



**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
COUNCILLOR LES LAWRENCE  
CABINET MEMBER FOR  
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND  
FAMILIES  
AND  
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER CHILDREN'S  
SOCIAL CARE  
TO  
CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2012**

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## **Foreword**

### **Councillor Les Lawrence**

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, this is my annual report to City Council as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families. The report outlines to the citizens of Birmingham my portfolio's key responsibilities, performance, policy and strategic issues. This report reflects the work that Councillor Bennett has been charged with in relation to children's social care especially safeguarding, to work alongside me and the Leaders Task Force, to drive improvements to the areas identified in our refreshed Ofsted Improvement Plan. Councillor Bennett has added his own chapter to inform and engage Council colleagues on this very important priority for the City.

My last annual report to Council was submitted in January 2011 and in September 2011 Councillor Bennett and I updated Scrutiny colleagues of the developments within my portfolio as required by the constitution.

This report therefore provides an update on progress, whilst setting out the priorities from now until February 2013.

The coalition government's agenda continues to bring about significant challenges for local authorities in the delivery of services and the funds in which we have to provide them.

#### **Legislation**

I list below the legislation passed by parliament in the last year and that outstanding as it affects my portfolio:

**Academies Act 2010**  
**Child Poverty Act 2010**  
**Education Act 2011**

**Action outstanding from the DfE business plan or in progress:** (Updates on progress of the Department for Education's business plan can be found on the Number 10 web site)

- Revise school building guidance

- Publish document outlining lessons learned in establishing and running free schools
- Evaluate findings from first year of operation of pupil premium
- Examples of best practice education endowment fund
- Reforms to Capital funding
- Options for future schools revenue funding
- Announcement of schools allocations for 2012/13
- Initial burdens based on secondary legislation removed
- Reduction in volume of DfE guidance for schools
- Close QCDA, GTCE, SSSNB, TDA and YPLA
- Open new DfE Executive Agencies focussing on testing, funding, leadership and teaching
- Change the status of Schools Food Trust, CWDC and the NCL so they cease to be NDPBs
- Reform the National curriculum for 5-16 year olds
- Develop proposals for streamlined and proportionate inspection regime of LA Children's Services
- School inspection system reformed
- Develop streamlined early years inspection and regulation
- Roll out pilot reading test for age 6 pupils
- Reform teachers standards, pay and conditions
- Implement the Sure Start children's centres reform programme
- Roll out extension of free early education to disadvantaged 2 year olds
- Put in place a new early years framework
- Work with DoH to develop and publish a mental health strategy for children and adolescents
- Set out detailed reform plans following consultation close of SEN and disability green paper
- Implement programme to improve practice in children's residential homes
- Support LA's to roll out intensive evidence based practice in foster care and children on the edge of care in 20 new sites
- Implement a programme to increase the number of adoptions and the speed of decision making
- Take lead responsibility for the roll out of the national citizen service 2013
- Publish the review of the commercialisation and premature sexualisation of childhood
- Develop and publish a Youth policy statement
- Develop a new child poverty strategy following Field review
- Put funding for relationship support services on a stable footing through continued government investment
- New approach to families with multiple problems operating in 50% of LA's

**Other important legislative challenges include:**

- Health and Social Care Bill (as it affects children, young people and families, through the Public Health Bill)
- Localism Act 2011 as it affects city governance arrangements
- The Sentencing and Rehabilitation Green consultation paper "Breaking the cycle, effective partnership, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders"
- Grandparents (Access Rights) Bill

- Shared Parenting orders Bill
- Carers (identification and support) Bill - responsibilities of local authorities and schools for the needs of young carers and their families; and for connected purposes
- Positive for Youth Strategy
- New Youth Sports Strategy – school games
- Community budget pilots
- New approach to adoptions
- Early intervention (“troubled families”)
- Youth Contract – wage subsidies and apprenticeships (NEET)
- Planning for School Development - DCLG consultation on the relaxation of development control regulations on the buildings in which schools can be conducted (closed 10/12/10) as part of the coalition governments commitment to free schools and academies.
- Protection of Freedoms Bill - restricts the scope of the 'vetting and barring' scheme for protecting vulnerable groups and makes changes to the system of criminal records checks. House of.
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Bill - the Bill would amend Section 5 of the Act to widen its scope to include situations where children and vulnerable adults have been seriously harmed. House of.
- Volunteering Bill - the Bill would provide for the introduction of a 'fit and proper person certificate', which would fulfil the requirement for background checks for potential volunteers. House of Commons.
- New Youth Sports Strategy as it affects schools.
- Sex and Relationships Education Bill
- Sex Education (Required Content) Bill
- Education (Special Educational Needs) Bill
- Education and Training (Young People with Autism) Bill

### **Priorities 2012/13**

With regard to children and young people, our priorities for 2012/13 continue:

- **Protect children from significant harm**, by addressing the key factors of domestic violence, poverty & neglect, drug, alcohol and mental health problems in families.
- **Improve engagement in learning and achievement in education**, by addressing the key factors of improving attendance, behaviour, curriculum & ethos, language, literacy & numeracy, social literacy, and the employability skills of young people.
- **Reduce health inequalities**, by addressing the key areas of infant mortality, childhood obesity, teenage conception and emotional health.

### **New Operating Model**

The previous structure and operational arrangements in the Children, Young People and Families Directorate has been adapted to deliver the three priorities stated above in an integrated way. The Government’s Improvement Notice which focuses on safeguarding children and young people provided an important driver to redefine operational arrangements which put safeguarding at the core of all that we do.

Under the new arrangements, services are delivered across all agencies so that need can be met early, locally and wherever possible in universal settings supported by integrated child and family support services.

The main drivers for our proposals continue to be:

1. to improve across all three priority areas.
2. to deliver against the Safeguarding and Children in Care Improvement Plan and join up strategic thinking across the directorate and its partners.
3. to manage budget and policy pressures; and deliver an organisational design that is both affordable and future-aware.
4. to retain and further build good professional expertise and performance across all that we do.
5. to tackle under performance in schools

The operating model for children and young people services that has now been implemented needs to embed fully and to ensure the model is effective through a continued emphasis on clear leadership, robust programme management and the support of the senior managers, elected members and partners. It will also ensure that all the risks to service delivery during the early phases of implementation are actively managed and mitigated.

The arrangements redefine the children's workforce around three sub-populations of children and young people. These sub-populations are:

- Children and young people with complex needs
- Children and young people with additional needs
- All children in universal settings

As children and young people move between these sub-populations during their lives, staff are able to connect across the boundaries of the model whilst being clear about the thresholds to access services from the workforce 'identified' to operate with the discrete sub-populations.

We are commissioning delivery of appropriate services via children's centres, schools and colleges, particularly because the vast majority of children and young people – even those with complex and additional needs - are placed in universal settings.

### **The School Improvement Vision and Strategy**

As part of the remodelling of the Directorate it was necessary to redefine the work of advisers and ensure that there was a structure in place that was more fit for purpose and one which met the changing needs of greater accountability to sit with our outstanding school leaders and ensure that the local authority team had credibility with our schools. An ex primary head teacher of 2 schools in the City was appointed to head up the school improvement strategy with 4 locality team leaders who are based in the localities . Each has a team of 3 school improvement advisers who also have direct contact with the Intergrated family support teams so that there is a join up between the issues that face our more vulnerable children and school improvement practices so that we can ensure that children and young people are in a state of readiness to learn. Aligned to the school improvement structure is the Governor Support team who are providing general advice to

Governing Bodies when requested. Specific guidance to individual chairs of governors is provided through the Head of School Improvement.

There has been joint work with the DfE to agree those primary and secondary schools where there are the greatest long term underperformance issues. There are 12 primary schools that are an immediate priority and 3 secondary schools.

There are a number of strands to the support that is available and it is determined by the position of each school. It is therefore likely that one of the following models is pursued taking into account the context of the school and the community that it serves:

- Primary Led – Hard Federations or Academies, led by our Teaching Schools & Outstanding Schools
- Church School-LA Solutions
- University and Further Education Academy Sponsors such as Aston, Wolverhampton and Birmingham Metropolitan
- Multiple Primary Academy Trusts/Umbrella Trusts
- Birmingham Secondary Academy Sponsors to Primary schools
- External sponsors with a proven track record

We are seeking to create an inter dependent collaborative school system. Birmingham schools and the Local Authority are committed to delivering the best education possible for all the city's children and young people and that all achieve their full potential.

It is important that we are able to evaluate the progress that is being made and we are currently looking at a research proposal that would allow for rigorous external scrutiny, in addition to that undertaken by our own internal scrutiny committee arrangements, in terms of the qualitative impact and the attainment outcomes at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 will provide the quantitative measures. The aim is that none of the Birmingham family of schools are below the floor targets, none are in an Ofsted category and that we strive for all of our schools to be judged good or outstanding.

**Councillor Les Lawrence**  
**Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Families**





## Foreword

### Councillor Matt Bennett

As the Executive Member for Children's Social Care since May last year, I have particular responsibility to drive and deliver our Safeguarding Improvement Plan for Children's Social Care, which is being delivered in the context of the Ofsted inspections of July 2010 and October 2011. Building on the work of my predecessor in this role, Len Clark, I am working with Councillor Lawrence, the Birmingham Safeguarding and Children in Care Improvement Board, the Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Board, the Leader's Improvement Task Force, and Scrutiny colleagues, to drive improvements to achieve the number one priority for the City Council:

'Protect children from significant harm and improve children's social care'

The last twelve months has seen a genuinely unprecedented amount of change in the way that Birmingham operates its services for children. Our entire service has now been completely redesigned, and the new model went live in the second week of September last year. Although our new model has only been in operation for a few months, there is an emerging picture that all the changes we have made in the way that we do things are now translating into the most important change that we need to see - better outcomes for children. Most especially, we can begin to be confident that we are becoming more effective at protecting children from significant harm.

However, it is still an emerging picture, and we have by no means arrived at the point that we need to. Furthermore, it is also essential that we are able to sustain our improvements into the future, despite the extra challenge of having diminishing financial resources available. Therefore, success will be dependent on continuing strong leadership. Below I give an overview of the current position.

