

North Somerset Children and Families Partnership **Partnership Plan for Children and Families 2011 – 2014**



Contents



Introduction	3		
1 Our commitment to children and young people	4	4 The voices of children and young people in North Somerset	12
Planning services	4	Key theme 1 – ‘a good start in life’	12
Delivering services	4	Key theme 2 – ‘easy access to positive activities’	12
2 Our Partnership – the changing context	5	Key theme 3 – ‘to be proud’	13
3 North Somerset in 2010	6	Key theme 4 – ‘family and friends’	13
Our local area – a picture of diversity and change	6	Key theme 5 – ‘clean and green’	14
Our children and young people – some key facts	6	Key theme 6 – ‘access’	14
Recognising challenges – closing the gaps	7	5 Our shared outcomes for 2014	15
Weston South Locality Area – key indicators and issues	8	Be healthy	17
Weston East Locality Area – key indicators and issues	9	Stay safe	18
Central District Locality Area – key indicators and issues	10	Enjoy and achieve	19
North District Locality Area – key indicators and issues	11	Make a positive contribution	20
		Achieve economic wellbeing	21

Contents

6	Delivering the Plan	22	7	How will we measure our improvement	26
	Organising for delivery – new partnership governance	22		A culture of outcomes based thinking	26
	How will we use our resources?	22		Clear indicators and targets	26
	Finance	23		Performance management	26
	Commissioning	23		Operational planning and delivery	26
	<i>Graph</i> – expenditure on children 2010 and 2015	24		Annual review and planning cycle	26
	Workforce development	25		Accountability and review of the Partnership Plan	27
	Information, data and needs assessment	25			
	Estate management	25			



Introduction

This is the first Partnership Plan for Children and Families in North Somerset. Building on the successes of the previous Children and Young People's Plan, it represents the continued commitment by a range of statutory agencies and across the voluntary and community sector to improve outcomes for children and young people in North Somerset. Our intention is to provide positive opportunities for all children and young people and remove barriers that prevent them reaching their full potential.

Our new plan has been designed to provide an accessible overview of key actions required by the Children and Families Partnership. This plan emphasises the specific outcomes we want to see and the actions we need to take to ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people have access to the same life chances as their peers. It also acknowledges that we are planning for challenging times for all partners and aims to reflect what we can only achieve together in these complex and changing circumstances.

The plan focuses on outcomes, and our understanding of these reflects our improving knowledge of how needs and experiences differ across geographical areas within North Somerset.

Fundamental to the identification of these priority areas has been:

- an analysis of the current outcomes for children and young people
- an emphasis on extending collaborative work across agencies to support children, young people within families wherever possible.
- a commitment to strong, well-resourced specialist functions supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable children and young people.
- the challenging and often distinctive views of children and young people themselves.

In a climate of reduced resources, it also sets out explicit principles upon which our services will be delivered and developed and the key evidence and assumptions which underpin them.

We are grateful to the young people of North Somerset who continue to inspire and motivate us to improve services. In particular, we thank those young people who have challenged our thoughts and perceptions in the development of this plan.

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1 Our commitment to children and young people

We believe that all children and young people in North Somerset should be enabled to reach their fullest potential as individuals, learners and citizens.

To achieve this, we must ensure that:

- they are educationally successful
- they have easy access to opportunities, information, advice, guidance and support
- they grow up in the safest and most positive of environments
- their parents and carers receive the support they need
- our services are as effective and well-coordinated as possible and provide the best value for money
- we will listen and act upon their views and those of their parents and carers
- we fully implement the healthy child programme to ensure children and families achieve their optimum health and well being.

These outcomes are underpinned by our key principles:

Planning services

- The Partnership will take a leadership role, being proactive and encouraging new partnerships, innovation and creativity.
- We will enable the participation of children, young people and their families in the design and commissioning of services to maximise the value provided to them.

- We will work in partnership with families and communities to enable them to take more responsibility for their future.
- Investment choices will be guided by evidence and a focus on improving good quality outcomes for children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable.
- We will challenge the status quo and be prepared to make difficult choices which are both timely and measured.

Delivering Services

- We recognise that in the future, our partnership will provide less but enable more.
- We will not do less of the same but instead we will seek to transform services.
- We will make the best use of all our resources – people, buildings, budgets, equipment across the partnership.
- We will reduce bureaucracy to protect services and support our providers.
- We will make creative and effective use of new technology.

2 Our Partnership – the changing context

On 22 July 2010, the Department for Education gave a brief outline of the coalition government's future direction regarding Children's Trust arrangements. The policy direction is based around three key legislative changes which will be delivered over the course of the next year:

- To remove the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts via the forthcoming Education Bill.
- To remove the requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan, at the first available legislative opportunity.
- To revoke the regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan and withdraw the statutory guidance on Children's Trusts in the autumn.

This supports the wider programme of reduced bureaucracy and freedom from regulation for schools which will be a key feature of both the Education Bill and the Academies Bill.

However, the government also signalled ongoing support for the principle of local partnerships, and clearly views the removal of underpinning legislation and regulation as an opportunity for Children's Trusts, where they continue to operate, to do so in innovative ways which respond to local needs.

Thus the Children's Trust Management Board is seeking to define a new partnership which will focus on locally determined outcomes which can only be achieved by working together across agencies. This plan reflects the initial priorities of the Children and Families Partnership, and will guide the initial work programme for this body as it develops and evolves.

All of our partners are experiencing changes in the way services will be organised, funded or

governed in the period which this plan covers:

- It is likely that Police forces will be governed by directly elected Authorities, responsible for determining local policing priorities.
- The Coalition Government's 'Big Society' agenda will see major changes for the civil and voluntary sector, with power and choice devolved to local communities and an increased role in delivering public services.
- GPs will become commissioners of the majority of primary health services on the behalf of their patients, reflecting local needs.
- Wide-ranging reform of the NHS will include the abolition of Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts will change considerably and that Health improvement functions in the broadest sense will become Local Authority responsibilities – along with responsibility for strategic needs assessment and joining-up commissioning arrangements.
- Local Strategic Partnerships will be subject to review, and Health and Wellbeing Boards will be required by statutes with responsibility for promoting integration and partnership with health, social care and other services.
- The inspection regimes and reporting responsibilities of all partners will be thoroughly reviewed, with a reduction in the number of targets and indicators, and a focus on outcomes for service users.
- There will be considerable change in the machinery of government with many unelected bodies subject to review or decommissioning during the period.

