

## Appendix 1: Children and Young People's Plan Review 2008-2009

This report sets out the progress made in the last year of the first three year Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009. It looks at each of the Every Child Matters themes in turn, as well as Excellent Children's Services.

### 1. BE HEALTHY

In 2008/09, the last year of our first CYPP, it was our vision that every child and young person should have the opportunity to grow up healthy, in body and mind. This meant investing in high quality education and advice for young people so that they could make healthy lifestyle choices, providing first class health services to children, young people and their families, and offering targeted and specialised treatment for the most vulnerable.

We set ourselves ambitious three year targets to slow down the rise of obesity, reduce teenage pregnancy, increase the number of young people accessing treatment for drugs misuse and reduce the percentage of children experiencing tooth decay. These targets were supported by a number of key indicators focusing on healthy eating, reducing smoking, antenatal service provision, access to sexual health treatment and achieving healthy school status.

#### *Progress against CYPP headline targets*

During 2008/09 we made significant progress in achieving a number of these key targets and indicators. Progress against targets is summarised below.

Target	Progress
Achieve a 47% reduction from the 2000 baseline in the number of under 18 conceptions by 2007 (figure reported in the 2008/09 financial year)	With a reduction of 20.8% the target has not been met. However, the actual number of teenage conceptions has not changed since last year, due partly to an increase in the size of the cohort. There are a number of early intervention projects underway which should help to decrease teenage conception.
Increase by 3% per annum the number of young people under 18 accessing substance misuse treatment	We have met the target with 1,064 young people accessing treatment in 2008/09.
By 2008 achieve a 10% reduction in the number of children with active dental decay by the age of 5 from 45.5% baseline (2003/04)	This is calculated through a bi-annual survey undertaken by the British Association of Community Dentistry. The latest available data is for 2005/06 and shows a reduction to 41.6%.
Slow down the rise in obesity in primary school pupils. Targets for 2008 are no more than 23.4% of year 6 pupils and 15% of reception pupils to be classed as obese	While there was a slight increase in the level of obesity amongst year 6 pupils, up from 23% to 24.49%, the level of obesity within reception pupils has slowed. In 2008/09 the level of obesity within reception pupils was 13.75%, a reduction from 14.60% in 2007/08.

## *Summary of progress against CYPP priorities*

As a partnership we achieved a number of important milestones in 2008/09, which have contributed to better outcomes for children, young people and their families. Our priorities and actions taken to deliver on them in 2008/09 are listed below:

### ***Improve access to health services and health education for children and young people, with a focus on reducing inequalities***

Key achievements include:

- Agreeing and implementing a 3 year multi-agency action plan to tackle the rise in childhood obesity as part of a broader Tower Hamlets Obesity Strategy, to include both prevention and management of overweight and obesity and an evaluation framework.
- Using children's health needs assessments to identify gaps in provision and developing action plans to address the gaps.
- Implementing a new service specification for health visiting and school health services. We have ensured the service is universally accessible, working closely with maternity and other services and resources are targeted at those in greatest need. We have done this by developing and agreeing a prioritised implementation and investment plan.
- Implementing the new dedicated health service for pupil referral unit and youth offending services users. We have also recruited a new school health advisor.
- Working with GPs and Children's Centres to increase the uptake of childhood immunisations in the first 2 years of life, with a particular focus on the pre-school booster, where uptake is lowest.
- Working with local communities to ensure children have access to the mobile dental surgery projects and to General Dental Practices, as well as commissioning a high quality preventative and treatment dental service aimed at children and young people, to improve access to dental care for families whose children have dental disease.

### ***Improve diet and increase physical activity among children and young people with a view to halting and reversing the long-term rise in obesity***

Key achievements include:

- Agreeing and implementing a 3 year multi-agency action plan to tackle the rise in childhood obesity as part of a broader Tower Hamlets Obesity Strategy, to include both prevention and management of overweight and obesity and an evaluation framework.
- Measuring the Body Mass Index of at least 84% of children in reception and 88% in year 6.
- Providing training programmes for health professionals on childhood obesity (including the care pathway) - 50% have already been completed.
- Consistently meeting nutritional targets for our school meals.

***Improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people by increasing the focus on early intervention and improving access to mental health services for vulnerable groups***

Key achievements include:

- Improving outcomes in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication Language and Literacy in the Foundation Stage profile through the provision of targeted support in Children's Centres.
- Increasing our focus on early intervention and prevention, working through Children's Centres, schools and other community based settings, so that where appropriate we can reduce the number of young people requiring specialist CAMHS support.
- Supporting schools to ensure that the emotional well-being of pupils is addressed effectively through the curriculum, through training of school staff, bringing in specialist mental health workers, and implementing the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) strategy effectively. SEAL has now been implemented in all primary schools.

***Reduce the take up of smoking, drugs and alcohol and ensure prompt access to treatment and support for young people who misuse substances***

Key achievements include:

- Rolling out the pilot peer-led stop smoking intervention project (ASSIST) to the remaining year 8 pupils in the borough.
- Increasing access to appropriate and high quality substance misuse services, so that the number of young people under 18 accessing drug treatment has risen by 3% in 2008/09.
- Reviewing treatment and discharge protocols to increase the percentage of young people who leave substance misuse treatment in a planned way. Further work is included in the plan for 2009/10; minimum performance expectations have been set and exceptions reports required each quarter. An improvement is expected by the end of Q1 in 2009/10.
- Re-commissioning the borough's holistic substance misuse service in order to maximise quality and value for money. Contract negotiations are underway for the re-commissioned service to be delivered by two providers from the beginning of May 2009.

***Continue to reduce teenage pregnancy in the borough, particularly in high incidence areas, and raise awareness of sexual health risks among children and young people under the age of 19***

Key achievements include:

- Running a local media campaign to advertise sexual health clinics in areas that teenagers frequent, including schools and shopping centres. In addition, there have been two media campaigns to raise young people's awareness about sexual health and local services promoted. Data recently received for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008 reveals our lowest ever quarter levels for teenage conception rates and is well below the national average.
- Providing individualised packages of care to teenage parents, with input from the Gateway Team, pregnancy adviser and parent adviser for unsupported vulnerable teenagers.