## **PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SIGNIFICANT HARM AND IMPROVING CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

1. Previous attempts to respond to weaknesses in safeguarding children have not been successful in Birmingham. Therefore, my approach, in conjunction with Cllr Lawrence, has been to fully accept the scale and importance of the challenge that the council faces in this area. The focus has been, and continues to be, on doing things that will make a difference and then checking that they are making a difference in reality.
2. In practice, this has meant ensuring that our Improvement Plan is not just a document, but a tool with which to systematically make the changes needed to safeguard children effectively. Similarly, the Improvement Board that oversees the implementation of the Improvement Plan plays an important role in driving its delivery, and in particular, ensuring that all the relevant agencies – including the council, the police and the health service – are fully engaged and active in making the necessary changes.
3. Piecemeal or fragmented change within the Children's Young People and Families Directorate was not an option. Instead, what we have established is a completely new operating model, consistent with national best practice, and based on a sophisticated analysis and understanding of what was needed in Birmingham.

### **Integrated Family Support Teams**

4. At the heart of our new service are the Integrated Family Support Teams (IFST's). For the majority of children and young people high quality universal services will enable them to achieve good outcomes and reach their full potential. However from time to time some children will become "vulnerable". They may have difficulty making a transition from primary to secondary school, their development may be delayed, they may have broken the law or have emotional difficulties. Others are vulnerable because of their own development, family circumstances or environmental factors.
5. In our new model, services are delivered across all agencies so that need can be met early, locally and wherever possible in universal settings supported by integrated child and family support services.
6. The Integrated Family Support Teams work together to plan coordinated support from agencies to address problems in a holistic way. They are front facing with universal settings, having staff allocated to link with all schools and children's centres.
7. These teams work in an integrated way with the Children Centres in the 16 localities providing universal and early intervention. The realigned Community Day Nursery service based within children's centres deliver family support packages of interventions (including commissioned day care), at level 3 on the well-being model, to children 9 months to 11 with a focus on the early years but working in a holistic way where families have older siblings.

8. Our intention is to reduce the level of cross service referrals and work to replace the “referral culture” with one of “agreed allocations to service provisions”. This change of culture requires us to invest in closer professional partnership working that enables early screening of risk, shared needs assessments, and professional conversations to agree appropriate and integrated interventions. The allocation of link staff into all schools and children’s centres; the best utilisation of CAF; and the provision of Integrated Access Teams, are key enablers in delivering towards this vision.
9. Now we can ensure that all families know who their lead professional is, and that they are involved in identifying that lead professional. We also work closely with other services to ensure that lead professionals are enabled to effectively coordinate services for the family, are accountable in that role, and that they do not relinquish their lead professional role unless there is agreement for this to be transferred to another more appropriate person, or that it is no longer required.
10. The Integrated Family Support Teams will go a considerable way towards reducing the number of inappropriate referrals – and re-referrals - made to Children’s social work teams, thus helping to relieve the tremendous pressure from the number of cases and allowing a greater focus on the children who need a social work involvement.
11. Since the IFST’s went live in September, I have been systematically visiting the teams and I have been extremely heartened and impressed by the staff I have met. Notwithstanding some initial teething difficulties, the staff have shown an exemplary positive and professional attitude. Although it is of course still early days, I feel optimistic about the difference having the IFST’s will make to families and children in need.

**Social work practice**

12. The statutory social work service has also gone through some considerable remodelling and all area based staff are now in one of three teams:
  - First Response – which is the ‘front door’ into social care
  - Safeguarding and Support – which works with children at risk living at home within their families
  - Children in Care – offering a dedicated service to those in the Council’s care.
13. In addition, we have created four Integrated Access Teams which are the point of referral for all children’s services and who route work either into social care or the IFST’s.
14. All City-wide services (fostering, adoption etc) have been remodelled to ensure they can form effective working links with the area teams.

15. An intensive and systematic programme of improvements to the quality of social work practice has been conducted over a period of months, and is still on-going. Vigorous auditing of cases has been, and continues to be, carried out. All senior managers participate in this. Special highly experienced practitioners have worked with teams at the frontline to support and nurture best practice. Work has been done to improve the quality, and consistency of the supervision social workers receive. Where necessary, tasks previously undertaken by unqualified staff are now done by social workers. These and other related developments are creating the effective and consistent service that we need.
16. A very valuable contribution to the quality of social work practice is now being played by the new Social Work Academy at the University of Birmingham, established in partnership with the directorate. It is designed to change and improve the learning and development opportunities for students, for newly qualified social workers, and for experienced practitioners and managers.
17. In practice this involves the delivery of all the required training and support to social workers especially but not exclusively during their first two years of practice. All social workers are members of the academy and this will support the transition from the academic world into practice, by continuing their development and knowledge of theory into complex world of frontline social work. In addition managers are being offered leadership and management modules to support them in enabling their staff to develop as well as the opportunity for higher education. As well as targeted sessions there are regular master classes which are open to all, and enable practitioners and academics to explore with experts some of the challenges facing the profession.
18. Another important development has been the launching of the first MASH i.e. multi-agency safeguarding hub, in Bourneville police station, in November 2011. This has co-located front line staff from Children's Social Care First Response teams (our 'front door'), the Police Child Abuse Investigation Team, and Community and Mental Health services. Building on best practice and in the spirit of the Munro review, the purpose of the initiative is to improve the safeguarding of children and young people by:
  - Improved information sharing and partnership working with ready access to client held records from the respective agencies
  - Consistency of practice and response (aid cross agency understanding of roles, responsibilities and thresholds of intervention)
  - Improvement in knowledge base and expertise across the respective agencies
  - More effective planning and management of risk assessments and child protection investigations
  - Reduction in delays of key decision making
  - Better Child Protection Strategy meeting attendance and participation
  - Enhanced service to vulnerable children

19. Later this year, more MASH's will be rolled out across the city, subject to a positive evaluation after the first six months of operation.
20. The Improvement Board monitors progress on key performance indicators at each of its meetings. Progress is now being seen in relation to a number of indicators, including child protection and children in care visits, and this progress will continue until targets are reached, and then maintained. Progress in relation to the number of re-referrals to Children's Social Care, by its nature, can not be achieved quickly. However, it is anticipated that progress will be seen around April.

#### **Establishing the new operating arrangements**

21. Underpinning all of the above has been the unprecedented recruitment programme to positions in the new operating model, starting with the service directors/assistant directors and going through all grades of staff. We have been successful in recruiting 5 experienced senior managers to fill the vacant Assistant Director roles and they are now in post. We have recently appointed the new Strategic Director, who in April will take over from the Transitional Strategic Director, and there will be a significant period of handover. A new Service Director (Children's Social Care) is scheduled to be appointed in February. The new leadership team provides clear area accountability and responsibility with the 4 area Assistant Director posts, alongside city wide consistency and collaboration through the other 5 Assistant Director posts which have city wide responsibilities.
22. Across Children's Social Care, a challenging but fair selection process has ensured that now all staff are suitable for the role they are to fulfil. We have lost a number of staff through this process, but I make no apology for this. We can only have staff who meet the high standards required of them. Inevitably this was a time of considerable anxiety for all staff. I commend the continuing commitment to improving the service that I have encountered from staff in my various visits to social work offices etc.

#### **Accommodation**

23. It has of course also been necessary to support the changes we have made with the necessary resources. Therefore, nearly all social work staff have now moved to modern offices, in conjunction with the council-wide Working for the Future property programme. This has put an end to the situation whereby some staff were in accommodation which was not fit for purpose.

#### **IT and data**

24. Similarly, many improvements have been made to data and IT processes and systems, including of course Carefirst 6. Recently a single sign-on pilot has started for Carefirst and e-records. This addresses the concern of social work staff that they had to spend too much time signing onto different systems, and on password issues. Further projects will be brought forward to improve the ease with which staff can use systems, including an electronic CAF (Common Assessment Framework) system.
25. The magnitude of the challenge in getting our IT and data systems right should not be underestimated. Too often, systems and processes have been developed in isolation from business needs and from each other. I am determined that this we arrive at the optimum position in which our staff can work with children most effectively - where systems and process support this work rather than detract from it. I am taking an active role in the steering group leading on this area.

### **Courts**

26. Another area for concern that is being addressed is the unduly long time care proceedings often take in relation to our children. Whilst care needs to be taken when dealing with the lives and welfare of children, this is not well served by inordinate delays in court proceedings. I am therefore working closely with legal colleagues on this issue, and am meeting with key people in the courts arena to see how we can overcome this problem.

### **Corporate Parenting**

27. Working closely with Cllr Lawrence (who chairs the Corporate Parenting Board), I also wish to reinvigorate the council's role as corporate parent of our looked after children. I want the council to act with the same motivation and drive for our looked after children as any other parent, seeking to provide the best opportunities and support. We now have Corporate Parenting Champions in all the directorates and are being supported by the corporate centre. The next step is to identify and take forward concrete actions that directorates can take to benefit our children. One area we are developing is the involvement of council staff in mentoring and supporting young people in our children's homes, through matching of common interests.
28. I am aware that corporate parenting is an area that my scrutiny colleagues are also concerned about and are giving attention to, and I am hopeful that together we can greatly enhance the council's role as corporate parent.

### **Adoption**

29. The adoption service prioritises the recruitment of a range of families from diverse backgrounds to meet the needs of Birmingham's children. In 2009/10, 65 Adoption Orders were granted for Birmingham Children. In 2010/11, this figure has significantly improved to 87 Adoption Orders Granted for Birmingham Children.
30. Birmingham has a significant number of foster carers who wish to adopt children in their care. We are now reviewing our processes to ensure improved timescales in moving to adoption. In the last five years, the number of children adopted each year by their foster carers has increased from 5 to 12.
31. We are increasing our matches with our own Birmingham families alongside the use of interagency placements with both other local authorities and voluntary agencies. In the period October 10 -11, we placed 35 children with Birmingham families and 26 with voluntary organisations and 14 with other local authorities.
32. We offer a comprehensive support service to all adopters living in the Birmingham area. This level of support ensures that placements made are sustained and valued and reduces the risk of disruption and a return to the care system. The support on offer includes pre and post approval training on issues of attachment, behaviour management, and support for adopted children's educational needs. All sorts of events are held, including Coffee Mornings, Stay and Play, and a Summer Event.
33. The adoption service has recently been remodelled in line with the overall directorate strategy to improve service delivery and organisation. Generic adoption

teams are now based in one location which has led to better communication and more flexible use of staffing resources.

34. The service has had ongoing involvement with central government regarding the review of adoption. We await the publication of a Green Paper which will inform future planning and developments in the service including working with colleagues to ensure timescales for adoption are improved.
35. I have arranged an Adoption Summit to take place in February. All the local key players - including representation from the courts – are coming together to consider how the rate of adoption can be increased and the processes involved made quicker. The human cost of problems and delays with adoption processes can not be over-estimated, and I am determined to make progress in this area.