3 North Somerset 2010

Our local area – a picture of diversity and change

- North Somerset is situated in the heart of the 'West of England' and is bordered by the Bristol Channel, the City of Bristol and the County of Somerset.
- 60% of the area is considered rural, 40% of the total population lives in Weston-super-Mare and 30% in the towns of Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead.
- Overall, North Somerset is a prosperous area, scoring above national average on key health, crime, education and employment indicators.
- However, around 10% of North Somerset's population lives in areas that are amongst the 20% most deprived in England.
- Whilst all of these are in Weston-super-Mare, there are also significant pockets of deprivation in the other towns and in some villages.
- The most prevalent forms of deprivation in North Somerset relate to barriers to housing and services, employment and health and disability.
- The life expectancy of people living in Central and South Weston super Mare is 14 years shorter than those living in the rest of North Somerset.

Our children and young people – Some key facts

- In 2008 there were a total of 47,000 children and young people aged 0–19 living in North Somerset, about 23% of the total population.
- 96% of pupils in North Somerset are of white British or other white origin, with

4% from a black or minority ethnic background (May 2009 School Census).

- The urban population is more diverse – in central Weston-super-Mare 12% of school aged children recorded as coming from a black or minority ethnic background.
- Numbers of young people aged 16–18 not in education, employment or training have remained broadly similar over the past year, but there is still a marked concentration in Weston South (67% of district-wide group).
- Across North Somerset attainment is generally high and outcomes good, however, there are significant challenges in securing good outcomes for specific groups and in specific areas.
- In North Somerset, obesity prevalence in Reception is 7%, which is lower than the regional and national average. However, obesity prevalence in Year 6 is 16.2%, which is higher than the regional average.
- Of Children known to be eligible for Free School Meals, 15.2% of primary and 21.2% of secondary pupils do not choose to take them up.
- There has been a 17% increase in births since 1999.
- In 2008, the rate of under 18 conceptions was 33.2 per 1,000 girls aged 15–17. This is lower than the rate for England but is a 1.4% increase on the previous year.
- The uptake of 0–5 routine immunization in children in North Somerset is higher than the average take up for England but we are currently failing to achieve the national targets for immunizations provided to 2 and 5 year olds.

- 45% of women in North Somerset are partially or fully breastfeeding at 6–8 weeks, we are working with the community and the acute trusts to achieve the Baby Friendly initiative.

Recognising challenges – closing the gaps

We have learned a great deal about the experiences, expectations and outcomes for children and young people in North Somerset during the period of the last Children’s Plan. This work has included:

- researching and preparing a comprehensive Children and Young People’s Needs Assessment
- contributing to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process.

- feedback from OFSTED via an unannounced inspection of referral, assessment and safeguarding activity, and via preparation for the assessment of our services

- direct consultation and engagement with children and young people, and engagement in key participation events such as Local Democracy Week.

The plan reflects this ongoing commitment to understanding the issues we face in order to provide an informed, targeted and efficient response to the needs of children and young people in North Somerset, and particularly to ensure that we support the most vulnerable families as a priority.

The following four tables (starting on page nine) indicate the key indicators and issues facing the four existing Locality Areas in North Somerset.



Weston South Locality Area – key indicators and issues

Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7,242 CYP aged 0-19 (15% of total) ● 62% of local Super Output Areas are within the lowest 25% of IMD rankings ● Characterised by high levels of deprivation across the locality
Enjoying and achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 36% of students achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● 21% of students eligible for FSM achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● 1.88% persistent absence in primary schools, high relative to other locality areas ● 5.69% persistent absence in secondary, high relative to other locality areas ● Higher numbers of young carers ● Educational attainment tends to be lower at secondary schools in this area (e.g. Key Stage 4) ● 22% of Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs attend school in Weston South (approximately 2.5% of the school population, a marginally higher proportion relative to other locality areas)
Achieving economic wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children in Weston South and Central wards are far more likely to be affected by income deprivation ● There is significant demand for family social housing across Weston-super-Mare ● At 6% JSA claimant counts are higher than elsewhere in North Somerset ● 67 young people were not in education, employment or training in August 2010, 39% of the total in North Somerset
Staying safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many children who are looked after or have a Child Protection Plan are now, or were originally resident in this area ● Higher rates of overall crime ● CYP identify personal safety and bullying as issues of concern
Being healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Significantly lower-levels of breastfeeding (compared to elsewhere in North Somerset and nationally) ● Teenage pregnancy numbers are higher compared to elsewhere in North Somerset ● Higher levels of obesity ● A majority of primary school children go to school by car in Weston-super-Mare ● Take-up of school lunches below national average ● Uptake of immunisations for 0-5 year olds is 87.2%, the second lowest rate of the four localities in North Somerset
Making a positive contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Higher incidences of youth offending ● CYP identify access to sport, outdoor play, the beach and parks as priorities

Weston East Locality Area – key indicators and issues

Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13,353 CYP aged 0-19 (28% of total) ● 71% of local Super Output Areas are within the 25-50% least deprived of IMD rankings ● However 6% are within the 25% most deprived (those closest to the Weston Central and South wards) ● Characterised by varied, but overall moderate levels of deprivation
Enjoying and achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 51% of students achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● 26% of students eligible for FSM achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● 1.58% persistent absence in primary schools, high relative to other locality areas ● 4.03% persistent absence in secondary schools ● Higher numbers of young carers ● 32% of Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs attend school in Weston East (approximately 1.8% of the school population)
Achieving economic wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Significant demand for family social housing across Weston-super-Mare. ● At 3.25% JSA claimant counts are relatively high, compared to Central and North locality areas ● 42 young people were not in education, employment or training in August 2010, 25% of the total in North Somerset
Staying safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Numbers of Children with a Child Protection Plan originating from this locality are high in some parts ● Higher overall crime figures are publicly reported in a number of beats within the Weston South and East locality areas ● Numbers of Children with a Child Protection Plan originating from this locality are high in some parts ● A majority of primary school children go to school by car in Weston-super-Mare ● CYP identify personal safety and bullying as issues of concern
Being healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower levels of breastfeeding prevalence at 6–8 weeks (varies significantly) ● Higher teenage pregnancy numbers ● Take-up of school lunches below national average ● Uptake of immunisations for 0-5 year olds is 83.6%, the lowest rate of the four localities in North Somerset
Making a positive contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CYP identify access to sport, outdoor play and parks as priorities

