

REPORT TO STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

18TH MARCH 2008

THIRD QUARTER 2007/08 PROGRESS REPORT ON DELIVERY OF LAA REWARD TARGETS

1. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines progress up to the end of the third quarter of 2007/08 in delivering Stockport's 11 Local Area Agreement Reward Targets. This follows previous quarterly reports which have been submitted to the Partnership Board, and updates the six month report submitted to Government Office North West in November and previously reported to the Board. The detail of each reward target is shown in **appendix 1**.

There is a total of around £7.7m potentially available via Performance Reward Grant for the achievement of these targets by 2008/09. Regular performance and financial monitoring is in place to ensure that actions are progressing and performance is on track, and this report summarises progress reported elsewhere.

There will be an overlap for 2008/09 with the new LAA currently being negotiated and the current reward targets which will be honoured by Government. Progress against the new LAA targets, once agreed, will be reported separately to the Board.

2. COMMENTARY ON PROGRESS

Overall progress

Q3 data is available for 6 of the 11 reward targets. Based on the most recent data available, 9 of these are forecast to be on track to meet or exceed the final 'stretch target' for 2008/09. Overall, a positive direction is reported on almost all of the reward targets, other than Target 2d on Foundation Stage, where baselines do not reflect actual progress being made.

At this stage, it is forecast that just three targets will not be achieved in full – 2, 10 and 11 - although all are projected to meet some of the stretch required. This translates to a potential £6.9m from a maximum £7.7m to be gained through Performance Reward Grant in 2009. The breakdown of this is shown in App 1

More detail on each of the targets is provided below;

2.1 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

RT 1 - Increasing breastfeeding initiation rates

Although Q3 data is not yet available, performance in relation to breastfeeding remains strong and is ahead of target. There has been a further improvement in breastfeeding both at initiation and maintenance.

RT 2 – Improving attainment and narrowing the gap at Foundation Stage

2a – Excellent progress has been made this year in the percentage of children achieving 6 point level of attainment in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) at foundation stage within the top 80% Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Performance is short of the challenging LAA target but there has been a significant improvement on the previous year. The DfES recognise that Foundation Stage curriculum and its assessment are not yet universally well established and it is likely that the 2006/7 academic year results have again been affected by changes in the way assessment and moderation has been undertaken.

Overall, early year's provision remains very strong with 'good' judgements from OFSTED in relation to the quality of Nursery Education and the quality of teaching (Early Years Statistical Profile). A programme of support for schools in planning to meet the needs and interests of learners is in place. A conference has been delivered regarding PSED for all practitioners and distinct training sessions on promoting each aspect of PSED have been held.

2b – There has also been progress this year in the percentage of children achieving 6 point level of attainment in Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) at the end of the foundation stage. A two year action plan is in place which includes universal training on newly published National Strategy Materials training on Early Reading. These materials will support schools to track children's progress and identify next steps for learning.

2c - Performance in reducing the gap in PSED between children living in areas within the top 20% Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and those children living in other areas of Stockport has been challenging. Work to address this includes multi agency working within children centres and schools in areas of IMD. This is resulting in earlier identification of children with SEN and work to support children's individual needs.

2d - The ongoing programme to support % of children achieving point 6 CLL in areas of IMD is continuing but this remains a challenging area. A number of initiatives will have an impact on this area of work including the recruitment of an Early Years teacher to develop capacity and work largely in the IMD areas improving CLL. A multi agency speech and language programme is being implemented in schools, nursery classes and children centres to build practitioners capacity. This will enable them to identify and target interventions to promote CLL alongside use of materials developed by the National Strategies. There is also a multi agency Foundation Stage delivery group which meets to promote cohesion and continuity between agencies working in IMD areas and in the identified schools.

RT 3 – Improving attainment at GCSE

There has been excellent progress in this outcome this year with Stockport's strong performance in education continuing. Provisional GCSE results indicate a further improvement on the step-change in performance which was made last year.

There has been further improvement in the number of children and young people achieving five A*-C including English, Maths and Science. This is the first year of the three year average and the current trajectory of improvement indicates that the reward target should be achieved. This reflects the synergy between the national strategies, local authority consultants, school leadership teams, school improvement advisers and school improvement partners in focussing on this area. Intervention programmes in schools have impacted upon this outcome positively, as have 'SAM' learning, revision clubs and learning in lessons.

RT 4 – Reducing levels of fixed-term exclusions in secondary schools and the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET).

4a) Verified figures for 07/08 (academic year 06/07) highlighted a significant reduction in permanent exclusions which finished on 47 for the year against a target of 56. Provisional figures for the autumn term 07/08 (reporting year 08/09) show that there have been 17 permanent exclusions compared to 9 in the same period the previous year. It is extremely difficult to forecast the end of year figure but it may be around 60 against a 2008/9 target of 53.