### **Fostering**

36. Over the 12 month period August 2010 to August 2011, the total number of mainstream foster carers available to the fostering service has increased by 6. It is projected that the net recruitment for the full-year 2011/12 is likely to be approximately 11 foster carers, when the number of applicants currently being assessed is taken into account. On the 1 January 2012 there were 553 foster carers offering placements to children, 448 were mainstream foster carers and 95 fully approved Family and Friends foster carers. On 1 January 2012 there were 772 children in all internal foster placements, of which 655 were with mainstream foster carers.
37. As with the adoption service, the fostering service has recently been remodelled in line with the overall directorate strategy to improve service delivery and organisation. Now the Fostering Support Teams covering South and West/Central areas are based at Lifford House, while the Fostering Support Teams for East and North are based at Tamebridge House. East Team will include support to Family and Friends foster carers. The workers in the previous Family Finding Team, who work to find the best long-term families for children, have been distributed among the Fostering Support Teams. These changes will help to ensure the moves in children's care plans are progressed in a timely manner, particularly when short-term foster carers wish to look after a child long-term.
38. It is vital that we greatly increase the number of in-house foster carers. Marketing and recruitment activities are receiving focussed attention, and are benefiting from the use of the council's customer knowledge resource, which helps us understand where and how to target our fostering marketing activities.
39. There is an especially important focus on the Foster Care Fortnight, 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May, which will be launched in Birmingham with a major event in Cannon Hill Park and the Midlands Arts Centre on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Children's Homes and Placement Strategy**

40. Currently, six of our homes are rated as Outstanding by OFSTED - Braymoor Road, Clissold Street, Fairfield, Reservoir Road, Charles House and Warwick House. The last three are homes for children with disabilities and Warwick House was refurbished last year and received Outstanding on its first inspection, having previously been rated as Good. Reservoir Road went from Good to Outstanding in October.

41. The remodelling of the staffing structure for Children's Homes is now nearing completion. The longer term developments for the whole residential estate will be addressed through the broader Placement Strategy, which is now being finalised. This is being undertaken in consultation with staff and trade unions, and will seek to address the following key areas:

- the need to increase the numbers of children in internal foster care and reduce our dependency on costly independent fostering agencies
- the need to ensure we get best value for money from both internal and external fostering and residential provision
- ensuring that the internal residential estate can meet the needs of children with increasingly complex and challenging behaviour and reduce the number and cost of placements outside the city
- ensuring that we have sufficient provision for the numbers of children in care and that we are able to improve the matching of children to appropriate placements

#### **Boarding Schools**

42. I have initiated work to enable the use of boarding schools for children at risk of coming into care. This option has the benefit of greatly enhancing the child's educational prospects, and thereby their life chances in general. It also represents a very significant saving when compared to the cost of other residential placements. Like all options, it must meet the needs of the individual. An example of a scenario where boarding school could be an excellent option is where a child is being looked after by grandparents.

#### **Community based budgeting, Social Impact Bonds and troubled families initiative**

43. The council is at the forefront of several government initiatives around innovative ways of working with families, with the CYPF directorate leading on these areas. These initiatives all fit well with the new directorate model, most particularly the multi-disciplinary and locality based IFST's.

44. In Shard End, 160 families with complex needs are being worked with as one of sixteen national community based budgeting pathfinders. The work has many facets, and is characterised by:

- the use of the successful Family Intervention Programme (FIP), commissioned from Shelter, where Family Advocates support families to solve their own problems
- the use of the innovative "Family Common Assessment Framework" (fCAF), whereby children's and adults agencies work together to achieve outcomes for the whole family.
- the use of a range of evidence based programmes, in line with the Graham Allen report.



- exceptionally strong partnership working between all agencies in the area
45. The use of Social Impact bonds is being actively explored as a means of funding and developing preventative work with families. The recently announced troubled families' initiative will also provide an impetus - and part funding - for work with families who "live apart from the rest of society".

**Conclusion**

46. In summary, we are now moving away from the phase of carrying out massive changes in our working arrangements and significantly into the phase of delivering and seeing a better set of services which enable better outcomes for children, most especially in relation to safeguarding. There remains a particular challenge in relation to the role and contribution of our partners, as has been made clear by the recently renewed Improvement Notice. All agencies need to play their part, as the council can not successfully safeguard children in isolation from health, the police, schools and other agencies. This will be a particular focus in the months ahead, as we move towards the goal of safeguarding children effectively and meeting the needs of all children.

**Councillor Matt Bennett**  
**Executive Member Children's Social Care**

## **CABINET MEMBER EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

47. Cabinet Member Roles and Responsibilities were presented to the City Council Annual General Meeting in May 2011. The information below is a précis of my full list of responsibilities, functions and the legislative framework within which I work:
48. To exercise the Executive powers and duties of the Council in relation to Children, Young People and Families and, in particular, be the Lead Member for Children's Services under the Children Act 2004, Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and other legislation, directions and guidance conferring powers and duties upon the Council and as the Children's Services Authority the Education Acts, (where applicable to include further and higher education) and other legislation, conferring powers and duties relating to education and children's social care upon the Council and, without prejudice, to the foregoing to:
- Be politically accountable for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of the Local Authority's children's services;
  - Leadership within and beyond the Local Authority to engage and encourage local communities in order to improve children's services, both within the Local Authority and across partner organisations;
  - Develop Birmingham as a learning city, and promote it as such locally, nationally and internationally;
  - Assist and encourage voluntary bodies working in the field of education and children's services together with nominating members to serve as appropriate on the governing bodies and councils of such voluntary bodies;
  - Enter into association with and to appoint members to other bodies, local or national, for the promotion and advancement of education and children's services within the city;
  - Be responsible for Youth Services including Youth Offending Service and the Connexions Service;
  - Continue raising standards of care and attainment, striving for Birmingham to be at the leading edge of performance and practice.

### **Internal**

- Chair of the Children's Trust Board
- Chair Corporate Parenting Board
- Birmingham Health and Well-being Shadow Board (Vice Chair)
- Governor of the King Edward Foundation in Birmingham
- Chairman of Turves Green Girls School & Technology College Governing Body.
- Member of the Pupil Referral Unit Management Board
- Chairman Youth Offending Board
- Joint Chair Birmingham Play Strategic Group

## External

- Vice Chairman of the LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board
- Member of the Criminal Justice Board.
- Chair of the 4 Nations National Play Policy Forum

## SERVICES SUPPORTING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES - EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Early Years Foundation Stage

49. Birmingham early years outcome targets for 2011 were set at the beginning of 2010 as a requirement of the Childcare Act 2006.
50. In total eight targets were set in January 2010 for our early years outcomes in 2011, including targets for increasing the percentage who achieve at least 78 points (out of a possible total of 117) across the 13 scales of the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) achieving at least 6 points (out of a total of 9) in each of the 3 scales for personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and achieving at least 6 points in each of the 4 scales for communication, language and literacy (CLL). There was also a target for increasing the percentage of children achieving all of these three targets and a target to reduce the gap between children with the lowest 20% of outcomes and overall results.
51. We have been successful in 2011 in exceeding five of the eight targets set. Key outcomes are as follows:
- 80% of children scored 6+ in each of the scales for PSED, exceeding our target of 78.5% and also exceeding the national results (79%) for this area of learning.
  - For CLL, 62% of children scored 6+ on each of the three scales while the target was 57.5%.
  - 60% achieved 6+ in all of the scales for PSED and CLL as well as scoring 78+ across all of the scales for the EYFSP. This outcome exceeds both the national figure of 59% and the Birmingham target of 55% for 2011.
52. The DfE statistical release of EYFSP outcomes provides comparisons of Birmingham's outcomes with national outcomes for the past two years, for all children, for children living in super output areas (SoAs)<sup>1</sup> that are in the 30% most deprived of such areas nationally and for children living in other SoAs. For the cohort of Birmingham reception children assessed on the Profile in 2011, 76% live in SoAs that fall in the lowest 30% nationally. The following should be noted:

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<sup>1</sup> SoAs are small geographical units with comparable numbers of households and similar populations; for each SoA an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is calculated.

- For three of the five measures, the percentages for Birmingham children have a higher rate of improvement compared with those nationally and for the remaining measures Birmingham results have matched the national rate of improvement. In 2011, Birmingham children have higher percentages than national for three of the five measures and match national figures for one measure.
  - For the 30% most deprived SOAs, Birmingham's percentages are better than national figures for equivalent areas in 2009, 2010 and 2011.
  - For children in other SOAs (24% of Birmingham children in the early years), Birmingham's outcomes also exceed equivalent national figures for 2009, 2010 and 2011.<sup>2</sup>
53. Comparative data with core cities and statistical neighbours is available from the DfE for the key indicator of scores of 6+ in all of the scales for PSED and CLL as well as scoring 78+ across all of the scales for the EYFSP. The progress that has been seen in raising standards in the early years is reflected in the fact that Birmingham has ranked first in this comparison for both 2010 and 2011.
54. Despite progress in relation to outcomes for the lowest performing children we have not reached our 2011 targets for the following:
- Median total point score for all children
  - Average score for children with the lowest 20% of scores
  - The percentage gap for children with the lowest 20% of scores compared with the median for all children ('closing the gap' target)
55. Although improvements in the outcomes for the lowest 20% of children have been made, the difficulty in meeting the 'closing the gap' target has to be seen within the context of the demographic factors as well as acknowledging that the target set was highly aspirational. Analysis of 2011 data and data from previous years has indicated how key contextual characteristics related to lower educational outcomes figure very strongly in the backgrounds of children scoring 70 or less overall on the Profile (approximately the lowest scoring 20%). For example, 88% live in SoAs that are among the 30% most deprived nationally and 71% of children are from minority ethnic groups. While it is not possible to make a categorical statement about new arrivals, data from KS1 and KS2 suggests that approximately 3% of all children in the 2011 reception cohort may be new arrivals in the country during the nursery and reception years, with proportionately twice this figure in the lowest scoring 20%.
56. Given this background, the year on year improvements in Birmingham's early years outcomes constitute a considerable success, reflecting the commitment and hard work of early year's settings, schools and Children's Services.

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<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that Birmingham's outcomes exceed national outcomes when figures for the 30% most deprived SOAs and for other SOAs are presented separately, but only exceed national outcomes in PSED when overall outcomes are presented. This is because of the differing proportions of children in the separate groups in Birmingham compared with national figures.