Central District Locality Area – key indicators and issues

Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12,854 CYP aged 0-19 (27% of total) ● 63% of local Super Output Areas are within the 25% least deprived of IMD rankings ● There are none within the 25% most deprived ● In most areas of the Needs Assessment where locality-based information is available, life for children appears relatively good, compared to national figures and North Somerset overall ● However, there are also small isolated pockets of deprivation, in both urban and rural areas and greater numbers of gypsy and traveller families who may or may not have specific needs
Enjoying and achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 67% of students achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● 30% of students eligible for FSM achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● Persistent school absence rates in this area are the low for both primary (0.87%) and secondary schools (3.82%) ● 34% of Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs attend school in Central (approximately 1.9% of the school population) ● Many children rely on Home to School Transport to access school, which limits participation in after-school activities
Achieving economic wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At 2.13% JSA claimant counts are low compared to Weston South and East ● 24 young people aged 16-18 were not in education, employment or training in August 2010, 14% of the total in North Somerset
Staying safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relatively higher than average numbers of children with a protection plan in 2009 are recorded in the Banwell, Winscombe and Nailsea areas ● CYP identify personal safety and bullying as issues of concern
Being healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take-up of school lunches below national average ● Uptake of immunisations for 0-5 year olds is 89.8%, the second highest rate of the four localities in North Somerset
Making a positive contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consultations with Children and Young People consistently reveal that better and cheaper public transport is often a key priority for them ● CYP identify access to sport, outdoor play and parks as priorities

North District Locality Area – key indicators and issues

Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13,462 CYP aged 0-19 (29% of total) ● 62% of local Super Output Areas are within the 25% least deprived of IMD rankings ● There are none within the 25% most deprived ● In most areas of the Needs Assessment where locality-based information is available, life for children appears relatively good, compared to national figures and North Somerset overall ● However, there are also small isolated pockets of deprivation, in both urban and rural areas
Enjoying and achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 65% of students achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● 26% of students eligible for FSM achieved 5+ GCSEs (A-C) inc English and Maths ● There is some potential surplus demand for reception year places in the Portishead area from 2011 ● As in other high-performing areas, the educational performance gap between those from deprived backgrounds and their peers appears larger than elsewhere ● 11% of Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs attend school in North (approximately 0.7% of the school population – a relatively lower figure than other localities) ● Persistent absence rates in the area are low for primary schools (0.78%) but relatively high for secondary schools (4.62%)
Achieving economic wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At 1.83% JSA claimant counts are lower than other parts of North Somerset ● 20 young people aged 16-18 were not in education, employment or training in August 2010, 12% of the total in North Somerset
Staying safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CYP identify personal safety and bullying as issues of concern
Being healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take-up of school lunches below national average ● Uptake of immunisations for 0-5 year olds is 90.8%, the highest of the four localities in North Somerset
Making a positive contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consultations with Children and Young People consistently reveal that better and cheaper public transport is often a key priority for them ● CYP identify access to sport, outdoor play and parks as priorities

4 The voices of children and young people in North Somerset 2010

In the summer of 2010, Barnardo's North Somerset undertook a consultation exercise on behalf of the Children's Trust. The aims of this broad consultation were:

- to advise the North Somerset Children's Trust Management Board on the key themes, language, and images that children and young people in North Somerset relate to
- to advise the North Somerset Children's Trust Management Board on the priorities of children and young people in North Somerset.

Barnardo's North Somerset delivered a workshop to 26 school and community groups

involving 437 children and young people. This workshop asked children and young people:

- to focus on their **Wants and Needs** as they are at present
- to imagine **Time Travelling** to consider what their world would look like at the end of the plan period in 2014
- to think about **Spending Priorities** for the services they use, and consider how they might allocate funds differently.

The outcomes of the consultation are summarised below as six key themes, which have informed development of this plan.

Key theme 1 "a good start in life"

The key theme for children and young people is to achieve enough through school to have access to higher education and then a reasonable job, income and standard of housing. The consultation suggests a level of anxiety amongst young people that they will not have jobs, access to higher education or affordable housing as previous generations have.

Quotes

"I want to have a good start in life."

"To have savings and go to university."

"Houses should be less crowded, more green space."

"Jobs.", "A stable future."

"Homes for poor people."

"If money is going out of schools, where is it going and who is benefiting?"

Key theme 2 "easy access to positive activities"

Activities are a priority for children and young people.

The lack of affordable public transport is seen as a barrier particularly in rural areas. Sport and fitness is seen as particularly important for health. Children and young people are concerned about the quality of sports facilities in North Somerset, particularly swimming pools. They also clearly value outdoor spaces and venues, but are concerned that there are few activities which use these in some areas. Young people refer frequently to the Tropicana even though they would not have been able to visit it themselves.

Skate parks and BMX parks are popular. Young people ask for youth provision in areas where this is current not provided.

Continued over

Key theme 2 "easy access to positive activities"
continued

Quotes

"There's nothing to do here, only fields."

"More clubs here." "More sports facilities."

"To try out different hobbies."

"Skate park". "BMX park."

"A certain amount of bus tickets free per month for young people."

Key theme 3 "to be proud"

Children and young people are concerned about their reputation.

Children and young people in Weston, Pill and Claverham feel their community has a poor reputation. Children and young people are also concerned about the reputation of young people and society's image of teenagers.

Quotes

"If you mention Weston, people look down on you."

"We want a Primark, it's cheap, we can choose. But Bristol is difficult to get to.", "There's nothing in a rural area, it's unfair."

"There's nothing to do here (Pill). The shops are bad, there's nothing for young people to do."

"I want to be listened to."

"Respect from other people my age."

"To be proud."

"A better name for teenagers."

"Bristol's the place to go if you want to do anything."

Key theme 4 "family and friends"

Children and young people frequently mentioned the importance of family and friends, and their safety and wellbeing. This message was particularly strong from primary age children.

Children feel it is important that people are kind to each other.

Children and young people expressed fears that family life might go wrong particularly through ill health or bereavement.

Some children were concerned about bullying.

Quotes

"To keep my family happy."

"To be known as a nice family."

"For people to be kind."

"I want my grandparents back."

"Friends I can go out with alone."

"A family to cheer me on."

"To live with Mum and Dad."

"Stop bullies."

"A home – somewhere to feel safe."

"My dogs and my baby brother are important."

"Having a good life and a loving Mum."

"Friends are important."

Key theme 5 "clean and green"

Children and young people are concerned about the environment.

There is concern about global warming and concern about litter in parks and on the beaches.

Quotes:

"A car that doesn't mess the world up."

"Cleaner places."

"More bins." "Rubbish is messy."

"Recycling centres."

"Good eco system."

"Need to look after the environment so we can live."

"More green spaces."

"Look after the earth."

"Cleaner beaches." "To have a beautiful beach."

