success rates for Advanced (level 3) Apprenticeships rose from 55% in 2005/06 to 64% in 2006/07 and in 2007/08 reached 78%.
41. The E2E positive progression rate in Birmingham and Solihull rose from 42% in 2006/07 to 52% in 2007/08 (slightly below the regional and national average of 54%). The LSC is working closely with providers to further improve the progression rate.
42. The proportion of Birmingham 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) remains above the national and regional averages, and is still worse than some comparator cities.
43. A significant achievement has been made to reach a NEET outturn of 8.06% for November 2008 - January 2009 period (just 0.46% short of the 2008/09 target of 7.6%). This is despite managing the transition of Connexions into the Local Authority and the impact of the current economic recession. The NEET figure reduced significantly month on month: November 2008 - 8.72%; December 2008 - 8.19%; and January 2009 - 7.28%. The NEET level had significantly reduced in 2007/08: the 3-month rolling average for November 2007-January 2008 was 7.7%. This is down from 13.6% in 2004 and 10% in June 2007 and represents a significant improvement in tackling this complex issue. Effective NEET practice includes targeting of schools and wards in "hot spot" areas, high level co-ordination of support and challenge, and the development of integrated youth support services. Successful interventions include timely intervention before disengagement, giving young people a role in decision-making about their choices and provision, and offering an alternative curriculum.

A comprehensive NEET Action Plan has been developed to deliver on the 2008-11 LAA targets to reduce NEETs. Interventions identified in the plan cluster into five groups:

- Interventions to improve working between the various agencies; gain improved understanding of the underlying issues to improve engagement/assessment and tracking (and to strengthen links to other LAA priority outcomes); and which focus on identification of and early engagement with young people 14-19.

- Interventions designed to increase impact, by ensuring effectively targeted support to meet specific needs of those particular groups of young people most likely to be NET, including, for example, children in care, teenage parents, and young offenders.
- Interventions designed to change the infrastructure of education/employment/training provision that will deliver better outcomes to 2011.
- Interventions across Key Stage 3/Key Stage 4 that are establishing preventative activities to reduce the likelihood of cohorts becoming NEET in 2011-2013.
- Interventions that are additional in target locations to meet particular localised needs.

It should be noted that the results of these interventions are over and above all the existing work to prevent young people becoming NEET.

44. The ETE ratio of care leavers is 72.85%, compared to 73.38% in ETE age 18-24 in the Labour force survey.
45. Working Neighbourhoods Fund has been deployed behind a development framework agreed by the Children and Young People's Executive Board. In addition to a focus on English and maths at Key Stage 4 (as a precursor to improved employability) there has been a focus on improving the employability outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. This has included:
 - 'Pre-Apprenticeship' developments recruiting, for example, care leavers, young offenders, young people at risk.
 - Work with young offenders to bridge them into employment, training or education.
 - Additional support to Year 10/11 pupils with autism/communication difficulties.
 - Conversion work to move arts-based development work with young people closer to integrated support activities.
 - Work to underpin the September Guarantee for groups of 'partially detached' young people in high NEET neighbourhoods.
46. In relation to care leavers in suitable accommodation, our performance dipped to 79.7% last year, but our current performance has improved to 87% (close to the February 2010 Improvement Notice target of 88.4%, in line with statistical neighbours.). This has been as a result of concerted multi-agency working to deliver improved housing options and support.

47. Performance data in respect of young offenders signals improvements, for example:

- April - December 2008 figures show an improvement against the 2007/08 baseline for the number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17. Birmingham's performance against NI 111 (first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System aged 10-17) taken from Youth Justice Board (YJB)/Youth Offending Team (YOT) data totalled 2234 (average 559 per quarter) in 2007/8 and is currently averaging 479 per quarter. The predicted year end total (based on the current average) is 1924. However the YJB has recently released both YOT (YJB) data and Police National Computer (PNC) data and the latter will be the recognised data set used in the future to ensure consistency across all YOTs. It should be noted that there is a national disparity between the two sets of data.