- Developing workforce training on sex and relationship issues within mainstream partner agencies, such as Connexions Personal Advisers, Youth Workers and Social Workers.
- Providing young-people with a friendly sexual health/contraceptive advice service, with a focus on health promotion as well as reactive services in the community, the college, clinics, GP practices and Pharmacists.
- Completing a scoping study to identify the potential benefits of establishing a co-located centre for specialist services for children, including a proposed service specification, to inform capital planning within both NHS Tower Hamlets and the local authority to improve access to services.

***Improve access to and quality of pre and post-natal care, targeting resources at the most vulnerable women and families***

Key achievements include:

- Continuing to pilot the Family Nurse Partnership, providing intensive home visiting support from the specialist team of midwives and health visitors to 100 teenage parents, working closely with Children's Centres.
- Implementing a comprehensive strategy to promote breastfeeding in maternity services, Children's Centres and across NHS Tower Hamlets primary and community health services, to achieve UNICEF baby friendly accreditation and ensure that support and specialist advice is available to all women breast feeding.
- Supporting pregnant young women of school age and teenage parents to remain in education and training.

***Improve access to and quality of support to disabled children and young people and their families***

Key achievements include:

- Completing a scoping study to identify the potential benefits of establishing a co-located centre for specialist services for children, including a proposed service specification, to inform capital planning within both NHS Tower Hamlets and the local authority to improve access to services.
- Developing an integrated approach to assessment of disabled children and long term conditions across the range of professionals and agencies providing services.
- Ensuring that informal carers are supported by improving the take up of carer assessments.
- Implementing the attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) assessment care pathway in consultation with parents.
- Improving consistency and accessibility of short break services and developing eligibility criteria for short breaks.
- Piloting the person centred approach to transition planning and recruiting a transition worker to carry this work forward.
- Promoting direct payments for children with disabilities and their carers who meet the threshold criteria. Workforce training has been completed and we have also produced and distributed materials to promote direct payments.
- Consulting with children with disabilities to inform the commissioning process for personal care providers and conducting a review of training to support the implementation of the lead professional role.

## Looking ahead to 2009/10

Despite progress there are still a number of areas for improvement. These have been fed into the new three year CYPP which sets out our top five 'Be Healthy' priorities and what we'll do differently over the next three years. A summary of our priorities is as follows:

- Slow down and reverse the long-term rise in obesity amongst children and young people
- Support the health needs of young people by ensuring they are able to access effective support, information and advice in appropriate settings
- Better support parents and families in giving children the best, healthiest, start in life
- Improve access to care for children and young people with disabilities through a coordinated, multi-agency approach
- Support children and young people to be mentally and emotionally healthy

## 2. STAY SAFE

In 2008/09 it was our vision that children and young people should grow up free from harm, fear and prejudice. This meant ensuring that children were effectively safeguarded from the risk of harm and neglect, reducing the involvement of young people in crime, both as victim and perpetrator, and protecting young people from bullying and harassment.

We set ourselves ambitious targets to ensure that children would be effectively safeguarded from the risk of harm and neglect; that the care of children, looked after by the Council, would be improved; the involvement of young people in crime, both as victims and perpetrators, would be reduced; and that we would tackle bullying. These targets were supported by a number of key performance indicators on placement stability for children looked after, domestic violence, experiences of bullying and the timescales for completion of initial and core assessments.

### *Progress against CYPP headline targets*

During 2008/09 we made significant progress in achieving a number of these key targets and indicators. Progress against targets is summarised below.

Target	Progress
Reduce the percentage of looked after children who have three or more placements in a year to 9.5% by 2009/10	The final figure of 10.43% meant we narrowly missed our target. The size of the cohort has a significant impact on the outturn of this indicator. Targets for 2009/10 and 2010/11 will maintain performance above our statistical neighbours and the London/national average.
Increase the percentage of social care initial and core assessments completed within Government timescales to achieve London Top Quartile performance by 2009/10	The London Top Quartile figures for the target area have not been made available. However, for both initial and core assessments the target figures were not met. The target for initial assessments was set at 75% for 2008/09 - we completed 63.55% within timescales. Similarly the target for core assessments was set at 70% - we completed

	57.28% in timescales.
Ensure that the length of time domestic violence is experienced before being reported is on average less than 4.5 years	In the end, the target figure of 4.5 years was considered to be less challenging than it could be and was therefore lowered to 3.5 years. The new, revised target was met, with a final outcome figure of 3.3 years.
Maintain top quartile performance for the percentage of young people saying that they feel very or quite safe from harm in the Tell Us Survey	The London top quartile figure from the Tell Us survey is 79.13% - the final figure of 80% for 2008/09 has ensured that the target has been met. However, we fell short of the borough's overall target figure of 85%.

### *Summary of progress against CYPP priorities*

As a partnership we achieved a number of important milestones in 2008/09, which have contributed to better outcomes for children, young people and their families. Our priorities and actions taken to deliver on them in 2008/09 are listed below:

#### ***Continue to protect children from risk of harm and neglect***

Key achievements include:

- Establishing a Child Death Overview Panel, the aim of which has been to ensure that there is robust monitoring and oversight of child deaths, and that where possible, agencies working with children learn valuable lessons.
- Reviewing the arrangements for carrying out both initial and core assessments to ensure that improvements from the previous year with respect to workflow and recording were both sustained and built on.
- Consolidating the review and restructure of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, continuing to ensure the welfare and safety of children and young people. A Forward Plan was completed in November 2008 and a Members Pack was produced and presented at the LSCB Away Day in January 2009.
- Continuing to improve on placement stability for looked after children through more effective care planning, active tracking and provision of support packages to those children in risk of multiple placements. A Placement Stability Protocol was also launched, action plans for each high risk child looked after were set up, alongside a monitoring programme. In addition, placement support meetings have been put in place to ensure children and young people remain in placement.
- Ensuring the dissemination of the learning points from the serious case reviews and that they are incorporated into practice. There has been a review of LSCB and single-agency action plans by the LSCB Case Review Group and all Serious Case Review Action Plans have been reviewed by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Three training workshops were delivered to Practitioners and Managers in July 2008.
- Reviewing the work carried out within faith, and other communities in Tower Hamlets, and targeting leaders of those communities, through training, coaching and other forms of support, to facilitate their direct involvement in preventative work with families. In conjunction with the African Families Service Pastors Group, a Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Handbook for use in all black African/African Caribbean churches was launched in March 2009. Nine sessions of child protection training were delivered to Imams and Islamic teachers focusing on the implementation of the Mosques and Madrassahs Safeguarding Guidance.