"Environmentally friendly Britain for example, more wind turbines"

Key theme 6 "access"

We conducted the consultation in Baytree and Ravenswood School and spoke to 68 children and young people with disabilities.

Children and young people were focused on access to leisure facilities and to the local beaches in particular.

Quotes

"There's a lack of wheelchair access on to and on the beach."

"More places for disabled children and young people."

"I want to play football in my wheelchair."

"Make things more accessible."

"I want to go to Sand Bay but can't because of wheelchair access."

This information will be reviewed carefully by the delivery leads for each of the outcome areas considered in the next section of the plan. They will develop further the issues and aspirations raised during this exercise, and these themes will form part of further discussions with Children and Young People during the life of this plan.



5 Our shared outcomes for 2014

We have looked carefully at the evidence reflecting the experiences, views and challenges facing children and young people in North Somerset, and identified the outcomes which reflect what our partnership can deliver to meet these needs and aspirations. Building on the previous sections, we believe these broad priority areas should be:

Be healthy:

A healthy start in life, and support for emotionally resilient young people.

Stay safe:

Support for strong families, and for safe and confident young people.

Enjoy and achieve:

Raising attainment and providing opportunities for all, especially our most vulnerable children.

Make a positive contribution:

Support and activities to promote a positive view of children and young people.

Achieve economic wellbeing:

Building independence in difficult times.

In addition we recognise the following aims for our partnership in delivering these priorities:

Using our resources wisely:

Making best use of our finances, our people and the information we have about needs and services.

Developing our workforce:

Recognising the skills our people have developed, and supporting them through the changes and challenges ahead.

The following tables set out the principal outcomes for our partnership for the period to March 2014. They focus on the high level strategic aims which we can only deliver as a partnership.

The overriding aim of this plan is to understand the nature and causes of the gap in outcomes across certain areas and vulnerable groups in North Somerset, and to develop services which narrow this gap.

This key aim will be reflected in:

1. the improved quality and integration of preventative service delivery by focusing on the needs of the family
2. the increased effectiveness of specialist interventions and safeguarding where required, delivered to those most in need
3. remodelling our services and systems to ensure that needs are always addressed at the most appropriate stage.

The focus for much of our activity over the period of the plan will be on the 25% of children and young people who, over their pre-school and school years will be in need of additional support, along with our commitment to the 5% of children and young people who will need more intensive support to remain healthy and safe from harm.

The specific vulnerable groups where we feel our services can have the most positive outcomes include:

- children and young people living in poverty
- children and young people looked after
- children and young people with disabilities of all types
- Traveller and gypsy children and young people

- children and young people from BME communities
- children who are caring for other family members
- Families living in “stressful circumstances”.¹

We have chosen to present these more specific aims and commitments via the five Every Child Matters Outcomes, which continue to provide a positive means of identifying how we can work best as a partnership. The tables below provide the emerging evidence for the particular focus, a summary of the planned contribution of universal, targeted and specialist service providers and the measures of success against which will measure our performance.

This plan reflects our recognition that parents and families are central to creating the conditions for our children’s and young people

success and for keeping them safe. It is important therefore that we also recognise and address the needs of parents and carers as we further develop integrated working in North Somerset, both across services for children and young people and those services that support adults.

¹ Reflecting the national “Working Together to Safeguard Children” guidance, stressful family circumstances include living in a family setting where there is domestic abuse; where a parent has a mental illness, is misusing drugs or alcohol and /or has a learning disability. It also includes living in poverty, in areas with high crime, poor housing and high unemployment, facing racism or other forms of social isolation.



Be healthy: a healthy start in life, and support for emotionally resilient young people

Evidence	Outcomes	Commitments	Actions	Measures of success
<p>The overall health of children and young people in North Somerset is good but there are marked differences in health outcomes across the area, and between children living in poverty, Children Looked After, and children and young people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Narrowing of the health gap between key areas across North Somerset and between vulnerable groups of children and their peers.</p>	<p>We will facilitate improved parental engagement and participation at maternity and early years stages.</p> <p>We will promote the benefits of breast-feeding in areas where rates are below the national average.</p> <p>We will fully implement the Healthy Child programme.</p>	<p>Our partnership will support and develop involvement in the Healthy Schools programme and similar initiatives, to ensure that interventions reach vulnerable children and young people.</p> <p>We will ensure commissioning arrangements are in place to monitor and support implementation of the Healthy Child programme.</p>	<p>An increase in the proportion of infants breastfed at 6-8 weeks from birth.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of mothers who smoke during pregnancy.</p> <p>An increase in the delivery of immunisations provided to 2 to 5 year olds.</p> <p>An increased number of settings delivering positive health promotion activities.</p> <p>An increase in access to parenting programmes, supporting better social and emotional wellbeing.</p>
<p>Analysis of data shows higher levels of overweight and obesity in children living in Weston-super-Mare, although this finding should be treated with caution as cohorts are small.</p>	<p>Successful delivery of comprehensive partnership Childhood Obesity Plan.</p>	<p>We will deliver a range of targeted activities being implemented from prevention, early intervention and access to specialist support, via Childhood Obesity Action.</p>	<p>We will promote and deliver life skills support for vulnerable families through initiatives to promote healthy and affordable meals.</p>	<p>A reduction in the number of obese children in primary schools, particularly at reception and Year 6 stages.</p>
<p>In 2008/09 levels of school meal take-up were lower than national averages.</p>	<p>Increased take-up of school lunches combined with consistent healthy lifestyles messages.</p>	<p>We will promote the positive effects that high quality, nutritious school food can provide on attainment, behaviour and well-being to maximise take-up.</p>	<p>We will build on recent national pilot schemes to increase take-up of meals for families not currently meeting FSM thresholds, and will encourage full take-up where families are eligible.</p>	<p>An increase in take-up of School Lunches at Primary and Secondary stage.</p> <p>An increased proportion of children eligible for free School Meal, choosing to take-up the offer.</p>
<p>Emotional distress and mental health issues are much more prevalent in vulnerable groups including children living in poverty, Children Looked After and children with disabilities. This issue is often a feature of families where parents or carers suffer poor mental wellbeing, or are involved with drug or alcohol misuse or victims of domestic abuse.</p>	<p>Measurable improvements in the emotional health of vulnerable children and young people and effectiveness of services in meeting their needs.</p> <p>Families in need will be identified and receive support earlier through embedded integrated working arrangements.</p> <p>Joint working with Adult Services will be increased and improved to provide systemic family-focused support.</p>	<p>Improve the overall emotional health of children and young people.</p> <p>Identification of children and young people with additional needs through integrated locality working.</p> <p>Priority given to vulnerable children and young people in delivery of specialist services.</p>	<p>We will support staff in schools and other universal settings in promoting emotional health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We will develop preventive and early intervention services which provide mental health assistance to families, addressing both parents and children and young people's mental health issues.</p>	<p>An increase in the number of children who report positive views of their resilience and mental health.</p> <p>A positive view of the effectiveness of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, particularly with regard to early intervention with vulnerable children and young people.</p>