Birmingham data:

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
YOT/YJB data	2497	2185	2234
PNC data	2532	2694	2410

- The PNC data increases the total number of first-time entrants but shows a decrease in FTEs in 2007/8.
- Current performance in the rate of re-offending shows a 36.9% reduction - a greater rate of improvement than the core cities and YOT Family Group.
 - Dedicated CAMHS worker posts provide additional support for those in the YOS who have additional mental health problems.
 - We place a high priority on reducing the proportion of black and minority ethnic young people engaged in the criminal justice system - 2007/08 data shows an improvement of 24% from 2006/07 in young people from a Black or Black British group.
 - Good progress has been made towards engaging young offenders in education, training and employment, with 78.6% in ETE at December 2008 (exceeding the March 2009 target of 78.4%).
 - The target for young offenders in suitable accommodation continues to be met and indications are that the 2008/09 will be achieved. Figures for 2007/8 rose to 98.4%. Figures for quarter 1 to quarter 3 for 2008/9 were 98.1%, 98.2% and 98.9% respectively.
 - Young people sentenced to custody on conviction - in 2007/08 the service achieved a performance of 8%, comparable to or better than the majority of core cities. Overall, the number of custodial sentences reduced from 310 in 2006/7 to 255 for 2007/8 although between April and December 2008/09 the number of custodial sentences has risen and the present performance is

9.5%. This is in the middle of the range for core cities. Figures for 2007/2008 compared to 2006/2007 show that young people from a Black or Black British background accounted for 17.5% of custodial sentences, an improvement from 24% in the previous year. However between April - December 2008 the percentage had risen to 21%. Asian young people in Birmingham make up 26.3% of the 10-17 population based on census data. However in the latest data analysis (October - December 2008) they represent 18.7 % of those sentenced, and 11.5% of those receiving custodial sentences.

48. There are a number of interventions supported by the Safer Birmingham Partnership including a Junior Youth Inclusion Project which has sought to engage with the top 40 most at risk young people in five geographical areas of the city. The project seeks to provide diversionary activities in order to encourage the identified young people back into school attendance; reduce risk of exclusion; and tackle causes of offending and anti-social behaviour. It has been put forward as an example of good practice at a national level.
49. The FIRE project run by West Midlands Fire Service has been delivering courses since January 2007 aimed specifically at those who are excluded from school or those who are already engaged with the criminal justice system. The intensive five-day course is designed to develop key skills through teamwork, good communication and promotion of acceptable behaviour. Attendance is voluntary, with a positive outcome being acknowledged by an accredited qualification.
50. The overall picture is one of improving outcomes, with more still to do for specific groups and in the area of safeguarding. The approaches taken have been ones to embed developments into progressive universalism that allows individual needs to be addressed. Embedding in this way reduces the reliance on 'project' development activity.

What are the prospects for future improvement?

<p>This builds on the first two questions and focuses on effective partnership working. Assessing partnership working will depend on looking at evidence from the different inspectorates rather than routinely inspecting. Inspection will only happen if there are serious concerns about governance or delivering on priorities.</p>

51. Section 2 above includes descriptions of some of the specific actions we are taking to secure improvements in outcomes and to improve future prospects. The remainder of this section outlines strategic developments including strengthening of the Partnership and its capacity.

52. Our Children's Trust arrangements are the formal partnership arrangements between those agencies that have a duty to co-operate under the 2004 Children Act, and a number of other agencies in the voluntary and statutory sectors. A memorandum of understanding sets out the purposes and basic constitution of the Children and Young People's Executive Board. We have reviewed our governance arrangements in order to establish a joint commissioning and resourcing approach to secure better outcomes for children and young people. The review also addressed the Board's oversight of delivery and performance and rationalised demands on the capacity of partners.

53. The Partnership's capacity to improve its services for children and young people and its management of these services was assessed as 'adequate' in the 2008 APA. The Council is determined to improve children's services and, in respect of children's social care, has responded by setting up a Task Force - chaired by the Leader of the Council - and a unique all-party scrutiny team to work alongside the Task Force to drive through improvements in services. This will enable the Local Authority to put in place a solid foundation on which to build and sustain improvement together with a transparent process for monitoring and evaluating improvements.

54. Our action planning for children's social care addresses:
 - Social work process and practice.
 - Data systems and performance management.
 - Recruitment, retention and rewards.
 - Capacity and resources.