## ***Develop a continuum of parenting support from early intervention through targeted and specialist multi-agency services to the use of enforcement measures***

Key achievements include:

- Developing and implementing a partnership performance management framework for children and domestic violence.
- Developing systems for multi-agency referral, assessment and service delivery using an intensive whole-family model of support. The emphasis has been on early intervention and prevention to ensure children are safeguarded. This has been steered by a Think Family Group with high level representation from agencies across Tower Hamlets.
- Embedding the Family Intervention Programme, and focusing on the needs of families of offenders and those with complex and multiple problems.
- Developing a comprehensive strategy to ensure young carers and their families are supported to access a full range of life and education opportunities.
- Identifying, assessing and offering appropriate protection and support at the earliest opportunity to children and families affected by domestic violence.
- Offering young, first time parents an intensive package of support during pregnancy and in the first two years of their child's life. This is provided through Children's Centres and the home-visiting outreach service.

## ***Reduce the risk of young people becoming victims of crime, and improve their perception of safety in the local area.***

Key achievements include:

- Establishing a Commission to explore ways of improving the public safety of children in Tower Hamlets. It took evidence from all relevant sources in the borough, including young people.
- Supporting the new Metropolitan Police Tower Hamlets Public Protection Desks and ongoing partnership working between Children's Social Care and the police. A member of the new integrated pathways team will be based at Limehouse Police Station working alongside the Public Protection Desk.

## ***Continue to tackle bullying***

Key achievements include:

- Improving systems for the reporting and recording of bullying incidents, both within schools but also in public places, so that action can be taken to address bullying "hotspots".

## ***Looking ahead to 2009/10***

Despite progress there are still a number of areas for improvement. These have been fed into the new three year CYPP which sets out our top five 'Stay Safe' priorities and what we'll do differently over the next three years. A summary of our priorities is as follows:

- Ensure that children and young people are protected from harm and feel safe and confident in their area and beyond
- Significantly reduce bullying
- Protect young people from the risk of sexual exploitation
- Support parents and families to provide a safe environment where children and young people thrive and achieve their full potential

- Ensure that looked after children live in stable environment

### 3. ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

In 2008/09 it was our vision that children and young people should grow up enjoying life, feeling proud of where they live and what they have achieved. This meant investing in high quality provision for children and young people so that they are supported to achieve, providing first class schools for our children and young people and an excellent range of leisure and cultural opportunities for families. Effective early intervention strategies offer targeted support for those who may be at risk and specialist support meets the needs of our most vulnerable young people and their families.

We set ourselves ambitious three year targets to increase attainment with a particular focus on Key Stages 3 and 4, attendance at school and participation in broader activities. These targets were supported by a number of key indicators focusing on early years provision, parental engagement, and increasing opportunities for play, culture, arts and sports. Our priority was to support progress for all children, and ensure that vulnerable groups such as looked after children and those with disabilities are particularly supported to achieve their full potential.

*Progress against CYPP headline targets:*

During 2008/09 we made significant progress in achieving a number of these key targets and indicators. Progress against targets is summarised below.

Target	Progress
Increase the percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 in English and maths at Key Stage 3 from 57.6% in 2007 to 71% in 2009	We missed our target - 57.7% of pupils achieved level 5 and above in both English and maths at KS3 in 2008. There are questions about the reliability of data, however, due to the national problems with the marking of KS3 assessments. From the current year, schools will be undertaking Teacher Assessments so this indicator will no longer be reported.
Increase the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSE A*-C grades including English and maths from 30% to 50% by 2009	In 2008, 41.2% of young people in Tower Hamlets achieved five A*-C grade GCSEs, including English and Maths. Although we did not meet our ambitious target, this is a significant improvement on the figure of 36.5% in 2007.
Increase attendance at school to 95% at primary schools and 93.5% at secondary schools by 2009/10	We missed our target with primary attendance at 94.59%. This was predicted as both Islamic EID festivals fell on school days in term time - the decrease in attendance was therefore largely due to religious observance. In addition, there was a 3.9% increase in authorised absence due to illness with a number of schools being particularly badly affected by the noro virus.  Secondary attendance is 93.01% which



Target	Progress
	represents a small increase on the previous year's figure of 92.48%.
Increase the percentage of looked after children achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE to 23% by 2009	We missed our target - 10% of looked after children achieved 5 or more A*-C at the end of key stage 4. The cohort for this group is very small (30 this year) so performance of one pupil has a disproportionate effect on target. A wide range of actions are being taken to improve performance against this indicator.
Reduce exclusions from school to 1.2 per thousand pupils in 2007/08 and to 1.0 per thousand by 2008/09	Although we have narrowly missed the target with 1.02 exclusions per thousand pupils, we have seen a 48% reduction since 2007, coupled with an improvement in behaviour as evidenced by judgements made by Ofsted inspectors.
Reduce the SEN/non SEN gap for pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSE including English and maths from 35.4% 2007/08 to 35% by 2008/09	We met our target achieving 33.3% and improved on our target by over 2%.

### *Summary of progress against CYPP priorities*

As a partnership we have achieved a number of important milestones which have contributed to better outcomes for children, young people and their families. Our priorities and actions taken to deliver on them in 2008/09 are listed below:

#### ***Improve standards of early years provision to give every child the best possible start in life***

Key achievements include:

- Providing high quality early universal education provision which all children can access.
- Providing additional support and guidance to improve outcomes for language and communication and personal and emotional development.
- Providing opportunities for all young children to play learn and express themselves, including those with disabilities and complex health needs.