Stay Safe: support for strong families, and for safe and confident people

Evidence	Outcomes	Commitments	Actions	Measures of success
<p>21% of victims of crime are children and young people. They are more likely to be the victims of crime between 3pm and 9pm.</p>	<p>Young people will have access to increased positive activities between 3pm and 9pm. Children and young people will receive positive messages about personal safety and support when they feel at risk or unsafe.</p>	<p>We will embed a diverse, positive and challenging cultural and youth offer designed with the engagement of Children and Young People.</p> <p>We will fully support and develop the role of schools and universal settings in addressing bullying and promoting personal safety.</p>	<p>A review of our services, informed and led by the views of children and young people in order to redesign and refocus provision.</p> <p>Develop strong links across the range of universal provision to ensure that positive safety messages and support is available to all children and young people.</p>	<p>Increased participation of children and young people in activities and services provided.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of young people reported as victims of crime.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of young people reported as being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.</p>
<p>30% increase in the number of children in care in 2009.</p>	<p>Pressure on Social Care resources will be reduced by increased early intervention and improved management of thresholds and referrals.</p>	<p>We will develop joint policies and practices and a suitably skilled workforce to deliver earlier interventions and preventive strategies across partnership agencies.</p>	<p>Develop a Single Point of Access for our services, linked to a single assessment process and a clear pathway through our systems.</p>	<p>An increased number of first contacts will result in the provision of appropriate advice and guidance.</p> <p>All families will access services via a single contact with the partnership without the need to self-refer to a number of agencies.</p>
<p>In 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional abuse triggered Child Protection Plans in 50% of cases increased number of CYP experienced multiple placements decreased number of CYP in a placement remained there for at least two years. 	<p>Fewer CYP will be placed in care, and fewer CYP will return to the child protection system.</p> <p>Fewer children will spend long periods in the Child Protection system.</p> <p>Fewer children will experience multiple placements.</p>	<p>Thresholds and referral systems will be revised to support early intervention and preventive work, reducing the number of referrals resulting in placements, and eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy in accessing services.</p>	<p>Develop a key pathway for families referred to our partnership for services, along with a single referral and assessment process which reduces bureaucracy and increases the time spent on supporting families.</p>	<p>A reduction in the cost and number of placements arranged.</p> <p>An increase in the number of families supported by preventive services.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of families where cases are escalated or directly referred to more specialist services.</p>
<p>Triggers for placing children on a child protection plan include domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and parental mental health issues.</p>	<p>Families in need will be identified and receive support earlier through embedded integrated working arrangements</p> <p>Joint working with Adult Services will be increased and improved to provide systemic family-focused support.</p>	<p>We will draw together data sources and develop systems and skills to support earlier identification of families who may be at risk.</p>	<p>Review thresholds for intervention to support early and preventive actions and to match these with improved interpretation of data.</p>	<p>Families will be provided with services at the appropriate level, reducing the number of cases which escalate to require specialist support.</p> <p>An increased number of families will receive advice, guidance and support via universal services.</p>
<p>Around 1,000 cases of domestic abuse involving families are reported annually.</p>	<p>Children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and parental substance misuse at home will be identified earlier and supported more effectively.</p>	<p>We will improve support for families identified as at risk by developing the Total Family approach.</p>	<p>Deliver integrated family and parenting support across our partnerships with clear links to specialist services, third sector partners and other agencies supporting adults and families.</p>	<p>Delivery of high quality training and development resources, shared with across our partnership and with other agencies who work with families.</p>
<p>High number of out of area placements, leading to disruption and high costs.</p>		<p>We will focus on providing stable placements which meet the needs of children and young people, and are close to their home area wherever possible.</p>	<p>Review and development of local facilities and placement opportunities, to enable more children and young people to have their needs met near their home area when appropriate.</p>	<p>A reduction in the number of our-of-area placements.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of children and young people who move between placements.</p>

Enjoy and Achieve: raising attainment and providing opportunities for all, especially our most vulnerable children

Evidence	Outcomes	Commitments	Actions	Measures of success
Wide variation between South West and Central and North locality areas, with evidence of a similar situation emerging in Weston East.	We will improve outcomes and attainment for all vulnerable children and young people at all stages whilst maintaining high overall performance.	We will work with schools to ensure a high level of school attendance and reductions in children missing education due to exclusions.	Parenting support, provided in schools will link closely with learning support based in Neighbourhood Teams, to support improved and sustained attendance and attainment.	A reduction in persistent absence in key areas. An increase in parental engagement and attendance at school functions and meetings.
Wide variations in attainment between groups of vulnerable children and young people and their peers, in particular children and young people eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and Children Looked After (CLA).	Increased access to informal learning opportunities, in and out of school, to build skills, confidence and self-esteem.	We will complement quality learning in schools with delivery of opportunities for Children Looked After and children living in poverty to access a wide range of positive activities outside school.	Ensure that families are provided with key information, support and access to appropriate services at the earliest stage, via a Single Point of Access incorporating the Family Information Service.	An improvement in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 attainment for the identified vulnerable groups, alongside sustained good performance overall. An improvement in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 attainment for children receiving Free School Meals, alongside sustained performance overall.
Initial data suggests a high level of overlap of risk factors eg between FSM eligible children and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN).	Improved outcomes for children living in poverty.	Targeted Children Centre support for young families. Effective one-to-one tuition in schools. High levels of participation in extra-curricular and holiday provision among vulnerable groups.	Develop a Child Poverty Strategy for our partnership, based on detailed evaluation of available data and linked to an outcomes focused appraisal of best practice to tackle issues in North Somerset.	An improvement in the attainment of 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C across the vulnerable groups identified, alongside sustained performance overall.
National research evidence indicates that children of families exposed to multiple risk factors are more likely to experience poor outcomes, lower educational attainment and reduced social mobility.	A local understanding of risks will be developed, to inform the realignment of resources to support those suffering from multiple disadvantage.	Data will be shared to enable early identification and intervention for those most at risk of experiencing poor outcomes.	Partners will share data via a 'hub' which will facilitate comprehensive data aggregation and needs assessment, informing qualitative work with children and families.	A clear policy and process for sharing data across our partnership, leading to the production of high quality management and practitioner information.
High level and cost of out of area placements, leading to disruption of school careers and consequent effects on attainment.	A reduction in placement frequency and cost whilst maintaining excellent outcomes for the children and young people most at risk.	We will improve local capacity to ensure specialist provision is available wherever possible via training and development of the workforce.	Develop capacity for early intervention in order to achieve sustainable and positive change whilst maintaining quality and capacity of high level interventions for crisis situations. Provide training for colleagues delivering universal services to ensure that they are able to understand, identify and support a range of needs and to share good practice across settings.	A reduction in the cost and number of placements arranged. An increase in the number of families supported by preventive services. A reduction in the number of families where cases are escalated or directly referred to more specialist services.