55. As part of the post-APA arrangements, we are working with DCSF and Government Office West Midlands to strengthen social care management arrangements. This includes the appointment of a new Service Director and two Interim Assistant Directors for Children's Social Care. We are seeking to recruit a third Interim Assistant Director. We have also put in place a team of external consultants, PricewaterhouseCoopers. They will help us to:

- Conduct a review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.
 - Look at the organisation of serious case reviews and determine whether changes need to be made to the handling of such cases.
 - Help strengthen front-line social work practice and performance management arrangements.
56. The Partnership's ambitions, including a shift to prevention and early intervention, are clearly articulated in the Brighter Futures strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan. (The strategy has received international endorsement of its intent and plausibility in shifting towards more preventative, evidence-based work to improve children's wellbeing.) The 2008 APA acknowledged this as a major strength in improving the life chances of children and young people. We have taken time to reflect, to build an evidence base and establish a consensus across all agencies about how to improve outcomes for children living in the city.
57. Our approach is:
- Driven by high quality evidence on the wellbeing of Birmingham's children.
 - Led by leaders of children's services supported by a large number of practitioners across providers of children's services.
 - Influenced by wide consultation with stakeholders and children's views.
 - In line with central government's policy framework.
 - Committed to measuring the impact on children's wellbeing year-on-year.
58. Our focus starts with outcomes to be achieved, activities (policies, services and programmes) most likely to achieve these outcomes, measures of success and investments (people, property, funding) required.
59. Birmingham is creating the ability to 'front load' the development of new services (over 5 years) with the expectation of reducing costs longer term (over 10-12 years). This is an ambitious part of transforming the ways services can more closely meet well-understood needs and prevent the onset of difficulties of children and young people.
60. A degree of service re-design is underway to better deliver against the priority outcomes. In commissioning activity the shift is away

from high cost/low volume services to those that better meet the planned intentions, retaining the principle of user involvement in both service design and contracting.

61. Progress is being made in localisation and integration of services across the Partnership. The Partnership has successfully integrated the range of services provided via a voluntary sector commissioning framework. This will be extended to include services provided by the voluntary sector to the comprehensive CAMHS. A common specification and performance template has been agreed by the Children, Young People and Families Directorate and PCTs for the commissioning of specified family support services with the intention of integrating contract management for these contracts, beginning with the Homestart service. A Joint Commissioning Strategy between the Council and Birmingham's three PCTs is in the process of being finalised with the aim of having clear joint commissioning arrangements in 2010.
62. We acknowledge the need to increase relative spend on family support services. We are currently analysing expenditure and classification of family support to baseline and demonstrate changes over the coming year, and to help re-configure investment so that it acts to manage demand and meet the needs of children and families in or on the cusp of child protection services.
63. The Partnership has undertaken a workforce data analysis to establish the size and scope of the relevant workforce (in excess of 50,000 workers). We have plans to further develop our understanding of the voluntary sector - where over 1,000 organisations are involved in delivering children's services. There is more to be done to engage the independent provider sector in the developments being put in place.
64. Examples of effective partnership arrangements involving health also include CAMHS, where there is a joined up strategy and commissioning/performance group and our CYP joint commissioning strategy which will drive service integration, delivering improved outcomes for children and young people. There is also work in hand to co-locate specialist CAMHS services for LAC and general health CAMHS in each locality.
65. Early assessment of need and accelerated access to localised, integrated solutions will continue to be put in place, leading to improvements in outcomes for children, young people and families. For example, integrated working assessment groups are being established at a constituency basis to strengthen multi-agency

assessment processes and the coverage of extended provision clusters across the entire city facilitates integrated planning and delivery.

66. Partnership arrangements have been aligned with those of Be Birmingham and the other key thematic partnerships in the city. For example, the Safer Birmingham Partnership includes the establishment of a Youth Crime Strategic Group, which provides a single group within the city, with dual reporting and accountability to the Safer Birmingham Partnership Executive Board and the Children and Young People's Executive Board, taking strategic ownership of the youth crime agenda with funding aligned to priorities.
67. These changes in arrangements are designed to improve outcomes for particular groups but also to reduce the risk of non-achievement. It is believed that these new ways of working and new arrangements between partners are likely to lead to continued improvements into the future.

Birmingham Cultural Partnership

How well do local partners understand the needs and aspirations of their diverse communities?

1. The Cultural Partnership uses a number of data sources to determine priorities and to underpin decision making.
2. Available data concentrates on aspects of participation and satisfaction; trend data across culture is still limited and comprehensive information about the benefits or outcomes is inconsistent. Useful information can be collated from small scale evaluations and audience / visitor feedback. The Partnership is working to increase its knowledge and intelligence by developing and adapting research and evidence resources.