4b) Performance in 2007/8 (academic year 06/07) showed a significant reduction in teaching days lost through fixed term exclusions. This has continued in the Autumn term. Currently 1858.5 teaching and learning days have been lost compared to 2604.5 for the same period last year. This can probably be attributed to the impact of the Education & Inspections Act. As mentioned above, from Sept 07 schools had to provide full-time off site education for pupils excluded for more than 5 days and Head teachers have therefore tried to avoid fixed period exclusions that are more than 5 days in length.

4c) There has been an improvement in the percentage of 16-18 year olds NEET this year. This indicator is calculated through a November, December and January average. Data for November and December shows an average of 7.4% compared to 8.3% for the same period last year. There has also been a further reduction in the % of 16-18 year olds with activity unknown.

However, this performance is still short of the target.

A Stockport NEET Executive Group is now in place and chaired by Anne Birch, Service Director for Inclusive and Supportive communities. The Executive Group will meet on a monthly basis and will report regularly to the 14-19 Partnership.

2.2 SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

RT 5 – Reducing fear of crime –

In the second quarter the Citizens Panel Survey was undertaken through an additional booster survey. Performance showed that those “very worried has now fallen to 12.6% which represents a further fall on the 2006 survey. No change in figures for the third quarter as no further Citizen's Panel Surveys have been carried out. Next citizen's panel will be in March 08. The CSU are commissioning the Corporate Consultation Unit to carry over the Citizens Panel survey for 2008, ensuring that we receive 1000 respondents on issues related to crime and anti-social behaviour.

RT6 – Reducing alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour in public spaces.

a) Reductions the number of all woundings, excluding Domestic Violence woundings, in Stockport: Figures for the reduction of woundings excluding DV woundings for the first nine months of the year show a projected year end figure of 1,365 which is well ahead of the annual target of 1,893

(b) Criminal damage incidents have shown a significant fall and are forecast to produce a year end figure of 5048, which equates to being well ahead of the current year target of 5,591.

RT7 - Reduction of drug related acquisitive crime –

The Reward Target for the LAA for drug related acquisitive crime is 15,296 offences for 2007/8. The projected outturn from the first 9 months figures is 13,520 therefore we can predict that this indicator will meet full reward target.

2.3 HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

RT 8 – Reducing adult prevalence of smoking –

In relation to smoking cessation, the PCT and Council have worked closely to maximise the opportunities presented by the ban on smoking in public places in July 2007. This has led to increased awareness and compliance in comparison with national figures. In addition, approaches such as social marketing to design more innovative, consumer led services is successfully improving access to cessation support and quit rates.

As anticipated, quit attempts increased in the first six months of 2007/08 in response to the introduction of smoking ban on 1st July. Performance exceeded target due to the high numbers of people wanting to stop smoking in the run up to smokefree legislation introduction in July 2007 and additional service provision in Brinnington area, in particular, having an impact.

2.4 OLDER PEOPLE

RT 9 – Increasing the financial independence of older people.

We are on target for all aspects of this indicator. The difficulties with the Pension Service backlog of claims also has a knock on effect on the awards of HB and CTB. We are in dialogue with the Pensions Service locally to try and speed up cases, and claims are now being processed more quickly by

the DWP, as lengthy processing times could undermine our ability to meet Target 9, especially later in 2008/09.

The take up work with Stockport Homes sheltered accommodation properties is proving very successful. We are targeting the 4th of their 12 schemes and in each group of properties approximately 35% of the tenants are not receiving the correct benefit entitlements. This work will continue until all tenants have been seen.

Following this success in year 3 we will carry out the same exercise with Housing Association sheltered properties. The target we predict will be met by 30/06/2009, the end date for collecting details of claims made before 30/04/2009.

RT 10 - Improving support to help older people remain in their own homes.

Given the challenging nature of this target, trends in activity are closely monitored on an ongoing basis. Reduction in the number of permanent admissions has continued this quarter, which means we will exceed our target for 2007/08 by 18, which is a marked improvement on the previous quarter. Given the cumulative nature of the target this will contribute to the final stretch target in 2008/09, although at this stage it would be too optimistic to predict that we will achieve 100% of the reward. This improvement in performance has been achieved despite the lack of alternatives to residential care and can in part be attributed to continued scrutiny of Panel submissions requesting permanent care, the introduction of the new operational policy for Continuing Health Care funding, and the number of double cover Home Support packages which means we are supporting those with high level needs in their own homes.

2.5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

RT 11 – An improvement in the employment levels and economic wellbeing amongst jobless lone parents and individuals on incapacity benefits in the borough.

11 individuals have now completed 13 weeks in employment during the year. A further 8 entered employment during quarter 3, and should reach 13 weeks of employment by the end of March. Additional resources are being allocated to the delivery of the target which should ensure the 110 sustainable job outcomes are achieved by March 2009.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Partnership Board is asked to note progress against reward targets in the third quarter, and to comment on the report.

For further information or background to this report, please contact Andrea Stewart, Head of Improvement and Performance on x3242 or andrea.j.stewart@stockport.gov.uk.