Make a positive contribution: support and activities to promote a positive view of children and young people

Evidence	Outcomes	Commitments	Actions	Measures of success
Children and young people identify access to outdoor play, parks and beaches and to sport activities as a need, and this is access is particularly difficult to achieve for children and young people with disabilities.	Children and young people will have access to better play areas and open spaces developed in consultation with them and their communities, with play ranger support where possible.	We will maintain our presence in parks and open spaces to continue to provide these valued opportunities. We will engage in the planning process for new residential developments to ensure outdoor play areas are secured and developed from the outset.	Review and redesign our existing services to reflect an increased need for outdoor provision at the times and in the places where children and young people tell us they wish to access them.	Children and young people will report satisfaction with play areas and spaces during consultation and participation events.
There is compelling evidence of reduced anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of play areas with active Play Ranger involvement.	Increased access to informal learning opportunities, in and out of school, to build skills, confidence and self-esteem.	We will provide a range of positive play and cultural activities in order to raise the self-esteem of children and young people.	Offer a coordinated programme of holiday activities, building on and promoting existing resources and linking with opportunities across our partnership.	A reduction in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour by children and young people within 1km of supported play areas.
Children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities have access to a much reduced range of positive activities outside school.	Provision of a comprehensive Youth Offer encompassing a range of positive activities, volunteering, information, advice and guidance alongside targeted support.	We will promote and deliver accessible opportunities for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities to engage in a wider range of out of school activities.	Provide opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to reflect their needs, wishes and concerns to ensure programmes delivered are accessible and available to all.	Children and young people will report satisfaction with play areas and spaces during consultation and participation events.
Response rates to surveys and participation in consultation and other positive activities with children and young people is generally low.	Young people will contribute constructively and critically to the planning, design and review of services provided and to situations where decisions about their individual care or support are made.	We will develop a central skills base for engagement with children and young people which will inform development of highly effective consultations with improved return rates and results.	Provide and promote effective mechanisms to engage children and young people in planning, decision making and service provision. Promote and increase the participation in positive activities and initiatives within universal settings and schools.	An increase in the participation and engagement of young people, with their voices being reflected in key decisions made by our partnership. An increase in the number of children and young people participating in positive initiatives and contributing to the school environment.
High levels of teenage pregnancy persist in Weston South and among Children Looked After.	Reduced rates of teenage conception amongst specific groups.	We will focus teenage pregnancy preventive services on these groups.	Good quality provision of PSHE and SRE in schools. "No Worries" activity targeted to reach key areas and groups.	A reduced number of teenage conceptions in Weston South and CLA groups.

Achieve economic wellbeing: Building independence in difficult times

Evidence	Outcomes	Commitments	Actions	Measures of success
<p>Whilst overall rates of children and young people not in employment, education or training at Jan 2010 were low, numbers identified in specific groups showed marked increases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage mums: increase from 31 in Jan 2009 to 60 in Jan 10 • Young People with a learning disability: increase from 7 in Jan 2009 to 26 in Jan 10 • Young People known to YOT: increase from 10 in Jan 2009 to 19 in Jan 10 • Care leavers. <p>These groups are concentrated in Weston South.</p>	<p>Positive opportunities to develop skills and employability available to all children and young people up to the age of 19.</p> <p>Increased numbers of children and young people in vulnerable groups entering employment, education or training.</p> <p>Increased access to an improved range of informal learning opportunities, in and out of school, to build skills, confidence and self-esteem.</p> <p>Raised aspirations and self-esteem for 14-16 years olds at risk of not entering employment, education or training opportunities.</p>	<p>We will increase the capacity to deliver positive activities at universal, targeted and specialist levels which raise the aspirations and promote the opportunities available to children and young people, particularly those in vulnerable groups.</p> <p>We will provide access to advice and guidance to families to ensure they are able to access a range of training and development opportunities to maximise their employment potential.</p>	<p>A range of positive activities developed, accessible to and targeted to reach vulnerable groups of children and young people in order to raise their aspirations, encourage their attainment and foster a positive view of their future.</p> <p>Work in partnership with JobCentre Plus and other agencies to target services on areas where worklessness is prevalent, including developing a presence for their services in Children's Centres.</p>	<p>A reduction in the number of children and young people, particularly in vulnerable groups, not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of children and young people entering Jobs without training.</p>
<p>YP living in Weston South are four times more likely to be affected by income deprivation than those living elsewhere in NS.</p> <p>There is a lack of employment and training opportunities for YP outside Weston.</p>	<p>Increased financial independence for families in Weston South.</p> <p>A diverse range of training opportunities developing in conjunction with rural employers.</p> <p>Improved transport links between employment and training centres, both in major population centres and in rural settings.</p>	<p>We will develop a Child Poverty Strategy involving agencies across our partnership to reduce worklessness and reduce the number of children living families in poverty.</p> <p>We will engage with local employers, education providers and agencies to develop connections and opportunities across North Somerset.</p> <p>We will work with colleagues planning public transport services to ensure children and young people's voices are reflected in their planning.</p>	<p>Develop an understanding of the local situation via needs assessment, informing a solutions-focused Child Poverty Strategy.</p> <p>Encourage rural employers to provide apprenticeships and other training and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Work with the Transport, Employment and Environment Partnership to develop an understanding of children and young people's needs and views.</p>	<p>A reduction in Child Poverty reflected in the number of claims for income-related benefits made by families in the area.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of children and young people not in employment, education or training.</p> <p>An accessible, affordable and improved transport network, developed in consultation with children and young people.</p>

6 Delivering the Plan

This section of the plan details the structures, resources and activities needed to deliver the priorities which the partnership has identified. The key overarching themes which these priorities reflect are:

1. **Continuing the development and integration of preventative services for the 0–19 age range**, with a focus on ensuring young people are emotionally resilient and provided with positive opportunities from conception through to adolescence.
2. **Ensuring fully integrated, multi-agency support to those children, young people and families requiring targeted and specialist support**, and ensuring that these services are performing at a high level to safeguard the most vulnerable children and young people.
3. **Improving the support for families through closer working with adult services**, eg in housing and adult mental health, in recognition of the fundamental impact that the wider family context has upon the life experiences and outcomes of young people.