57. The city continues to implement a range of initiatives that are beginning to bear fruit in terms of early years outcomes, for example the increasing network of children's centres, the Making a Big Difference (MABD) programme focusing on schools with low EYFSP outcomes and the Communication, Language and Literacy Development programme (CLLD) focusing on the development of children's phonic skills and their use and application in reading and writing. The current school year is the fourth in which this initiative has run in 40 schools (8 new to the initiative). The work with children in Nurseries both maintained and the private, voluntary and independent sector (PVI) was extended from the targeted programme to a universal offer. The CLLD programme has been supported through the Every Child a Talker (ECAT) initiative where education and health personnel worked together to improve children's communication, speech and language skills within the early years. The School Improvement Partners (SIPS) have also played a key role in challenging schools about EYFSP outcomes as has training specifically targeted at head teachers and senior leaders. Early Years networks for all schools have focussed on key areas for improvement and have supported schools in improving practice and outcomes at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Monitoring attainment and progress throughout the year and identifying underachievement at the earliest opportunity has been a key element of the improvements.

### **Key Stage 1**

58. Outcomes in reading at Key Stage 1 rose further in 2011, though remain just below the national average at 84% Level 2+ compared to the national figure of 85%. Results at Level 2b+ rose by 2% to 70%, matching the improvement of national figure which rose to 74%. 22% of Birmingham pupils achieved Level 3 in reading (a rise of 1%) compared to 26% nationally (unchanged from 2009).
59. In writing, the gap between the national average and Birmingham outcomes narrowed to 1% at Level 2+ (Birmingham rose by 3% to 80%, national remained static at 81%), and to 2% at Level 2b+ (Birmingham 59% [up 4%], national 61% [up 1%]). At Level 3 Birmingham is now level with the national average at 13%. These significant rises across the city reflect the support provided for writing centrally and the work done in a significant number of our schools where writing was a focus for improvement.
60. In mathematics at Key Stage 1, 88% of Birmingham pupils attained Level 2+, (a rise of 2% from 2010) compared to 90% nationally (a rise of 1% from 2010). In Birmingham the percentage of pupils achieving Level 2b+ rose by 3% to 70%, compared to a national rise of 1% to 74%. Nationally, the percentage of pupils achieving Level 3 remained static at 20%, while Birmingham's outcomes rose by 2% to 19%.

### **'National Challenge Schools' – Key Stage Two**

61. In 2011, the Department for Education introduced a new floor standard at Key Stage 2. This required a school to achieve three criteria; 60% of pupils attaining Level 4+ in both English and mathematics, above median percentage (87%) of pupils making expected progress in English, and above median percentage (86%) of pupils making expected progress in mathematics. In 2011, 43 schools out of 299 were below the Floor Standard. This is a decrease from 2009, when 55 schools were below. 2010 should not be used as a comparison year due to the high number of schools who did not administer the tests due to industrial action.

#### **Key Stage Four**

62. In 2011, the Department for Education introduced a new floor standard at Key Stage 4. This required a school to achieve three criteria; 35% of pupils attaining 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics, above median percentage (72%) of pupils making expected progress in English, and above median percentage (65%) of pupils making expected progress in mathematics. In 2011, 4 schools out of 76 were below the Floor Standard. This is the same as 2010, but a decrease from 2009, when 19 schools were below.
63. For the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A\*-C GCSE grades including English and mathematics, Birmingham's results have improved from 54.9% in 2010 to 58.2% in 2011. In achieving this outcome, Birmingham matches the national results for the second consecutive year and is amongst the highest in comparison with other large urban authorities and local authorities identified by the DfE as being demographically similar.
64. The 2011 DfE School Performance Tables again include schools' results for the English Baccalaureate that was first reported in 2010. To be awarded the Baccalaureate, a student needs to achieve A\*-C grades in English, mathematics, science, a humanities subject and a language. The percentages of students achieving the required grades in these subjects are small (both locally at 14.1% and nationally at 17.6%) and the pupils entered for every element of the baccalaureate is also small (both locally at 19.4% and nationally at 23.7%).
65. The continued improvements in Birmingham's examination results constitute a considerable achievement for which students and teachers should be congratulated. Please note that the percentages reported here include the results for academies.

#### **Education of Looked After Children (LACES)**

66. The educational performance of looked after children has continued to show improvement since the development of the LACES team in 2003. Through partnership work between LACES, schools, education settings, education professionals and those in children's social care, areas of underachievement in schools, via regular visits by LACES to Designated Teachers, has resulted in the development of personalised programmes to ensure good outcomes for pupils.
- In terms of attainment there has been a 2% improvement at Key Stage 2 in English (56%) while Mathematics has remained the same as last year (53%). Particularly pleasing are the GCSE results (including English and Maths) which have reached 15%, an increase of 5% from last year (10%).
  - These figures need to be considered in the context of the fact that 55% of the cohort of Looked After Children had a Special Educational Need and of these 16.4% have a Statement of Special Educational Need; 19.6% are on School Action Plus and 19% are on School Action.

### **The Behaviour Support Service**

67. Behaviour Support Services now encompass the teaching centres for excluded pupils and those at risk of exclusion, the behaviour support service offered to schools, the Virtual College and a close partnership with the teaching centres for Looked After Children. These services work to support and engage some of the city's most challenging youngsters and those who have faced severe difficulties and traumas in their lives. Outcomes are far in excess of what might have been reasonably expected given the students' starting points. The provisions are all recognised by Ofsted as 'Outstanding' or 'Good with Outstanding Features' reflecting the dedication and commitment of the entire staff. The Service has a Leading Aspect Award for 'Working in partnership with schools and other agencies to support and develop inclusive approaches that allow pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) to make progress through teaching and learning.' Education and care professionals, including many external agencies, work in unison to ensure excellent outcomes. The service ensures high levels of students' safety and considerable emphasis is placed on encouraging healthy lifestyles. Safeguarding arrangements, the engagement of parents and carers, the quality of the curriculum and the effectiveness of the work to promote equality of opportunity and tackle discrimination are all outstanding.
68. The Government intends to fund this type of teaching provision (Pupil Referral Units - PRU) via a delegated budget from April 2013. In the course of the next 18 months it is expected that the BSS Teaching Centres, Virtual College and LACES PRU will join more formally under the management of one Head Teacher and one Management Committee.

### **Exclusions**

69. There were 239 permanent exclusions from City schools and academies during the 2010/2011 academic year which equates to 1.33 pupils per 1000 pupils on roll. The 239 figure is made up 169 secondary pupils, 61 primary pupils and 9 special school pupils and compares to a 213 total during the previous 009/2010 academic year – 146 secondary, 62 primary and 5 special school permanent exclusions. The 26 additional permanent exclusions during 2010/2011 represents a 12.21% increase on the previous academic year but is still significantly lower than the mid to high 300s totals experienced 7 to 10 years ago.
70. The City continues to work in partnership with all schools to try and ensure exclusion is only used as a sanction in the most exceptional circumstances. The present and future financial climate will provide challenging circumstances in pursuing this go

## **LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

### **Building Schools for the Future**

71. The Building Schools for the Future programme has been significantly curtailed and ceased in its current form. The Coalition Government is currently considering how capital programmes for schools will be funded in the future. The announcement of the Priority Schools Building Programme in July 2011 led to a bid from Birmingham for a number of schools to be rebuilt through what is likely to be a centrally procured programme, funded through a PFI-type initiative. An announcement is expected early in 2012 of those schools that have been successful in securing this investment.

72. The cancellation of BSF has also impacted on our Local Education Partnership (LEP) and work is in process to ameliorate the risk to the City and of this partnership. Holte, Lozells and Mayfield, Stockland Green and Broadway schools were completed early 2011. Work commenced during 2011 on phase 1b and encompasses Park View, International, Four Dwellings, Saltley, George Dixon, Moseley, Bordesley Green Girls and Waverley schools following agreement by DfE to our proposed savings on all schemes. We will continue to work with the LEP to ensure all schemes offer value for money and transformed educational outcomes for our young people. 13 major capital projects are in delivery through the Building Schools for the Future programme, the latest due to complete in April 2013.

**Primary Capital Programme, including Additional Primary Places**

73. Between 2001 and 2008 there has been a dramatic increase in the birth rate in Birmingham of over 3,000 births, an increase of 21%. The increase in births is, in the main, concentrated in areas which are already experiencing high pressure for school places, and where there is no spare capacity. In 2009 when DfE announced that emergency funds would be made available to Local Authorities on a bidding basis, Birmingham was successful in their bid and secured grant of £24m (the highest of any LA) to support our basic need for places. However, it is disappointing that the funding formula used by DfE was predicated upon LA's contributing 50% of their Schools formulaic allocation 2008-11 (i.e. single capital pot) to meet this need. CYPF has reviewed and reprioritised our 2010/11 capital programme and has allocated £5m for this purpose. Birmingham has received a further £20.5 million Basic Need funding to add to previous allocations in order to address the additional Primary, Secondary and Special School places required for Sept 2012 - 14.
74. The Education and Skills Learning Environment (Asset Management) team developed a phased programme approach to meet the additional places needed from September 2010 through to September 2012. Phase 1 had to deliver 330 places, which due to time constraints, had to be in temporary accommodation. Phase 1 of the programme was delivered successfully in the summer of 2010 and all additional 330 places were filled in September 2010. Phase 2 provides permanent accommodation for September 2011 meeting the need for approximately 6000 additional places. Phase 3 will need to deliver approx 2500 places in order to meet the need from September 2012. . 13 Phase 3 projects are either in delivery or under development for provision of additional places in September 2012. Planning is underway for the fourth and final phase of primary expansion, likely to involve a further 10 school projects. The Education and Skills Strategy team is also developing a project plan for Additional Secondary Places to ensure a smooth transition for the increased primary school population into secondary education. Challenges for the Local Authority include developing sufficiency planning in the context of Free Schools, which may be developed independently of any consultation with the Local Authority creating the risk of unforeseeable overprovision.
75. Schemes will be developed to maximise the impact on pupils' learning outcomes and to minimise barriers to learning. The design teams will include CYP&F officers, who will work with schools to support the development of designs which will achieve these aims and build on schools' existing plans to raise achievement and



attainment. Head teachers and governors will be invited to participate fully in the design process, as strategic partners of BCC and as representatives of the end users. It is recognised that there are significant challenges for schools experiencing pupil growth, and there is a commitment to continue to support head teachers and governors after construction has been completed.