Data currently used includes the following:

- Birmingham City Council Annual Opinion Survey (also known as the LAA Survey)
- Birmingham City Council monthly tracker survey (also known as the satisfaction survey)
- Sport England Active People Survey
- NI 8 adult participation in sport and active recreation
- NI 57 children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport
- NI 9 use of public libraries
- NI 10 visits to museums and galleries
- NI 11 engagement in the arts
- Marketing Birmingham TNS visitor perception survey

3. The Partnership works closely with the other Core Cities (Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield) against which it benchmarks its performance nationally. It also looks to learn from and collaborate with other UK cities with which culturally, demographically, socially and economically we share specific issues e.g. Leicester. The Partnership also uses international data around quality of life and cultural perceptions as a comparator for Birmingham.
4. The Partnership includes representatives from the major strategic and cultural organisations within the city. The cultural indicators within the LAA reflect its assessment of the priority issues. These are derived from the needs and aspirations of residents and communities taken from the available evidence and supported by the outcomes of the Cultural Strategy 'Culture at the Heart 2007-2010' consultation.
5. Some of the major challenges identified are:
 - Raising the external perception of Birmingham as a cultural destination
 - Raising cultural participation above national averages (sport, arts, libraries, museums and galleries)
 - Increasing the use of Birmingham's world-class cultural facilities by local residents
 - Engaging the most disadvantaged communities
 - Fulfilling the desire of residents for cultural activities at a local level

How well do local partners deliver outcomes & improvement?

6. Cultural organisations have a history of working together; this is more likely now to be across sectors e.g. health, children and young people and education. The Cultural Partnership has been a catalyst for some activity and the Cultural Strategy 'Culture at the Heart 2007-2010' is a shared statement of the key priorities for the sector. The inclusion of sport is relatively recent but it has strengthened the Partnership bringing new opportunities and networks.
7. There are two key challenges for culture.

- a) Raising participation amongst particular sections of our community, particularly acute for sports but an issue for all.
 - b) Using culture to improve the external perception of the city
8. The Partnerships priority outcomes for 2008-2011, addressing the key challenges, include:
- Helping residents of all ages to get more active through a range of new and free activities e.g. swimming, walking, cycling and jogging
 - Using high quality cultural events to raise the profile of culture and the city underpinning the visitor economy and strengthening the perception of the city
 - Addressing barriers to cultural engagement so as to widen access to city centre cultural activity for residents in the neighbourhoods
 - Supporting international partnerships that promote Birmingham abroad and bring world-class events to Birmingham
 - Supporting diverse cultural activities that celebrate and bring together different communities thus strengthen community cohesion
 - Developing opportunities for cultural volunteering that act as a bridge to employment
9. Recognising the challenges ahead, the Partnership is investing in developing a robust performance management framework, part funded by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP), in order to track performance. In this way poor performance can be identified early and addressed.

What are the future prospects for the area?

10. Birmingham's demography makes it the youngest of any major city in Europe and within twenty years it will cease to have a single ethnic majority. The student population of the city is set to expand over the coming years and skills levels are rising. These are both opportunities and challenges for the future. Current targets evidence the participation of the 16 years plus population, in the medium to longer term, outcomes will have to include children and young people.
11. The medium term prospects for culture are good. Perception of the city as a cultural centre is rising nationally. A key contribution to this is investment in improving facilities, better niche marketing and effectively targeting programmes. We are reviewing our cultural provision to ensure that it remains relevant to all of our residents. Providing effective marketing, linking programmes and building a critical mass of cultural programmes will take three to four years. Longer term the development of the city through the vision of the Big City Plan offers an opportunity to improve the current cultural infrastructure and the wider cultural offer.
12. The cultural targets in the LAA are challenging but achievable. Tackling the low use of cultural facilities in some areas and by some communities and adult participation in sport are the key to addressing other challenges.
13. Use of leisure and cultural facilities is low in some areas and with some groups
 - The Cultural Strategy 'Culture at the Heart' 2007-2010 identifies low participation rates as a key issue. Breaking down barriers to provide a better cultural offer to the most disadvantaged is addressed explicitly through the LAA delivery plan 'Increasing use of cultural facilities in the four worst performing constituencies'
 - Participation is on a general downward trend, 39.2% of residents have not used a cultural facility in the last 12 months (2008) compared to 31.6% (2007). This is more pronounced in some constituencies as members of disadvantaged communities are more likely never to have participated in a cultural activity (Birmingham Opinion Survey). The diversity and demography of specific neighbourhoods makes reaching particular audiences challenging. The LAA delivery plans will tackle these issues

directly by using this data as the target and by focusing activity in the four poorest performing constituencies.