Our second and third aims are reflected particularly in our “Total Family” initiative, which will enable the partnership to reorganise and remodel its services to provide fully integrated, systemic support to families.

In light of the reduced future financial resources and greater pressure to demonstrate the positive impact of our actions, this initiative will also enable us to deliver more effectively and efficiently to those families that need support the most.

This section of our plan aims to identify therefore how we will organise our efforts for best effect, the resources we have available and how we deploy them, and how we will understand the impact of our work.

Organising for delivery – new partnership governance

The partnership has recognised the challenge of both a period of austerity in public spending, and a wish to devolve power and decision-making by engaging our community in service planning and delivery. Thus, former Children’s Trust Management Board has reviewed the governance structure necessary for our partnership to deliver this aims.

The key elements of the revised delivery structure are:

- a simplified strategic framework, which provides clear and informed leadership for the Partnership
- a focus on commissioning and enabling services, rather than direct provision – and a recognition of the need for a cross-partnership commissioning group to monitor these arrangements
- a clear lead for delivery of each Outcome Area identified in the five tables above, selected from Senior Managers in the partnership
- a culture of informed, critical enquiry into the effectiveness of our services, based on performance management against measures of success, and on seeking and understanding the views of service users.

How will we use our resources?

This plan reflects a partnership-wide concern regarding the current financial climate and potential effect of future reductions in resources. However, in assessing the resources available to the partnership, it is important to consider a range of factors aside from funding.

The plan does not seek to draw specific conclusions on the level or proportional allocation of funding, as to do so at this stage

would likely not reflect an uncertain future position. This section, therefore presents a number of key principles on which will base decisions about resources.

Finance

The financial resources available to deliver the plan will be reduced in future. We will therefore build upon our existing financial arrangements to secure the most effective use of resources, moving towards a more integrated approach.

This will include:

- continuing to work closely with the Strategic Schools Forum and with schools to identify how we can work together to deliver our shared outcomes
- making greater use of aligned and pooled budget arrangements across our partnership
- securing “one-off” investment to develop new models of service delivery
- working with non-statutory partners to maximise access to investment
- taking full advantage of the financial freedoms and flexibilities provided by the Local Area Agreement and the removal of ring-fences from budgets
- improving operational efficiency
- engaging with the growing agenda for decentralisation, and working as a facilitator of community-based action to deliver services.

Ensuring that the health needs of children and young people remain a key focus over the coming years, in the light of structural changes and funding reductions.

The charts below reflect the change in the distribution of high level resources committed to Childrens Services which we expect over the period of this plan, which presents a challenge to the partnership in reshaping services to meet the aims of the plan. These charts should be used as a guide to the likely proportion and

distribution of funding only, as this analysis is based on the likely changes in funding arrangements announced up to January 2011.

This picture is subject to ongoing and radical change, and thus it is not possible to commit specific figures. It is therefore important that the plan continues to be reviewed regularly to ensure that the financial view reflected is accurate and that planned activities to achieve our aims are realistic within the resources available to the partnership.

Naturally it has been necessary to make some fundamental assumptions about future changes in funding, and in particular that health expenditure will remain relatively constant on frontline services, and that management costs in Primary Care Trusts will be reduced.

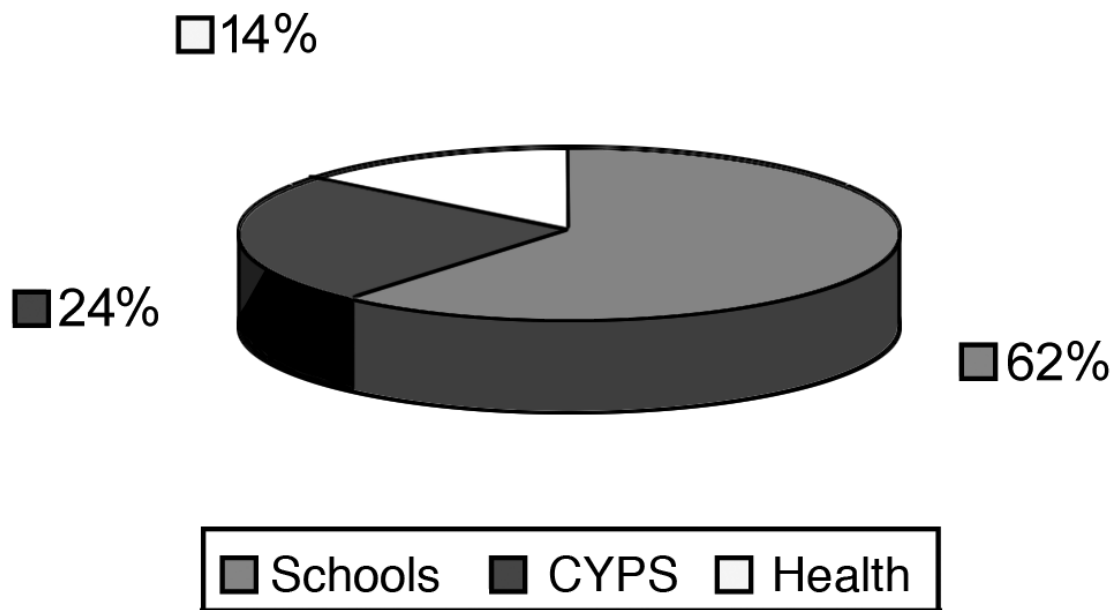
Commissioning

We need to devise and embed Joint Commissioning arrangements which will enable us to address our partnership priorities. A range of commissioning approaches will be used, dependent upon the service to be commissioned, including:

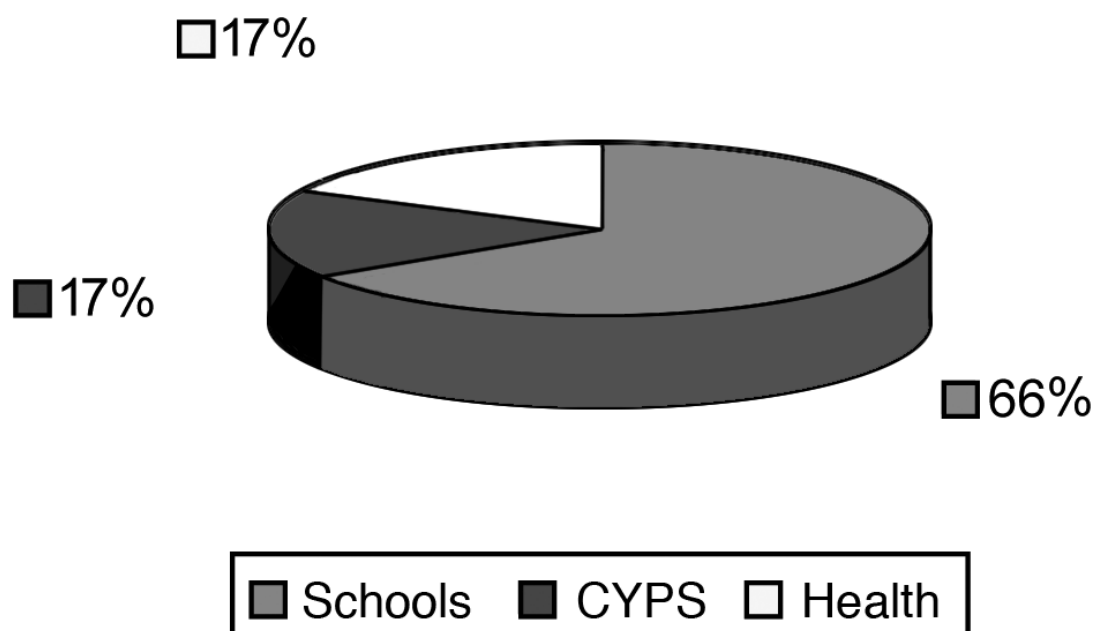
- independent or single agency commissioning where individual partners undertake all their own commissioning of services, but consult and share information with other partners
- joint or collaborative commissioning with partners
- lead commissioning, where one partner acts on behalf of a group of partners to commission services
- redesign of services to meet new priorities and needs.

Our revised governance structure will recognise the importance of commissioning at a strategic level, and will support partners in developing innovative and effective approaches to commissioning services.

Expenditure on children and families – 2010 proportion by sector



Projected expenditure on children and families – 2015 proportion by sector



Workforce development

Continuing the development of our workforce is central to the successful delivery of our outcomes. We have a flexible, skilled and effective body of people and will build their abilities further to ensure that they are well equipped to meet the needs of children and young people both now and in the future.

This will encompass generic development such as safeguarding training, service specific professional development, and the establishment of leadership and management programmes.

We will ensure that workforce development activity extends to encompass our third and private sector partners, particularly where they have been commissioned to deliver services on behalf of our partnership.

We also recognise that the move to fully integrated delivery of services at a family level will present new challenges for our colleagues. We will support our workforce through this change process, and ensure that their skills and vision are recognised as key resources in ensuring its success.

Information, data and needs assessment

North Somerset has in place the essential components for information sharing across our partnership, and is embarking on efforts to better integrate data at an individual as well as neighbourhood and community level. As part



of the development of commissioning processes we will continue to refine our understanding of the needs of children and young people and their families by:

- combining different data sources and information to create a complete picture of the needs of every child and young person
- profiling need at neighbourhood as well as district level
- establishing a positive performance management culture which challenges us to enquire into and understand the issues we face, and to improve outcomes for children and young people
- developing a cross-partnership agreement on sharing data which enables, rather than hinders efforts to understand the experiences and views of our population
- ensuring that our information includes the voices, views and experiences of children and young people alongside statistical and needs-related data.

Estate management

The move towards greater integration of services will require a more flexible and planned approach to the use of buildings and other physical resources. We are determined that the buildings we use to deliver services and for our staff are 'fit for purpose' and can be used for the co-location of staff and services, accessible to the community.

We will build on the multi-agency use of Children's Centres and schools to inform future capital investment, ensuring that our services are delivered both cost-effectively, and in the places where families find them easiest to access.

We will also maintain the momentum built through investment in play areas to secure improved community spaces for children and young people, supported by local ownership through volunteers, local groups and the engagement of parish and town councils.

7 How we will measure our improvement

We will improve our current planning and performance management arrangements by putting in place systems that have the following characteristics:

A culture of outcomes based thinking

We will focus our partnership activity on achieving positive outcomes for children and young people. In developing this plan and its successor documents and complementary strategies, we recognise that outcomes will be evidence based, having had high-level agreement and reflect a commitment from key partners.

We will pursue the use of outcomes based accountability in developing our delivery planning, and in measuring our success against the plan.

Clear indicators and targets

This plan does not aim to define specific indicators or targets, and focuses on high-level measures of success which should produce tangible results for all children and young people in North Somerset, and which can be shared by all partners.

However, these will need to be underpinned by a range of realistic, measurable, evidenced and time-related targets which will inform key decision-making at a partnership and single agency level during the life-span of the Partnership Plan.

As the future of the national indicator set remains uncertain, we will attempt to select meaningful and locally measured targets where these are more appropriate or useful, and we will also seek to reduce duplication and bureaucracy in gathering and presenting data.

Performance management

Our revised governance structure has been designed with a view to promoting a culture of

critical review and continuous improvement via a commitment to performance management.

The key features of our performance management framework are:

- presentation of performance management data which allows trends and issues to be identified across a range of indicators, services and partner agencies
- a calendar of 'performance events' which allows timely consideration of data as it becomes available to the Partnership
- clear accountability for performance management within the governance structure to ensure that issues are owned and action is pursued.

Our performance management arrangements will take a "balanced scorecard" approach focused on tracking outcomes related to our service users' experiences, resources, processes and workforce.

Operational planning and delivery

The overarching outcomes, indicators and targets will be reflected in clear leadership for delivery planning at strategic and operational levels. Processes will be in place at partner organisation and partnership levels to track progress against operational plans, and local targets will be agreed by Delivery Leads to measure progress.

Annual review and planning cycle

A planning and review cycle will be established. Key partners, including children and young people, their families and bodies representing specific vulnerable groups will monitor implementation of the plan, evaluate its impact and help to inform future planning.

We aim to hold an annual event, involving a wider range of partner organisations from outside the Children and Families Partnership in order to consider a range of views on our priorities and how well we are performing against the plan.

Accountability and review of the Partnership Plan

The Children and Families Partnership will have overall responsibility for the production, evaluation and monitoring of this plan.

The plan will be subject to annual review, to reflect the changing financial and political landscape, and to ensure that we continue to address the key issues facing children and young people in North Somerset.



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