76. The procurement routes proposed for delivery of the additional places programme are the Birmingham Construction Partnership by Urban design, a traditional tendered route for the VA schools, and the Local Education Partnership for the schools funded through the Primary Capital Programme.
77. In addition to its contribution to the additional places programme the Primary Capital Programme is delivering improved learning environments at a range of sites providing advice, support and training in maximising educational outcomes for schools who are considering investment in their buildings.
78. Management of repairs and maintenance, emergency repairs and through footfall formula may also no longer be funded as a small percentage of the DSG, instead, schools will need to reserve funding to cover all eventualities and apply direct to the DfE for assistance. The Education and Skills Strategy team is responding to the ongoing incidence of emergency repairs and working to minimise any school closures as a result of asset failures.

#### **14-19 Learning and Skills**

79. As a Local Authority (LA) we had been given responsibility for funding for 14 to 19 education, this has now changed with the advent of the coalition government, which will mean that the LA role will change to focus on ensuring that there is sufficient learning provision for 16-19 learners to include influencing and shaping provision, commissioning provision where there are gaps and market development. Funding will be moved from the new Young People's Learning Alliance (YPLA) in 2013, to the new Education Funding Agency.
80. The raising of the participation age (RPA) will require us to ensure plans are in place for every young person to have an age progression pathway to age 17 by 2013 and age 18 by 2015. . RPA plans are being developed and the Local Authority has bid to implement pilot projects for implementation of RPA, working in partnership with school area networks. The responsibility for Information, Advice and Guidance now falls to schools, with a reduced role for the Connexions Service whose responsibility now lies specifically with support for vulnerable young people. The Local Authority is working with schools through existing Area networks to support the development of school-based information advice and guidance.
81. Studio schools and University Technical Colleges are new forms of school organisation proposed that are likely to use the academies model. These schools are a new state model for 14-19 year olds of all abilities involving enterprise projects and real work. We await further information and guidance as to how these new models will impact on the education landscape. A process is being developed to

track and share information regarding the proposals for Free Schools, Studio Schools and University technical Colleges in order to support sufficiency planning.

### **Academies**

82. The Birmingham Model for Sponsored Academies has successfully delivered against its original ambitions. Six Sponsored Academies are now open in their existing buildings with two specialist 14 – 19 Academies with no predecessor schools in development.
83. Heartlands Academy, Shenley Academy and St Albans Academy opened in existing buildings in September 2009, North Birmingham Academy (formerly College High School) opened in its existing buildings on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 and Harborne Academy & KE VI Sheldon Heath Academy opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.
84. The Birmingham Ormiston Academy was successfully handed over in September 2011 and is now fully operational. This project is an important part of the regeneration and development of the Eastside Digital Learning Zone.
85. The Aston University Engineering Academy Birmingham is on target for its opening date in September 2012 and will be the first of the University Technology Colleges (UTC's) which are being developed across the country. Lord Kenneth Baker recently announced that they were hoping to develop 40 of this type of Academy specialising in Engineering.
86. The Academies Act 2010 enables the Secretary of State to approve 'fast track' Academies and 'Free' Schools. Ninestiles School was the first convertor academy in Birmingham. As of Jan 2012, a total of 15 secondary and 2 primary schools in Birmingham have converted to Academy Status. A further 6 secondary and 2 primary schools have chosen to convert and some are awaiting resolution of a number of commercial issues related to equal Pay and PFI contracts prior to completing the conversion process. It is expected that there may be a few sponsor Academy conversions, which will take place under the process of the 2010 Academies Act.

### **School Admissions and Pupil Placements**

87. Under the new operating model, Admissions and Appeals Team has merged with Pupil Connect Team to become the School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service. The Service has responsibility for coordinating the offer of all school places and any subsequent appeal hearings; leads on the consultation of the proposed admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for all maintained school and academies in Birmingham; receives referrals, tracks and monitors children deemed as missing from education, (left school without trace); leads on the commissioning, evaluation and annual quality assurance of all alternative education provisions used by Birmingham schools, academies and other education support agencies; ensures the placement of Key Stage 4 pupils who are disconnected from education; provides support, advice and guidance to families who elect to home educate their children ensuring that the education delivered to those children meets the statutory requirements and the Service provides support to both pregnant pupils/parent pupils and their schools to ensure pupils remain engaged in education and their future opportunities are maintained.

88. Currently all Local Authorities are required to coordinate the offer of in-year school places. This was introduced to simplify the process for parents, and to reduce the likelihood of children being left without a school place. The coordination of In year admissions has made an important contribution to safeguarding children as previously it was difficult to identify children who were disconnected from education. School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service, on behalf of the Local Authority, now ensures that every child is offered a school place. If the parent/carer refuses the school place offered then a referral is made to the Education Welfare Service. The current School Admissions Code has been revised and the revised Code now states that from academic year September 2013/2014 there will no longer be a requirement on local authorities to co-ordinate in-year admissions, however, there remains a requirement that the LA will be required to provide parent/carers with an application form; advise parent/carers of school with vacancies and all admission authorities will be legally obliged to provide the LA with details of both any application for a place at their school /academy and the outcome of that application. Therefore the role of tracking children without a school place will remain with the School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service.
89. The number of families who are electing to home educate their child continues to rise. The number of referrals to the Elective Home Education Team, (EHE) within the School Admissions and Pupil Placements, has increased. In order to ensure both that those children are receiving an adequate education and the identification of any safeguarding concerns, the Local Authority needs to ensure adequate staffing resources are in place within the EHE Team.
90. In addition, the EHE Team, under the leadership of the Head of Pupil Connect, are piloting possible funding streams available to families who home educate their child. Funding maybe available, from the DFE but can only be claimed from families via their Local Authority, for assistance with any FE course fees; any distance learning or correspondence course fees; tutor fees; exam and invigilation costs and/or costs incurred for essential course materials (e.g. books, equipment, software). The Elective Home Team, on behalf of the LA, is considering the criteria in which families can claim and possible mechanisms to assist families in claiming this financial support.
- Services to Schools – Future Trading Models**
91. Despite unprecedented budget pressures and increased competition from other providers, the traded services to schools will in the near future be through the formation of a social enterprise and will include the Music Service, the Health Education Service, and the Learning and Assessment Service. These services have continued to provide high quality services to schools on a traded basis. The Health Education Service continues to provide Child Protection training as well as support to schools around drugs and alcohol education, citizenship and relationships and sex education. The Music Service supports more schools than ever before and its youth orchestras, bands and choirs continue to enjoy a high national and international reputation thanks to a generous subsidy from the City Council. The services being proposed for this transfer have a long and successful history of trading with schools. Where schools have gone outside of the Council for the provision of these services it has always been on the basis of cost, not the quality of provision. Often schools have returned to these services following unfavourable experiences with other providers.

92. To ensure the sustainability of these services, which are highly valued by schools, action is required to improve further their effectiveness and efficiency thus making them more competitive. Not to do so will lead to their being no longer viable, as has happened in other authorities. These proposals give them a better opportunity to continue providing the services which make such an invaluable contribution to the standards and quality of education in Birmingham.
93. We should acknowledge the contribution of all employees to the success of these services and the high quality of service they provide. We need to offer them a sustainable future together with the benefits they will ultimately derive from this proposal.
94. The original proposal included Direct Services (schools cleaning, catering, and mobile caretaking), and the Outdoor Learning Service. More detailed business planning revealed that these two services were not yet ready for externalisation and other strategies are now being explored for these two services.
95. On the basis of legal advice a social enterprise company limited by guarantee with charitable status has emerged as the preferred option on the basis that it offers reassurance to clients and brings with it other benefits set out in the business case. The full business case for the new entity will be a matter for Cabinet decision on 13 February 2012.
96. In addition to proposals for some services to become fully traded, other areas of service within the Local Authority are developing trading models in order to generate income. The BCC Trading for Education went live in January 2012 and an increasing number of services are expanding into trading with support from an internal Traded Services group.

## **SERVICES SUPPORTING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES - INTEGRATED SERVICES**

### **Integrated Youth and Support Services (IYSS)**

97. The development of IYSS is under review within the future operating model for Children Young People and Families, and within very challenging levels of budget reductions.
98. The performance of IYSS against the established key performance indicators is good and has consistently improved over recent years, ranking us well against our statistical neighbour comparators, and national averages. The future model will be designed to maintain overall performance whilst also refocusing investment to support those families in greatest need.
99. The future for the Connexions Service is currently being identified by the government with the intention of creating of an "all age careers service" and a separate local authority role to secure education employment and training for those young people who are most at risk. The timescale for change identified by the government will be particularly demanding with the schools inspectorate carrying out a thematic review of careers education and guidance in schools reporting in 2012

(with an interim report in March 2011) and plans for the new service to be in place by September 2011 and fully operational by April 2012.

100. The Youth Service has been subject to a separate efficiency review and youth provision will be remodelled to deliver substantial savings and work through new collaborations, and arrangements with the voluntary, community, and private sector. The universal offer will be delivered through an improved model of delivery, with nine service Hubs across the city providing a focus for the delivery of a range of services. This will include two large new myplace buildings, in Aston and Longbridge. Staff teams based within these large and well equipped Hub youth centres will take the lead in coordinating funding, joint planning and joint delivery between the reduced LA core, the third sector and other partners. Initially managed and funded through the Local Authority, the intention is for the potential for these Hubs to be transferred to alternative models of management, including locally established trusts, cooperative arrangements or social enterprises with partnership arrangements and governance representative from LA and third sector. This will enhance local ownership and local influence, and ensure that youth provision meets local identified needs. Hubs will be best placed to encourage and promote direct community engagement.
101. Youth workers, as part of their day to day role, will undertake planned work with young people identified as most at risk through the IFST's, monitored and evaluated through a formal Partnership Agreement.
102. Delivery of youth work will also be enhanced by a number of local Youth Centre's across the city, and a network of satellites clubs and projects, most of which will be run in partnership with other local organisations and agencies.
103. The Education Welfare Service and Targeted Youth Support Services are being remodelled with other service contributions to work with the Integrated Family Support teams.
104. The commissioning components within Targeted Youth Support, particularly those focused on teenage conception and substance misuse will be aligned within the Directorate's commissioning review and will target available resources and activity in the areas of greatest need.

#### **Youth Justice**

105. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11 reports positive achievements in the rate of first time entry, the number of young offenders in full time education, training and employment and re-offending rates against national and family comparators. In particular the National Audit Office reported in October 2011 the latest re-offending rates for the 2009/10 cohort taken from the Police National Computer, who have been tracked for 12 months. Birmingham has the lowest re-offending rate across Core Cities and is lower than the national average. The Service makes extensive use of volunteers and provides opportunities for members of the community to positively contribute to this agenda.
106. Birmingham YOS was subject of a 'Risk Management and Safeguarding HMIP Inspection' in 2011. There were no alerts or serious concerns in the 99 randomly selected cases. There were positive findings - good multi agency interventions, good outcomes, excellent feedback from young offenders and victims surveyed by the

Inspectorate Team. The Service just fell below the average for keeping to a minimum the risk of harm to others and an Improvement Plan has been implemented that has included improving managerial oversight. A future operating model has been agreed by the Youth Offending Service Management Board for Youth Justice Services which is congruent with its partners and maintains the confidence of Courts.