- Focusing LAA resources on Erdington, Hodge Hill, Ladywood and Perry Barr will begin to affect change; these are also the constituencies with the highest number of priority neighbourhoods as identified by Be Birmingham. To achieve the targets set, by 2011, the smallest number of new participants are broadly equal to approximately 1,323 (+1.9%) in Erdington; 2,906 (+3.8%) in Hodge Hill; 2,870 (+4.1%) in Ladywood and 1,370 (+1.8%) in Perry Barr (based on estimates 2007)
- A range of cultural organisations, through the LAA delivery plan, will bring high quality activity into people's neighbourhoods enhancing local opportunities and encourage use of city centre cultural facilities. Interventions include bringing cultural organisations into local neighbourhoods (cultural champions); targeting subsidising events and / or transport; commissioning more programmes that relate to BME communities and using culture to bring communities together.

14. Engagement in arts is low

- Birmingham is a major national cultural centre, attracting audiences from across the country, with high quality and world class arts venues and programmes such as Symphony Hall and the Ikon. The city is the cultural centre for residents of the West Midlands. Audiences for arts events in the city are drawn from across the region and Birmingham plays a key part in the performance of arts indicators in other local authorities.
- The size and composition of the city's population, as well as evidence of local user surveys and ticket sales, suggests arts engagement is stronger than the national arts indicator.
- Arts organisations are working effectively with cultural partners to improve access and opportunities to engage in the arts through the Cultural Strategy 'Culture at the Heart' 2007-2010 and the two local cultural indicators in the LAA. New research, giving a better understanding of the motivations and behaviours of different audience groups including both those who are already active in the arts and those who currently have little or no engagement, is beginning to inform delivery.
- Local arts infrastructure is patchy so a renewed focus upon and support for activities relevant for communities, such as an expanded Arts Champion programme, are aimed at improving participation. Stronger local links between city centre arts organisations and neighbourhoods is being enhanced through the delivery plan 'increasing use of cultural facilities in the four worst performing constituencies' in the LAA.

- A programme of incentives, such as the Arts Council's A night less ordinary i.e. free theatre tickets for under 26 year olds, will encourage residents to explore what is on offer in the rest of the city
- Birmingham is moving toward an entitlement approach to the arts for children. A key determinant for future involvement in the arts is positive experiences of the arts in early years. The current Creative Futures strategy for young people (0-19 years) will increase access to the arts, raise the quality of arts activities and recognise the achievements of children and young people.
- Success in addressing the issue of low arts participation depends upon increased collaboration and the achievement of the cultural outcomes in the LAA.

15. Adult participation in sport (NI8)

- This is being directly addressed through the LAA and sports participation is likely to begin to increase by 2011. The current target is a 3% increase in participation 2007-2011 (above the Core City average) which translates to 11,511 more residents actively participating (using the Sport England definition) in sport by 2011.
- Sustained improvement in sport participation is a long term strategy and a key challenge is those residents who have never take part in sport. Another important issue, identified and being addressed through the LAA, is the steep decline in sports engagement after leaving school.
- The approach will focus on certain popular sporting activities, walking, jogging, cycling, and swimming, which can feed into mass participation events, like the half marathon. Free access, for example to swimming and gym facilities, will break some of the perceived barriers to participation. To improve and sustain levels of physical activity specific key groups' e.g. younger women and certain minority groups will be targeted.
- Joint working with the Health & Well-Being Partnership, Swim 4 Free and Gym for Free, will help to maximise health outcomes during the current LAA

16. Satisfaction with leisure facilities is low

- Currently only 66.4% of the adult population in Birmingham are satisfied with local sporting provisions; compared with the national average of 69.5%. It is often linked to the location and age of the actual facilities (see below)
- Those using facilities are significantly more satisfied with leisure facilities than those who do not, so an emphasis on widening

access through free activities e.g. gym and swim will partially address one recognised barrier

- Continued support for local sports infrastructure and volunteering through the LAA will help develop community sports and encourage participation