#### ***Extend the opportunities for all children, including those with disabilities, to enjoy a range of activities outside school including participation in play, culture, arts and sports***

Key achievements include:

- Offering a range of dedicated unsupervised outdoor play areas for different abilities and age groups, such as skate and wheel parks, ball games areas and teenage seating areas supported by the 2008/09 capital programme for parks.
- Working in conjunction with the schools library service and Idea Stores to develop children's reading groups.
- Improving access for children and families to e-learning outside of school.
- Developing the COO-L card scheme, issuing cards with monthly bursaries to 2,000 vulnerable children.

### ***Through personalised learning accelerate improvements in attainment with a particular focus on Key stages 1 and 3 and GCSE English and maths***

Key achievements include:

- Identifying early those at risk of not thriving and putting in place early intervention programmes, working across agencies to reduce underachievement at a later date. This includes providing support to newly arrived pupils and those with English as an additional language, as well as boys who were under-achieving.
- Specifically targeting pupils at risk of not achieving level 4 in both English and mathematics by age 11. This resulted in a 2% improvement from the previous year and is 1% above the national average.
- Targeting pupils at risk of not achieving level 5 in both English and mathematics by age 14, and those at risk of not achieving A-C grades or better in both English and mathematics by age 16. This resulted in a 5% improvement in those securing 5 GCSE A-C grades from the previous year.

### ***Maintain a strong focus on securing the best possible outcomes for looked after children***

Key achievements include:

- Encouraging looked after children and young people to maintain high aspirations and ensure they are actively involved in setting their own learning targets.
- Working with our virtual head teacher to track progress for looked after children and provide challenge and support to schools.
- Implementing programmes to target specific support to address gaps in learning looked after children may have experienced.

### ***Enrich the curriculum offer, including creative and sporting opportunities, for all our children and young people, so they enjoy learning***

Key achievements include:

- Enabling children and young people to access a wide range of arts, music and cultural activities, both through schools and out of school hours programmes. We are ahead of targets to increase young people's participation in physical activity and progress in this area has been enhanced through the Healthy Borough initiative.
- Implementing the National Languages Strategy to support languages in primary schools, including Sign Along and British Sign Language.
- Extending the range of the curriculum offer in secondary schools by working through the Tower Hamlets Hub to develop an integrated range of vocational learning pathways to engage and stretch students aged 14-19.

### ***Improve behaviour and reduce exclusions from school***

Key achievements include:

- Implementing programmes to support schools and governing bodies to develop a wide range of preventative strategies to improve behaviour and reduce incidents which lead to exclusion. We have reduced permanent exclusion by 48%.
- Working in partnership with schools and other providers to improve behaviour and attendance and ensure provision is made for challenging pupils, including high quality alternative education and reintegration support for excluded pupils and others out of school. Our Behaviour and Attendance partnership has been recognised as a best practice model nationally.

## ***Increase the level of parental engagement in children's learning and development***

Key achievements include:

- Increasing opportunities for family engagement and opportunities to learn and play together.
- Creating a coherent parenting support offer, inclusive of family learning and parenting programmes.
- Establishing Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities courses throughout the borough and introducing two new intensive family support programmes to complement existing work.

## ***Improve transition at all key points, with a particular emphasis on the transition from primary to secondary, statutory to post 16 provision and from education to adult life***

Key achievements include:

- Increasing use of IT and putting in place 4 transition workers to support vulnerable young people moving from primary to secondary school.
- Establishing cross-phase working to support effective transitions, focusing on a shared understanding of pupil progress and levelling.
- Ensuring, through better alignment of resources, that support for school improvement enables more successful transitions across phases of education.
- Creating two additional choice adviser posts to support parents in helping their children make good choices for post 16 education.

### *Looking ahead to 2009/10*

Despite progress there are still a number of areas for improvement. These have been fed into the new three year CYPP which sets out our top five 'Enjoy and Achieve' priorities and what we'll do differently over the next three years. A summary of our priorities is as follows:

- Develop a broader, more creative and engaging curriculum which will inspire our children and young people
- Ensure that all of our children and young people have high aspirations and a positive attitude to learning
- Accelerate the achievement and progress of all our children and young people
- Better support children and young people at key points of change in their lives
- Provide a learning, play and cultural offer for families

## **4. MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION**

In 2008/09 it was our vision that children should grow up understanding differences, confident and courageous about the future, able and willing to make a positive contribution to a strong cohesive community in Tower Hamlets. This meant enabling children and young people to be more confident in engaging in public affairs, understanding and welcoming difference, and courageous in helping to create a safe, cohesive environment.

It also meant working with families, schools and informal organisations, contacting young people and encouraging them to engage in positive activities outside formal education. We have worked hard at increasing publicising the range of opportunities available, in particular this year extending the opportunities for volunteering and for participation in local

democracy. On top of this, we have tried to ensure that any young people with additional pressures – those young people with disabilities, looked after young people, young offenders - have access to the same opportunities as their peers.

### *Progress against CYPP headline targets*

During 2008/09 we made significant progress against key targets. Progress is summarised below.

Target	Progress
Increase the percentage of 13-19 year olds having contact with the youth service to 35%	The target has been exceeded - last year 42.4% of all teenagers were in contact with the youth service.
Reduce the number of youth on youth (10 – 17) violent crimes with a sanctioned detection outcome by 2% on the 2007/08 outturn	The measurement for youth on youth violence has recently changed and instead the police now measure serious youth violence. End of year figures for serious youth violence show a decrease of 22%.
Reduce the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system to 318 in 2008/09	Data for this indicator is not yet available – it will be published by the Youth Justice Board in November 2009.
Maintain the number of opportunities for young people to volunteer at 1,200 by 2008/09	We exceeded our target – 1,616 children and young people took part in volunteer activities in 2008/09. This is an increase of 374 young people from last year's figures.
Achieve a reduction in reoffending rates by 5% year on year	Data for this indicator will be available at the end of July 2009.