107. The Sentencing and Rehabilitation Green consultation paper "*Breaking the cycle, effective partnership, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders*" identifies the benefits of multi agency Youth Offending Teams whilst exploring additional options including extending the use of restorative justice, testing future financial incentives for example 'payment by results', to reduce demands through a mixture of public, private, third sector and community involvement. Birmingham is currently one of four national pilots participating in a Youth Justice Re-Investment Pathfinder Initiative. This is a 'payment by results' programme to reduce the use of custody to an agreed target over two years. The Birmingham scheme has two main components. Firstly a pre-custody scheme, managed through Birmingham NHS cluster, multi systemic therapy (MST), an evidence-based family programme and secondly a post custody scheme, enhancing training and apprenticeship opportunities for those leaving custody.

#### **Early Years, Child Care and Children's Centres**

108. Sure Start Children's Centres, and available funding for parenting and family support will be directed and commissioned in line with and central to, the delivery of the locality operating model for CYPF. Whilst the specific detail of budgets for the coming year are not yet known (contained within the Early Intervention Grant), the government has communicated clearly the priority it places upon the investment in Sure Start Children's Centres with the intention that greater focus is given to targeting provision to those families in greatest need. There has been ongoing consultation and development work with key partners at a city wide level to network children's centres at a locality level in a Hub and Satellite model that promotes integrated working, particularly with the Integrated Family Support Teams, many of whom are located in the children's centres.
109. The Community Day Nursery Service has been reconfigured and is now integrated within the Integrated Family Support Teams to provides the 'Early Years' arm of this service. The children's centres are as part of their commissioned service delivering the child care aspects of family support intervention packages in partnership with the Integrated Family Support Teams.
110. We will be planning with schools how the extended school funding is best utilised to continue supporting extended provision to families across clusters of schools.

#### **Services for children with complex health, disability and special educational needs**

111. Indicators show that the attainment and progress of children with SEN is improving in line or above the national average. Schools have been supported by Access to Education Support Services in KS2 writing interventions and tracking of the lowest attaining pupils. 80% of schools have an Accessibility Plan.

- 112. Birmingham's Strategy for Special Provision is being refreshed based on the views of around 300 delegates who attended an Open Space event in June 2011. Work is underway in resource planning and management of provision to produce capital priorities and a core offer. Consultation on roles and deployment in supporting children with complex health needs within special school settings has started.
- 113. Solutions have been developed for Children with Statements out of school. Youngsters with no provision at all, those out of provision for longest and those with child protection care or looked after factors were prioritised.
- 114. The procedures on the transition process for the handover of cases between Disabled Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care have been reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose. The improved procedures have now been put forward for formal sign off. CAF data has been supplied to allow us to review the issues and choices of young people going through their Transition Pathway Action Plans. This will contribute to activities to ensure a range of choices of education, training and employment for those leaving school.

## **SERVICES SUPPORTING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES – COMMISSIONING AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Governance and Policy**

- 115. The team provide support to the Directorate and to corporate and strategic partnership arrangements, including: data protection/FOI, Executive decision-making, Council business, Scrutiny, corporate and Directorate service planning and performance reporting, equalities, risk management and corporate governance, health and safety, emergency and business Continuity planning, inspection readiness, and support for the Children's Trust Board and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children in Care Improvement Board. The team objectives include ensuring the forward planning process is outcome-focused and complements partnership and corporate planning and related Member priorities.

### **Commissioning and Brokerage**

- 116. Through strategic commissioning we will work closely with public health and Birmingham partners (e.g. the local Health economy) to review policy and wide ranging information, to generate commissioning intentions for children, young people and families. The newly established Joint Strategic Delivery Group will direct and co-ordinate these activities and ensure real improvement in outcomes for children and young people.
- 117. Services commissioned from third parties and the voluntary sector have contributed to the delivery of better outcomes for many of Birmingham's children and are reconfiguring services so that they better support the new operating model. Five projects provide intensive support to the most vulnerable families - supporting the delivery of children's social care. A range of providers from parent run groups to national specialist agencies provide short breaks for disabled children and their families the volume of service, tripled since 2008 has been maintained through effective commissioning and re-profiling of capital expenditure.

Monitoring by IMPACT (the organisation supervising progress on behalf of government) has recognised the maintenance of investment in short breaks and the high levels of parent and provider satisfaction. The services align with those provided by the Council, Schools and Health in order to provide for the range of family need.

118. Nineteen organisations provide specialist services for the most troubled young people and families - including those who have suffered abuse, young carers and young parents. Some of these are commissioned jointly with Health.
119. Twenty six providers are contracted to provide placements for looked after children aligned with the Council's own provision to provide the range of services required to match the specific needs of the children. National independent benchmarking has identified that the foster care framework contract saves approximately £2.6M per year against the national average of independently sourced foster care. Further in 2011 the average cost of children's homes reduced, without a reduction in quality.
120. There is collaboration between providers extending to shared training, joint seminars and working groups. In every case the providers are subject of performance and financial monitoring via the Children's Commissioning Team.
121. In year reductions in Government grants were mitigated in part by efficiencies and re-organisation but did result in some services being decommissioned this was done in a measured way with families redirected to other sources of support. The Directorate has recognised the need for an enduring and sustainable contribution from the third sector in the delivery of children's services. A review of services will identify those best placed to support children and families in the new operating model and the service gaps.

#### **Home to School Transport**

122. Consultation started before Christmas on a revised policy for Birmingham. The current provision is more generous than other local authorities provide and statute requires. The first phase of the consultation is engaging with parents and stakeholder to access their expertise prior to developing a draft policy on which to consult in March. I will be reporting later this year on the results of this consultation and proposals for a new policy, for a Cabinet decision.

#### **Working in Partnership to deliver key Priorities**

123. Over the year work has been ongoing between Birmingham and Solihull NHS Cluster and Birmingham Local Authority to continue to remodel health services in line with delivering our core partnership priorities and look for early opportunities for alignment or integration with the children's service changes and/or test out possible service integration pilots. This has resulted in the following:
  - The establishment of an NHS Changing Children's Services Steering Group
  - A Duty and Assessment pilot
  - Alignment of Health Visiting services to the 4 areas of the model
  - Building in the CAF pre-assessment process into revised health visiting and maternity initial health assessments.
  - Revision of the CAMHS strategy to build in the new model and consideration of how CAMHS can link with revised Integrated Family Support Services



- Testing of a Multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)

124. Further work is being carried out to clarify the future commissioning arrangements of Health Services in line with the changes taking place within the health economy.

#### **Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)**

125. Community CAMHS within Birmingham is undergoing a radical service re-design based on user and family feedback and the opportunity to strategically re-align with the Local Authority through the IFST model with service delivery through Children's Centres and other community venues. The aim is to fully implement the Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA) which ensures accessible and responsive services with the best use of limited resources, which is important due to significant budget reductions. The model will improve the care pathway for children and young people and minimise potential delays in receiving both an initial assessment and more specialised interventions.

126. Work is in progress to improve both the inpatient environment and the pathways into and out of the inpatient service. Overall lengths of stay for all young people have been dramatically reduced and alongside this the Home Treatment Service for Birmingham has been able to demonstrate a significant reduction in the number of admissions to inpatient beds, while also receiving positive feedback from young people and their parents. A decision will be made shortly whether to commission the service long term.

127. In line with the changes in Integrated Services & Care, Looked After Children CAMHS has re-configured its service to work more closely with the area teams and in particular with the new Children in Care Teams. The aim is to develop a 'virtual integrated team' with linked CAMHS workers providing easier access to advice and support, particularly where children are placed out of city. The service continues to innovate, most recently developing a Dialectical Behaviour Therapy service, which is evidence based intervention for young people with the most serious behavioural difficulties including self harm.

#### **Teenage Conception & Sexual Health**

128. Teenage conception is on a decline in Birmingham; several areas are identified as priority for action:

- Rapid roll-out of the Targeted Youth Support Project following completion of the pilot phase. The project has been rolled out to 16 schools – with some success. The learning from this project has informed the development of the Integrated Family Support Teams and the arrangements for the transition of public health into the local authority. This will mitigate the reduction in teenage pregnancy budget that has resulted from central government reductions.
- Embed the tiered training programme within the Children's Workforce Development Strategy and ensure that there are mandatory elements for all frontline workers. Training is jointly commissioned between the local authority and health and is available across the city. Training was provided to the IFST's.
- Improve data on young people's access to Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services (CASH). New systems have been put in place during 2011; early indication is that data collection has improved.

- Develop a consistent and standardised approach to provision for young parents with a particular focus on engagement with training, education and employment.

### **Obesity**

129. The Health Inequalities Obesity Delivery Plan agreed by the Obesity Delivery Group, a partnership with the City's 3 Primary Care Trusts and other agencies, created a joined up approach to tackle obesity across Birmingham. The LAA priority outcome for childhood obesity in Birmingham was:
130. "To halt the annual rate of increase in childhood obesity observed in school children aged 10-11 years, and reduce the overall prevalence of obesity in this age group by 0.1% each year, 2008 to 2010/11."
131. Results for 2009/10 show that this was not achieved our challenging target with an increase of 1.5% for 10-11 year olds and an increase of 0.4% for children aged 4-5 to 23.1% and 11.2% respectively. Birmingham has a higher prevalence of obesity in children and adults than the England and West Midlands averages, partly linked to deprivation and an urban environment; however our performance compared with the other 7 core cities has improved from highest prevalence in 2007/8 to 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for childhood obesity.
132. Continued coordinated efforts are essential if Birmingham is to impact on the obesity causing environment to prevent a further increase in obesity.

### **Substance Misuse**

133. The substance misuse agenda is now fully integrated within the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS). The Substance Strategy has been revised and approved and now signed off for the next 3 years (2009-2012). The purpose of the Substance Misuse Strategy is to demonstrate that we have identified gaps across our service provision and how over the next 3 years we intend to address and commission or redesign services to enable us to meet the identified substance misuse needs of the most vulnerable children, young people and their families.
134. The Substance Misuse Strategy continues to contribute to and inform the Children and Young People's Commissioning Process:
- To improve the identification of substance misuse across Children, Young People and Families services
  - To improve better joined-up working between Universal, Targeted and Specialist services via CAF.
  - To better identify the impact of substance misuse of parents and significant adults on Children and Young People through the Hidden Harm implementation plan.
135. The Joint Strategic Delivery Group has identified a service gap in drugs services adopting a 'think family' approach and work is being undertaken by the Directorate and adult DAAT to establish the infrastructure and commission the services to deliver these.