17. Leisure facilities outside of the city centre are in need of modernisation

- Birmingham has large areas of disadvantage which contain poor sporting infrastructure. There are areas of the city that have limited sports club provision and the challenge is to establish community based sport clubs and leisure facilities in areas that are densely populated but without the infrastructure in place to support further development of sporting opportunities.
- One of the Sport & Physical Activity Partnerships key priority outcomes is to develop a network of high quality community and specialist sport facilities. The Partnership delivery framework will set up community sports networks.
- A Sport Facilities Strategy was been jointly commissioned by Birmingham Sport and Physical Activity Partnership, Birmingham City Council and Sport England. The report sets out the strategic direction of investment in sports facilities across the City for both the shorter term (up to 2012) and longer term (up to 2021 and beyond).
- The city has a particular issue with swimming pools which is addressed in the facilities strategy. Birmingham has one of the lowest provisions in the West Midlands i.e. 9.3 square metres of pool provision per 1,000 is one of the lowest in the West Midlands. The national figure is 13.1 square metres per 1000. Local authority swimming pool provision in Birmingham is under review.
- Work continues with the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme so that new facilities will be open for wider community use.

Be Birmingham Executive Board – 14th May 2009

LAA Initial End of Year Performance Summary

1 Purpose of Report

To provide Executive Board with an initial summary of LAA performance information for the 2008/9 financial year, presenting an early indication of current high risk indicators. This report should be read alongside the item on CAA self assessment elsewhere on this agenda. A completed version of this End of Year report will be brought back to June's meeting of Executive Board.

2 Recommendations/Decisions

- Board members are asked to note the contents of this report taking into account the limited performance data available at this point.
- To also note that a completed End of Year report will be brought to Executive Board in June.
- That the thematic partnership leads consider their response to those indicators which are currently showing as off track
- That relevant thematic partnerships produce a report on under-developed local indicators, with a view to getting these indicators signed off by Executive Board in June.

3 Background

This report gives a summary of performance for the first year of delivery against the new LAA. At the time of preparation, there is limited final performance data for the year, so the attached performance breakdown still contains a number of gaps. Significant data lags mean that data for some indicators (including Environment, Economic and Health targets), might not be available until a significant time after the end of 2009. Whilst we have proxy local measures for some areas, this is not always the case.

Where gaps exist we have tried to indicate in the commentary when data/information for indicators will be available. By the June Executive Board meeting a more complete performance report will be provided. This report will also indicate how we are performing against LAA reward thresholds.

4 Risk Assessment

Based on information available, each indicator has been assessed in two ways.

- i) Where an indicator has a 2008/9 target and where data is available, we have highlighted whether **performance against this target has been met**.
- ii) On all indicators we have also **risk assessed** indicators on the likelihood of the final third year LAA target being met.

On many indicators, including those furnished by the Place or Annual Opinion Survey, 2008/9 was the baseline year. Therefore these indicators have not been risk assessed.

4 End of Year Performance summary

Performance against Target

Performance against targets			
No of Targets	On Track ✓	Off Track ✗	No 2008-9 Data/ No Target
80	8	9	63

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessments of all indicators				
No of Targets	Green	Amber	Red	N/A
80	21 (26%)	1 (1%)	23 (29%)	35 (44%)

5 High Risk Indicators

- Availability of land for development.
- Overall employment.
- Median earnings.
- Worklessness.
- Adapting to climate change.
- NEETs.
- Education - Foundation Stage performance.
- Education - Children in care academic achievement at early years and GCSE.
- Education - English between KS1 and KS2.
- Education - Key Stage 2 performance.
- Reducing arson incidents through education.
- Graffiti levels.
- Male All-age all cause mortality rate.
- Female All-age all cause mortality rate.
- Smoking Cessation.
- Delayed transfers of care.
- Childhood Obesity.

6 Local Indicators

There remain a number of local indicators included in the recently refreshed LAA, which are still not yet fully developed. These indicators are:

- Graduate employment in Birmingham private sector businesses.
- Research and development/innovation.
- Investment.
- Business regulation.
- Percentage of Birmingham households and businesses buying and selling on-line.

- Neighbourhoods Index
- Support for a thriving Third Sector.

Clearly there are difficulties preventing implementation of some of these indicators but now is the time either to finalise and agree details or to accept that they should be removed from the LAA if it proves impossible adequately to measure them. It is therefore recommended that relevant thematic partnerships produce a report on under-developed local indicators to come back to June's executive Board with a view to getting these indicators signed off or deleted from the LAA.

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