### *Summary of progress against CYPP priorities*

As a partnership we achieved a number of important milestones in 2008/09, which have contributed to better outcomes for children, young people and their families. Our priorities and actions taken to deliver on them in 2008/09 are listed below:

#### ***Increase the participation of children and young people in decision-making and public life***

Key achievements include:

- Training Early Years practitioners, improving their understanding of the “Listening to Young Children” agenda and incorporating the framework into the Early Years Foundation Stage planning. Guidelines for positive transitions from home to nursery and from nursery to school have been drafted.
- Engaging more young people in local democracy - this year’s election for the young mayor showed the highest voter turn-out yet, at 46%, 6% higher than the adult turn-out. This was a result of co-ordinated work with schools, the youth partnership, youth clubs, and the press, and the council has received a national award for its achievement.
- Linking the work of the school councils with the electoral process, so that we achieve greater integration in the democratic processes for young people.
- Drafting a training package helping practitioners to involve young people in decision making.

- Continuing to run consultation events for looked after young people and care-leavers, and ensure that they can contribute to the recruitment of staff through involvement on interview panels.

***Promote and support community cohesion among children and young people, and prevent them from becoming involved in crime and antisocial behaviour***

Key achievements include:

- Increasing our partnership work the police, schools and the youth offending team who focus on diversion to reduce the number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system – this has increased significantly by 14.3%.
- Rolling out the Youth Inclusion Programme and Youth Inclusion Support Panels borough-wide. These programmes identify vulnerable young people, and work with them, their schools and their families to divert them from antisocial activities and re-engage them positively.
- Continuing to use the Rapid Response Team to counter youth on youth disorder and kitting out a new mobile unit for use across the borough.
- Monitoring, with the police and the court, the ethnicity of offenders, and tracking the respective sentencing patterns. We meet regularly to pick up on any areas of concern.
- Implementing, with Magic Me and Tolerance in Diversity, intergenerational projects with children and adults of all ages, in and out of schools. The work has been extremely successful and participants were able to make a very useful contribution to the Public Safety Commission.
- Rolling out a borough-wide programme of activities to divert young people vulnerable to extremism, working in particular with community groups as partners.

***Increase young people's participation in positive activities***

Key achievements include:

- Advertising all positive activities for children and young people on a re-vitalised “AMP” web-site, alongside regular features in East End Life.
- Implementing the COO-L card scheme as one of the 12 national pilots - over 2,000 teenagers were able to use the COO-L card last year which offers bursaries of up to £40 per month for young people eligible for free school meals, to spend against a menu of positive activities. The scheme is currently being evaluated, and we are hoping to build on it locally, after taking views from young people.
- Piloting the early GCSEs, and thanks to the Participatory Budgeting scheme this will be available in seven out of eight LAPs in 2009/10. The youngest candidate in the pilot was in Year 6.
- Developing an Olympic programme with Olympic ambassadors in schools and bursaries offered for gifted and talented aspiring Olympians and Para-Olympians.
- Offering a large number of volunteering opportunities. Volunteering placements are always hard to measure, and the figure changes all the time, but over 1,500 opportunities were mapped half way through the year, in co-operation with the Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets. New partners – Changemakers, Queen Mary University, and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - have joined the strategy group. Our target was to maintain the number of volunteering placements at the high 2007/08 level of 1,200. We were awarded the national “Investors in Volunteering” accreditation (managed by Volunteer England) in October 2008.

## ***Positively reintegrate young people who offend***

Key achievements include:

- Establishing an in-house remand fostering facility, to help keep young people out of custody before sentencing, and continue to use the National Children's Homes facility where out-of-borough placements are required.
- Holding a Commission into the Public Safety of Young People, the report of which was presented to Cabinet in the spring. Elected Members talked to young people and their families, the police, schools, academics and professionals from around the country, and made a number of recommendations for work in the borough. The recommendations will be included in the Youth Justice and Community Safety Plans, and monitored quarterly.
- Running five COP (police) and five LIFE (fire brigade) courses last year, each offering places for ten young people, giving them a taste of professional life, and encouraging them in their careers.
- Implementing through the Youth Offending Service, Connexions, Housing, and schools the London Resettlement Pledge, offering young offenders leaving custody the support offered to looked-after children. The pledge is not yet fully implemented, but well on the way.

### *Looking ahead to 2009/10*

Despite progress there are still a number of areas for improvement. These have been fed into the new three year CYPP which sets out our top five 'Make a Positive Contribution' priorities and what we'll do differently over the next three years. A summary of our priorities is as follows:

- Extend children and young people's influence in decision making
- Increase community cohesion among our children, young people and their families
- Extend the range of positive activities available outside school hours, and ensure all children and young people have access to them
- Effectively target support and information, advice and guidance for children and young people
- Increase the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities and inspire young people to take action in their community

## **5. ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELLBEING**

In 2008/09 it was our vision that our children and young people should develop for themselves, their families and their communities the skills to achieve their ambitions. This meant equipping our children, young people and their families to make the most of the opportunities afforded by the borough's economic growth, which even today remains strong despite the economic downturn.

### *Progress against CYPP headline targets*

During 2008/09 we made significant progress towards achieving a number of our key targets and indicators. Progress against targets is summarised below.

Target	Progress
Reduce the percentage of children living with families in receipt of out of work benefits from 46.4% in 2007/08 to 43.5% in April 2009	Data for this indicator hasn't yet been published – Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are expected to publish data at the end of July 2009.
Reduce the percentage of young people in Tower Hamlets aged 18-25 claiming unemployment-related benefits to 14.5% by 2009	We did not achieve our target with a final outturn of 22.4%. Performance was positive until July 2008, but the positive trend came to an end as a result of the economic downturn. School leavers and graduates have found themselves in an increasingly difficult situation with regard to securing sustainable employment.
Help 280 young people under 25 into sustainable employment through the Employment Task Group by March 2009	This indicator has since been replaced with the number of people assisted into sustainable employment by Skillsmatch.
Reduce the number of young people in Tower Hamlets aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training from 10.3% in 2004 to 7.5% in 2008	We exceeded our ambitious target of 7.5%, achieving 6.7%. This is a significant improvement on the 2007/08 figure of 8.2% and reflects a considerable improvement in the last three years.
Increase A level average points score to 670 per pupil in 2008.	The Tower Hamlets average QCA point score per candidate for 2008 is 639.5, up by 18 points on the figure reported last year. Our performance considerably improved on last year's position. In fact we are scoring amongst the best in London on this indicator although we have not met our ambitious target.