136. The strategy to support children and young people affected by parental substance misuse is a priority for 2012. A protocol between children's services and adult substance misuse treatment providers is being developed to improve safeguarding and reduce the potential harm to families from drug and alcohol misuse.

### **Bullying**

137. The Bullying Reduction Action Group are focussing on embedding anti-bullying in the work of partner agencies so that good practice can continue to be developed, promoted and disseminated should their activities not be funded due to the changing political and economic climate.

### **Road Safety**

138. The Council's strategy is to support the education and training of road users through its statutory requirement as set out in the Road Safety Traffic Act 1988 (Section 39) and it must:

- Carry out studies into the cause of accidents on roads in our area
- Take appropriate measures to prevent such accidents
- Provide road safety education, training and publicity for all ages and types of road user, from pre-school to the elderly

139. Road safety education begins at an early age and continues throughout life. The Council's Road Safety Education Team (RSET) offers a comprehensive service to nurseries and schools to address the requirements of the National Curriculum. The RSET trains and supports the people who live and work in the communities of Birmingham by delivering road safety training. The key areas for training and advice involve: - child pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, communities, newly arrived families, older road users and parents. All these activities are delivered against National Indicator 47: 'People killed or seriously injured (KSI) in Road Traffic Collisions' and National Indicator 48: 'Children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in Road Traffic Collisions'.

140. The RSET uses the Council's Spectrum database to analyse traffic accidents which are incorporated into their work programmes. Between 2001 and 2010 there has been a significant reduction in the number of accidents recorded involving young people under the age of 18. In 2001 531 accidents were reported, this fell to 272 accidents in 2010. It is estimated that road traffic accidents cost the economy nearly £8 billion a year.

141. The School Travel Plan Team is responsible for the promotion of sustainable travel to school (section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act, in force from April 2007 - places a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport. The Act defines sustainable modes of travel as those that the local authority considers may improve the health of those travelling on foot or by bicycle, and could bring environmental benefits from reduced levels of congestion and pollution. Similarly bus use or car sharing might be considered to bring environmental benefits in comparison to individuals travelling by car.

142. The duty consists of four main elements:

- An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children, and young people within the authorities area.
  - An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between, schools.
  - A strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority so that the travel and transport needs of children and young people are better catered for: and
  - The promotion of sustainable travel and transport modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions.
143. The assessment of travel and transport needs of pupils includes the approved travel mode to school data from annual census returns issued by the Department for Transport. In order to ensure that schools have an effective way of promoting and monitoring sustainable travel modes a travel plan is prepared for all schools who agree to participate. Nearly 100% of Birmingham schools now have a travel plan with sustainable mode of travel targets and there is an ongoing programme of review and update to ensure that these targets are met.
144. Travel plans are also used as the process through which schools are prioritised for Safer Routes to School schemes, which can provide highway infrastructure and measures to assist safety on the route to school.
145. The School Travel Plan Team promote walking in a wider context though locally organised versions of National campaigns such as Walk to School Week, and cycling is promoted through partnerships with other organisations such as Sustrans and British Cycling. There is a partnership working approach with public transport operators and Centro, the executive arm for the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

#### **Health & Wellbeing and Public Health**

146. As vice chair of the shadow Health & Wellbeing Board, which has joint accountability between Adults & Communities and Children, Young People & Families, which along with our joint appointments with Health puts the City, in a position where we can address the significant health challenges that exist. The recent development of locality based public health profiles for all wards and neighbourhoods will help to improve commissioning in this arena.
147. The shadow Health and Well Being Board has a crucial governance role in relation to Birmingham's public health transition programme namely:
- ensuring that national transition milestones and timescales are met
  - leading and promoting the transformation agenda
  - sponsoring the early redesign and transfer of commissioned public health programmes and services
  - recommending a preferred option for the structure and staffing of Birmingham's local public health system
  - ensuring transparent financial and HR management , and monitoring disinvestment
  - preparing 2013/14 commissioning intentions for improving health outcomes and planning the application of the ring fenced grant

148. The Key Health Inequalities priority themes for children, young people and families include:
- Infant Mortality, seeking to address the significant cultural and geographical imbalances that are apparent. The focus will be on Maternity care provision and smoking in pregnancy
  - Obesity, highly successful 'Be active' scheme, Nutrition, etc.
  - Personal Health Budgets for children (new government proposal)

## **SUMMARY OF OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

149. We are going through the biggest change in education and children's social care delivery to the greatest numbers in the most complex and diverse of city environments. The directorate is facing this challenge and working with our local schools and governors on allowing as much local discretion as possible to develop Birmingham's arrangements.

150. In the face of in year budget challenges, we have achieved much and I would like to highlight the following:

### **Brighter Futures (BF)**

151. Our successful Brighter Futures Transformation programme has now been mainstreamed into our new operating model together with the evidence based programmes as reported to Cabinet.

### **Examination Results**

152. Leading the way locally and nationally in year on year improvements for examination results with educational attainment at GCSE level above the national average for 5 years running, showing impressive improvements in 2011 At the end of Key Stage 4, the percentage of pupils achieving 5A\*-C GCSE grades including English and mathematics (58.2%) equals the national percentage, and the city is amongst the highest in comparison with other large urban authorities and local authorities identified by the DfE as being demographically similar. In addition, the percentage of pupils achieving 5A\*-C grades in any subjects has improved again this year to 86.4%. Birmingham's results are once again above the national average on this measure (80.5%) and the city is also equal first in comparison with similar local authorities.

153. The A level outcomes are similar to those achieved last year. In Birmingham, 93.2% achieved two or more passes (compared with 93.6% nationally) and 11.5% of students achieved three or more A\* or A grades (compared with 10.2% nationally). For students achieving three or more A\* or A grades, Birmingham remains amongst the highest in comparison with similar local authorities. For the percentage of students achieving two or more A level passes, Birmingham continues to be above the average for similar local authorities and above the national average.

### **Youth Justice**

154. With respect to the disturbances in the summer, the Youth Offending service responded well to supporting young people through the court system who had been arrested and charged. Service users have made a DVD about the disturbances, why

they happened, who got involved and what they mean for young people. They asked for views of the interim strategic director and those of a police officer who was on duty at the time, and one of the youth offending service managers. The DVD will add to the work that is going on reflecting on the lessons and what we may need to think about doing differently. There are a number of related reviews being carried out in which we will be participating.

## **PERFORMANCE AGAINST NATIONAL INDICATORS – END OF YEAR RESULTS 2010/11**

155. The National Indicator Set was abolished in 2010. However we continue to monitor performance against the full set of CYPF indicators. I list an excerpt from the full set as follows:
156. **N117** The final Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) figure achieved for 2010/11 was 7.35%. Despite the current economic climate and its impact on young people this represents a great achievement against the local target of 7.5%.
157. **N1148 Care leavers in education, employment or training, target 58%, result 43.7%.** There will be renewed focus on this area, via the LACES team, supported by the restructure of CYPF to target resources.
158. **Care leavers who are living in suitable accommodation 87 against target of 90,** not achieved. Those not in suitable accommodation are in custody or in hospital detained under the Mental Health Act.
159. The Supporting People provision has expanded but further work is required to increase options for some groups of young people with additional complex needs. The Supported Lodgings Scheme has recruited and approved 9 providers offering placements to young people who require a family environment type of accommodation and support. There has been an increase in private sector provision, offering a range of accommodation and on-site accredited training and work is on-going with the Commissioning Team to build on the capacity and diversity of the preferred providers list.
160. **Participation of 17 year olds in education or training, 88.2** against a target of 80 achieved- the figure has been constantly above 80% since November 2009 (November 2009 86.2; December 2009 86.5; January 2010 88.5) this is a yearly figure.
161. **The provisional outcome for persistent absence for the 2010/11 academic year is 4.4%, a reduction of 0.6% on the previous year.**
162. The National Persistent Absence Target to reduce to no more than 5% by 2011 has been removed. However, this target has been reached and exceeded. We continue to use persistent absence as a local measure and effectively target resources.
163. **Percentage of schools providing access to extended services 99.9% of schools is delivering the full core offer of access to Extended Services.** Only 1 school in the city is providing access to only part of the Full Core Offer. As at the 1st September 2010 the Department of Education do not require us to report on this and no longer require this information.
164. **NI 090** the number of young people undertaking a diploma in academic year 2010/11 is 562. Although this falls short of the target of 600, it represents an improvement on last year of 73.
165. **NI02ii** the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (KS2) Progress has been made on this indicator and the target almost met. No

change has been made nationally on this indicator so Birmingham is following the national trend. This is a provisional figure (21.0%). Although it misses the target figure (16.00%) it does exceed the national figure of 28%.

166. **NI 099** The % of Children in Care achieving level 4 in both English and Maths at key stage 2 has improved by 5 percentage points this year to 53 % out of a target of 55%.
167. **N1103a)** Special Educational Needs statements issued within 26 weeks excluding exceptions. Target achieved for Q4 (1/1/2011-31/3/2011) 100%.
168. **N1103 b)** Special Educational Needs - statements issued within 26 weeks (%). Target exceeded at Q4 (1/1/2011-31/3/201) 99.9%.
169. **N1104 the SEN/non-SEN gap**, achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold. This figure can not be provided due to industrial action.
170. **N1105 the SEN/non-SEN gap**, achieving 5 A\*-C GCSE inc. English and Maths. This is a provisional figure (47.6%) from a target of 42%.
171. **N1107 Key Stage 2 attainment** for all Black and minority ethnic groups. This target figure can not be reported due to industrial action.
172. **N1108 Key Stage 4 attainment** for all Black and minority ethnic groups, this is provisional data. The target (51.40%) has been exceeded and the Birmingham figure (55%) matches the national (55%).
173. **N1109 Delivery of Sure Start Children's Centres.** Annual Target. Since 2008 7 of the 8 phase 3 children's centres have full core offer designation. Only 1 centre is outstanding and work done for full core offer designation by June 2011. Requirement is for all centres to be designated by end of March 2012 so well within target date, 1 of 00% children's centres will offer a range of services (depending on local needs) which in turn is inspected by Together for Children.
174. **CF/C24 Children in Care absent from school.** This is a measure for more than 25 days absenteeism in a year. The target of 12.3% was achieved last year and the next annual report on this indicator is due.