### *Summary of progress against CYPP priorities*

As a partnership we achieved a number of important milestones in 2008/09, which have contributed to better outcomes for children, young people and their families. Our priorities and actions taken to deliver on them in 2008/09 are listed below:

### ***Increase numbers in education, employment and training post 16 including from specified target groups***

Key achievements include:

- Reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) through a combination of early intervention and preventative work with young people at risk of becoming NEET. We exceeded our ambitious target of 7.5%, representing considerable progress against this indicator. We are also achieving the largest year on year reduction in NEETs in London.
- Securing agreement for 120 work experience placements linked to a diploma in IT and an agreement for 90 work shadowing opportunities linked to the six Diploma lines of learning.
- Building on our new transition protocols to offer targeted support to young people with learning difficulties or disabilities to facilitate their progress into further education, training, volunteering or sustainable employment.

- Supporting the transition of young people into further education, training or employment through more effective tracking and use of personal advisers, including targeted support through transition meetings for 200 young people.
- Piloting the Passport to Employability scheme in three schools, laying the groundwork for a roll-out across 8 schools to provide opportunities for young people to acquire a range of employability skills.

### ***Increase Level 2 and Level 3 attainment by 19***

Key achievements include:

- Increasing programmes leading to new Level 2 achievement post-16 by 30%
- Developing targets for Level 2 attainment in schools post-16, improving the delivery of GCSE English and maths post-16 and teaching and learning post-16.
- Developing a quality assurance and improvement framework through the 14-19 Partnership.

### ***Ensure young people benefit from economic growth in Tower Hamlets, including in the public sector***

Key achievements include:

- Promoting employment and training opportunities through planning obligations and developer contributions, launching a Young Apprenticeship Programme in Hospitality in which year 7 pupils are currently participating and opening the Hub Construction Centre with Barnardos.
- Further developing the Skills Ladder and Earn as You Learn Programme to help NEET clients and other young job seekers. These programmes comprise job skills training followed by a work placement. In 2008/09, local young people accessed employment through the Skills Ladder and 49 through Earn as You Learn.

### ***Improve early intervention and preventative work pre 16, particularly for those identified as being at risk***

Key achievements include:

- Developing the New Start programme for pre-16 to motivate and re-engage young people who have dropped out of education or are at risk of doing so, providing alternative curriculum activities for 60 young people identified by the Social Inclusion Panel.
- Increasing vocational and specialised learning opportunities at Key Stage 4, alongside continued improvements in the quality of teaching and learning.
- Researching the obstacles for young people who need to travel within the borough to extend their learning options and develop a 14-19 travel to study strategy that supports social cohesion.

### ***Continue to boost the life chances of children from disadvantaged backgrounds by tackling poverty and poor housing and promoting learning and employment opportunities***

Key achievements include:

- Developing a child poverty strategy and action plan, and securing Beacon status for our work in preventing and tackling child poverty.
- Developing a strategic plan for employment advice and support in Children's Centres, bringing together relevant partners and funding streams.



- Developing a peer-led schools education programme to work with 13-15 year olds, helping to increase understanding of the risks and realities of homelessness as well as available support. We have increased by almost 30% the number of meditation successes with 16 and 17 year olds to prevent homelessness and increased to 41 the number of 16 and 17 year olds helped into supported housing.
- Successfully rolled out a job brokerage scheme in our Children's Centres.
- Commissioned an independent audit of childcare across the borough which concluded that sufficient high quality places are on offer to meet the needs of the population.
- Supporting more young people than ever to apply for and be accepted onto Higher Education courses – applications by under 20s in Tower Hamlets were up from 1054 in 2007 to 1102 in 2008 while acceptances rose from 873 to 919.

### *Looking ahead to 2009/10*

Despite progress there are still a number of areas for improvement. These have been fed into the new three year CYPP which sets out our top five 'Achieve Economic Wellbeing' priorities and what we'll do differently over the next three years. A summary of our priorities is as follows:

- Improve young people's employment-related skills, linking in to local and regional labour market opportunities
- Enhance the choice of learning options for 16 year olds
- Improve the quality of learning and student attainment
- Support specific vulnerable groups such as looked after children, young carers, young people who have spent time in the youth justice system and young people with disabilities, to achieve economic wellbeing
- Break the worklessness cycle amongst our families

## **6. EXCELLENT CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

In 2008/09 it was our vision that children, young people and their families should receive excellent services, which are easy to access, targeted at needs, and shaped locally.

### *Progress against CYPP headline targets*

Progress against Excellent Children's Services targets is summarised below.

Target	Progress
Reduce sickness absence in children's services from 7.74 to 7 days per year	Sickness absence was reduced to 7.32 days, representing the right direction of travel, but the target was not met.
Increase the percentage of the top 5% of earners who are from black and minority ethnic groups to 22%	Our target was not met but the percentage increased from 13.05% in the second quarter of 2008 to 15.62% demonstrating the right direction of travel
Increase the percentage of cases (from 70% to 72%) where CAF led interventions result in improved outcomes (i.e. reduced CAF scores)	The target was not achieved as 64% of CAFs had improved scores. However, the size of the sample cases used to set the target was

	small and this may not have provided valid data.
Ensure that at least 50% of the Council's Children's Services workforce complete a 'one children's worker' skills analysis	Unfortunately this target was not achieved - the final outturn was 34.2%.

### *Summary of progress against CYPP priorities*

As a partnership we achieved a number of important milestones in 2008/09, which have contributed to better outcomes for children, young people and their families. Our priorities and actions taken to deliver on them in 2008/09 are listed below:

#### ***Strengthen our approach to partnership working, building on our Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (now Children and Families' Trust) and our award winning Local Strategic Partnership***

Key achievements include:

- Continuing to develop approaches to service provision that meet local need by ensuring that Extended Services Clusters and Children's Centres have used localised data and targets and report on a quarterly basis at individual centres.
- Demonstrating that robust exit strategies are in place to maintain and manage funding streams by undertaking a mid and end of year review to create an action plan and continue to review budgets and grants for specific projects.
- Embedding assessment processes including the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Team Around the Child, providing multi agency training to support the implementation of the Every Child Matters agenda and undertaking a needs analysis and implications for the transition to the national eCAF scheme.
- Ensuring that the Children and Families' Trust (formerly Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group) continues to drive improvement for children and young people in the borough through ensuring links between the LAA and CYPP.

#### ***Strengthen our approach to performance management and value for money to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Children's Services***

Key achievements include:

- Reviewing the design and structure of key services in specific areas, implementing proposals after consultation and review
- Developing a partnership wide research programme to inform planning and development by producing the Children's Research Bulletin, populating the Children's Research Portal with research briefings and completing a forward programme of research.
- Embedding value for money in service and financial planning, engaging an external assessor to conduct a value for money health check, producing an action plan and presenting a projected efficiency savings 2009-2011 report to the Children's Services Directorate Management Team.
- Benchmarking our commissioned services for value for money against other high performing boroughs. This has led to a benchmarking methodology being developed and new projects are now underway.
- Focusing our active learning processes and establishing working groups in both HR and IT to progress our plans.

- Reviewing information on THIS Borough, a web based information system, in order to develop partner statistical information. We have also started a project for developing the reporting of years 14-19 education.

***Continue to invest in or support those who work within Children's Services, implementing and embedding the Workforce Development Strategy and ensuring the Common Core of Skills and knowledge is used extensively by partners across the children's workforce***

Key achievements:

- Developing a programme of activity to improve staff satisfaction so that Tower Hamlets is viewed as a good place to work, facilitating focus groups with staff to regularly receive and use their feedback by incorporating it into action plans.
- Raising the awareness of the Children's Workforce Development Strategy, acting upon the outcomes of the revised Workforce to Reflect the Community Strategy and evaluating our current recruitment practices.
- Delivering a programme of accredited safer recruitment practices which we have done through training and advising our managers and publicising and monitoring our training programme to partner organisations.
- Ensuring that our workforce at middle and senior leadership level reflects the community in line with the council's workforce to reflect the community strategy. We have undertaken a regular monitoring programme which indicates that middle and senior management positions are becoming more reflective of the community.
- Developing a comprehensive action plan to address absence levels in the Directorate, training our managers in the performance management process and demonstrating a reducing trend of absence levels.
- Setting up staff forums for our staff to meet with the Director and Service Heads on a regular basis, to ensure staff are consistently engaged and involved.

***Developing new ways of communicating with and engaging children and young people, parents, families and partners. Use this to promote take up and access to services to inform service design and delivery***

Key achievements include:

- Developing a stakeholder engagement strategy and developing a communications plan across our schools.
- Producing a comprehensive interactive directory for children, young people and their families to help them access our services
- Undertaking a mapping exercise on our effectiveness on communicating with internal and external stakeholders, and provided a planning forum for partners to discuss future action.

***Develop and strengthen our evolving commissioning arrangements, with a focus on value for money***

Key achievements include:

- Completing a joint strategic needs analysis with NHS Tower Hamlets.
- Developing a joint commissioning strategy of services with key partners across the council. We have also begun preparation on a 3 year joint commissioning strategy.
- Completing the competitive dialogue with selected BSF bidders, selected the preferred supplier and work is underway.

- Completing the primary strategy for change consultation and beginning to implement the primary capital programme.

### *Looking ahead to 2009/10*

Despite progress there are still a number of areas for improvement. These have been fed into the new three year CYPP which sets out our top five 'Excellent Children's Services' priorities and what we'll do differently over the next three years. A summary of our priorities is as follows:

- Recruit, develop and maintain a skilled, flexible and diverse workforce, making Tower Hamlets the borough of choice for employees
- Improve information technology and data analysis tools across Children's Services
- Plan and deliver major capital programmes and manage existing assets for maximum community benefit
- Ensure the services we commission and deliver are integrated, of a high quality, and give value for money
- Continue to improve Children's Services in Tower Hamlets through better communication and creatively responding to user views

### Annex A: Measuring our progress

The table below shows our performance against 59 key headline and supporting indicators for the last three years where available. The final column shows direction of travel over a three year period – an arrow facing up means improved performance, down means worsening and sideways means no change. The table shows that out of the 53 indicators with available data, 38 have improved, 13 have worsened and for 2 performance has stayed the same.

Theme	PI Description	Actual 06-07	Actual 07-08	Actual 08-09	3 Year Performance
<b>Be Healthy</b>	Percentage change in the number of conceptions to females aged under 18, resident in an area, per thousand females aged 15-17 residents in the area, compared with the baseline year of 1998	-24.9%	-24.2	-20.8	▼
	Number of under 18s accessing drug treatment	711	1034	1064	▲
	Percentage of children experiencing dental decay by the age of 5 (bi-annual survey)	41.6 (2005/06 data)	N/a (monitored every two years)	N/a (monitored every two years)	N/a
	Percentage of children in reception with height and weight recorded who are obese	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	14.60	13.75	▲
	Percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded who are obese	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	23	24.49	▼
	Percentage of schools achieving Healthy Schools status	52	63	62	▲
	Average of the percentages of looked after children at 30 September who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, and had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and had an annual health assessment during the previous 12 months	88	94	88.84* (March 2009)	▲
	Immunisation rates in the first two years of life. Diphtheria, tetanus and polio)	88.8	82.1	83* (performance relates to period Oct - Dec 2008)	▼

Theme	PI Description	Actual 06-07	Actual 07-08	Actual 08-09	3 Year Performance
	Percentage of children reporting that they eat 5 portions of fruits/vegetables a day in the Tell Us Survey	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	15	14	▼
	Percentage of 5-16 year olds in school sports partnerships engaged in two hours a week minimum on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum	81	87	86	▲
	Percentage of children who have ever smoked a cigarette as reported in the Tell Us Survey	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	21	26	▼
	Percentage of 15-24 year olds accepting Chlamydia screening	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	18.4	20	▲
	Breast feeding initiation rate	79.3	81.7	Data available July 2009	▲
	Percentage of women booking antenatal care by 12 weeks gestation	N/a (new national indicator)	61	61.9* (performance relates to period Jan – Mar 09 - annual figure available July 2009)	▲
<b>Stay Safe</b>	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	10.7	11.6	10.43	▲
	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within the required timescale	83.20	60.04	57.28	▼
	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	91.1	35.45	63.55	▼
	Reduced length of time domestic violence is experienced before it is initially reported to a specialist agency	3.2	3.85	3.3	▲
	Percentage of young people indicating in the Tell Us Survey that they are feeling very safe or quite safe from hurt by other people	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	82.4	80	▼
	Percentage of young people in primary and secondary schools reporting incidence of bullying in the Tell Us Survey	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	22	40.8	▼

Theme	PI Description	Actual 06-07	Actual 07-08	Actual 08-09	3 Year Performance
	Domestic violence sanctioned detection rate	45.1	47.1	50.4	▲
	Percentage of schools achieving satisfactory through inspections, monitoring or self evaluation in relation to 'stay safe'	92.85	100	96	▲
<b>Enjoy and Achieve</b>	The percentage of pupils achieving level 5 in both English and maths at key stage 3	56.1	58	57.7	▲
	The percentage of pupils in Tower Hamlets achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* - C, including English and Maths	34	36.5	41.2	▲
	Overall attendance rates at primary school	93.92	93.39	94.59	▲
	Overall attendance rates at secondary school	92.58	92.48	93.01	▲
	The percentage of looked after children achieve 5 or more A* - Cs at GCSE	10	20.69	10	>
	Exclusions from school per 1,000 pupils	1.75	1.36	1.02	▲
	Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Non-SEN gap – achieving 5 A*-C grade GCSEs including English and Maths	N/a (monitoring started 2007/08)	35.4	33.3	▲
	Number of under 16s who are active users of the Idea Store and libraries	13,473	16,008	12,992	▼
	Percentage of pupils in schools maintained by the LA achieving Level 4 or above in the key stages 2 English test	77.5	80	81	▲
	Percentage of pupils in schools maintained by the LA achieving Level 4 or above in the key stages 2 Maths test	76.0	78.1	80.0	▲
	Percentage of parent governor vacancies	10	8.7	16.83	▼

Theme	PI Description	Actual 06-07	Actual 07-08	Actual 08-09	3 Year Performance
	The percentage of children achieving 78 points overall and 6 or more in Personal Social Emotional development (PSED) and Communication, Language and literacy (CLL) in the foundation stage profile	37.4	38.9	40.4	▲
	The percentage of pupils achieving level 2b in reading at Key Stage 1	63	66	69	▲
	The percentage of pupils achieving level 2b in writing at Key Stage 1	52	56	52	>
	The percentage of pupils achieving level 2b in Maths at Key Stage 1	64	67	69	▲
	The number of statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)	1,575	1,476	1,453	▲
	Percentage of 13 – 19 years olds having contact with the youth service	29.5	33.8	42.4	▲
	Number of youth-on-youth violent crimes (where victim 19 and accused is under 19 or suspect is thought to be under 19)	644	542	N/a (data no longer collected in this format)	▲
	The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system	429	411	Data for 08/09 will be published in November 2009)	▲
	Number of young (16 – 24) volunteers	696	1,242	1,616	▲
	Reduce the level of youth reoffending by 5% compared to the baseline	28.8	23.3	Data for 08/09 will be published in July 2009	▲
	The percentage of looked after children who communicate their views in case reviews	92.3	97.67	97.44	▲
	Number of young people who attend Tower Hamlets Local Area and Youth Partnership events	150	192	410	▲

**Making a Positive Contribution**



Theme	PI Description	Actual 06-07	Actual 07-08	Actual 08-09	3 Year Performance
	The percentage of schools rated as good or very good in making a positive contribution in the area of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through inspection, monitoring or self evaluation	89	82	73	▼
<b>Achieve Economic Well-being</b>	Proportion of children in poverty	49.8	46.4	Data for 2008/09 will be published in July 2009	▲
	Percentage of young people in Tower Hamlets aged 18 – 25 claiming unemployment-related benefits	20.7	18.2	22.4	▼
	Percentage of young people in Tower Hamlets aged 16-18 not in education, employment or training	10.9	8.2	6.7	▲
	A Level Average points Score per student	606.5	621.5	639.5	▲
	Percentage of 19 years olds who achieve at least level 2	58	62.3	65.0* (provisional data, final results published July 2009)	▲
	Percentage of 19 year olds who achieve at least level 3	33	37.1	38* (provisional data, final results published July 2009)	▲
	Percentage of young offenders supervised by YOT, suitable for fulltime education, training or employment	72.5	81.7	80.8	▲
Care leavers in education, employment or training	67.6	66.7	75	▲	
Take-up of formal childcare by low-income working families	7.0	2007/08 data due August 2009	2007/08 data due August 2009	N/a	
<b>Excellent Children's</b>	Sickness absence of children's services staff (average days per year)	N/a (monitoring started 2008/09)	N/a	7.32	N/a

Theme	PI Description	Actual 06-07	Actual 07-08	Actual 08-09	3 Year Performance
<b>Services</b>	Percentage of the top 5% of earners who are from BME groups	N/a (monitoring started 2008/09)	N/a	15.62	N/a
	Increase the percentage of cases where CAF lead interventions reduce scores from 72% to 70%	N/a (monitoring started 2008/09)	N/a	64	N/a
	Ensure that at least 50% of the Council's Children's Services directorate complete a 'one children's worker' skills analysis	N/a (monitoring started 2008/09)	N/a	34.2	N/a

\* Latest available figures

Note: The columns all refer to financial years. Where data is based on academic years the last available year's data had been used. For example, the 2008/09 column contains outcome data for the 2007/08 academic year.