## **INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

### **Corporate Parenting**

175. In October 2011 a joint paper from Councillor Bennett, Underwood and I, was received by the Birmingham Safeguarding and Children in Care Improvement Board. Councillor Underwood agreed a presentation on Corporate Parenting to the School Governors Forum and reported to City Council in November 2011 accompanied by representatives from the Children in Care Council.
176. There is now one Corporate Parenting Board which is made up of: Elected Members; the Director of Children, Young People and Families; representatives from other Directorates; the CiCC; Health; Police; Rights of a Child; Children's Social Care and Human Resources. The Board works to champion the rights of looked after children and ensure improvements in the outcomes for them.
177. The current Ofsted inspection regime has a particular focus on services and outcomes for looked after children, alongside the inspection of safeguarding. This includes assessing the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting approach. A number of opportunities to strengthen Corporate Parenting have been identified by the newly incorporated Corporate Parenting Board to encourage improvements in this area of work.

178. We have revised the regulation 33 report back form to make it more straightforward for elected members feedback and child friendly and we are bringing together the analysis of the visits from officers, advocates and elected members to look at trends and themes to enable strategic action.

#### **Children in Care Council**

179. The Children in Care Council (CICC) has been established, with clear links to other groups such as the UKYP, the Disabled Champions and Voice is Power (VIP). A number of children and young people have made the cross over from one group to another to pursue issues and have their voice heard. Young people have recently met with senior managers around changes to the directorate, contributed to corporate parenting report; now have two seats on the corporate parenting board. They are in the process of developing campaigns for next year and will be contacting senior management soon. CICC now also have a 'virtual' CICC meeting on face book through out the week so that issues and ideas can be discussed prior to the face to face meeting. CICC now have a promotional DVD which is being shown at workers briefings and now have a 'built' website and content is presently being worked on.
180. Corporate Parenting is our collective responsibility and as chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, working with Councillor Matt Bennett Executive Member and the Vulnerable Children's Scrutiny Chair Councillor Ann Underwood, we are proposing a step change in how we as Councillors and Council Officers fulfil this responsibility. It is vital that we all play our part in improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in our city.
181. Several elected Members sit on our Adoption and Fostering Panels and I would like to formally thank those Members for their dedication and encourage more Members to apply.

#### **Special Educational Needs Parent Partnership Service (SENPPS)**

182. The Service continues to deliver the LA's statutory responsibilities of providing parent and carers with expert advisory support in relation to all aspects of their children's Special Educational Needs. This is undertaken with a partnership approach with parents, LA and schools. The SENPPS maintains close links with the special educational needs, learning difficulty and disability (SEN/LDD) sections of Children's Services in order to deliver a high quality, responsive approach to the identification of special needs, and appropriate provision and suitable placement to meet those needs. In the light of the SEN Green Paper recommendations it is likely that the role of this Service will have greater importance.
183. The SENPPS has been transferred to the Education and Skills Division in order to build the service's strategic capacity and to enable the Head of Service to inform local SEN policy and practice that meets service user needs and has quality assurance at the heart of delivery.
184. I am a member of the Service Delivery Review Board and have continued to work with the SENPPS on casework and on Tribunal resolution work. Additionally, Brian Lamb (Chair of the Lamb Inquiry) is assisting the Service in reinforcing practice in the City that ensures parental confidence in SEN systems and processes, and focuses on effective outcomes for children and young people, and with 'Achievement for All' initiatives in local schools.



### **School Governance**

185. Our priorities with regard to school governors are to provide Local Authority representative governors for all maintained schools; to promote the appointment of governors from the wider community; to provide training, development and targeted support for individual governors, governing bodies and clerks to enable them to meet the strategic obligations of governing bodies; and to contribute towards effective governance through advice, information and challenge regarding statutory duties and new initiatives and innovations, with particular reference to school improvement.
186. The Education Bill passed into law on 15 November. Two changes that were made will affect governing bodies. The first is in the minimal prescriptions over who must be included in a governing body (for those that wish to use the new powers to reconstitute). The original stipulation that the governing body must contain two elected parent governors and the Head Teacher has been expanded to include a staff governor and a local authority governor. However, the governing body has the power to refuse the Local Authority's nominee if it wishes. Foundation and voluntary school governing bodies must also contain foundation governors. These provisions are in clause 38 of the Act.
187. There are currently 113 recorded Local Authority governor vacancies, which is 12% of the total (current) number of Local Authority governor positions (982). There has been a slight reduction in the number of Local Authority governor positions due to changes in school status and governing body reconstitution.
188. There are currently 1147 recorded school governor vacancies at Birmingham Local Authority maintained schools, which is 19% of the total (current) number of governor positions (6002). The highest proportion of vacancies is in the parent category where 21% (380) of the total number of positions are currently vacant.
189. We continue to promote the role of school governors and involvement in school governance with partner agencies such as the School Governors' One Stop Shop. Targeted governor recruitment support is also provided to schools, particularly vulnerable schools, although presently this work receives no funding and has no dedicated officer support.

### **RESOURCES**

190. Managing financial pressures continues to be a challenge, so also is the increased demand for particular services due to demographic growth.
191. The 2011/12 budget to be agreed by Council reflects the priority that is placed on protecting vulnerable children in Birmingham.
192. In 2011/12, the portfolio's share of the Council's savings target is £21.509m. In addition we have had to manage pressures arising from demographic growth; reduction in specific grants; demand on our internal capacity for children's placements and increasing costs of historic PFI agreements.

193. Of the planned savings it has not proved possible to deliver changes to Home to School Transport in time to make a significant impact on costs in the current financial year. Consultation on potential changes is currently in hand although we are now being much more cautious in our expectation of savings in 2012/13. Also, we have not been able to establish the proposed social enterprise company from which savings in management and overhead costs were anticipated. Together these result in a shortfall of £4.8m in our 2011/12 savings programme. This position is compounded by reductions of some £2m in formula grant attributable to the academies programme, which is deemed to be the academies' share of the authority's corporate and strategic costs and funds LACSEG, (Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant) which is allocated by DfE to each academy. However since these costs are in the main not directly proportional to the number of schools maintained by the authority, the reduction risks having a disproportionate impact on our residual functions.
194. We are taking every opportunity to manage demands on resources in order to offset these pressures.
195. The restructuring of the directorate to deliver the new model of children's services within available resources has resulted in a reduction of some 289 staff which is also enabling us to meet the financial challenge of this and future years.

### **SCRUTINY**

196. I would like to thank Councillors Hamilton and Underwood as Chairmen of Education and Lifelong Learning and the Vulnerable Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and their members respectively, for the constant scrutiny and challenge on key areas of activity, through our regular reporting.
197. As with all areas of spending, recommendations from scrutiny reviews will need to reflect the current economic climate and all current and forthcoming review recommendations will need to be financially future proofed to enable improvements to service areas, where possible, with less available resources.

### **Current Reports requiring action**

198. The most recent reports below highlight areas in which we needed to focus our attention.
- Children and Education:
- Education on Relationships and Sexual Health
  - Functional Literacy and Numeracy
  - Primary School Expansion
  - The Youth Service (new)
- Vulnerable Children:
- Interface between Children's Social Care and the Common Assessment Framework.
199. Councillor Bennett and I look forward to achieving the recommendations from reviews above, which will add value to the challenges in these areas of service.

## EXAMPLES OF CURRENT INTERNAL JOINT WORKING

### **Working with Cabinet Members, local cross party Councillors, Constituency Officers, Community groups, the third sector and the Birmingham Play Care Network.**

#### **Play Strategy**

200. There is ongoing development of the Birmingham Play Care Network facilitating joint working not only city wide but nationally with Play England. The importance of play in the wider services for children, young people and families is being further developed across portfolios.

#### **Community Sports Hub and other sport developments**

201. As chair of the cross party project steering group for Holford Drive, established in August 2010, work continues to progress the development of a Community Sports Hub. The project group have worked together to establish a shadow board for Holford Drive, with cross party membership. Work led by the Board continues to improve the site facilities and this includes leveraging in external funding, which will lead to a pioneering local sports hub building and grounds, with facilities open for school and community use. I will be reporting the full business case to Cabinet Committee Property this year.
202. Working with schools, communities and across cabinet portfolios, several community sports facilities are in the development stage. The Council has a range of outcomes it wishes to see delivered, e.g. improvements in education and health, reductions in obesity, reductions in crime, improved community safety, cohesion and vitality and sport makes a contribution to all these areas:
- To address youth disaffection, improve skills and create/sustain employment.
  - Better educational attainment, and confident young citizens to get neighbourhoods better involved, increase volunteering and improve the local environment.
  - to generate civic and local pride
  - to develop community use of schools sports and other facilities
203. The current number of developments will use our Community Asset Transfer or usual leasing arrangements and will have differing management and accountability structures for example:
- Waverley School, development of sports trust including a cricket academy
  - Small Heath School and Constituency Leisure Facilities Management arrangements
  - Holders Lane and Pebble Mill investment in both sites
  - Washwood Heath School and available leisure sites
204. We are currently working with an education specialist advisor for Sport England to develop a pilot for community use of school sports and other facilities, which may be rolled out nationally. We hope to lever in funds for this pilot as part of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sports very recently announced launch of a new strategy to encourage participation by young people in sport, (intended to capitalise on the London Olympics to create a "sports habit" amongst a generation of young people) It will involve secondary schools establishing community sports clubs - potentially one for every secondary school - as part of a five year strategy.

### **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)**

205. The many religions found in a great and dynamic city such as Birmingham offer very specific challenges and opportunities for Religious Education. How can the curriculum be shaped in such a way that all can participate with enthusiasm? The experience of delivering the 2007 Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Birmingham schools with the intention of cultivating 24 spiritual and moral dispositions has brought the Faiths together in a common purpose and has created mutual support among the Religious Communities. The knowledge of, and understanding about, Christianity and other Faiths within the shared framework of inspiring children and young people to live well has made Religious Education in the City truly engaging. Supporting the provision of religious education in school is the underlying conviction that religious traditions have much to offer to the spiritual and moral development of young people and of the City in the face of the challenges such as those offered by the disturbances last summer.
206. The Birmingham SACRE has statutory responsibility for advising the City Council on Religious Education and Collective Worship and for assisting it in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education adopted by the Council in 2007. SACRE has over 50 members, meets four times a year and has seven active working parties. It has worked with the Local Authority in revising its website to assist schools and teachers still further with the delivery of Religious Education. The change in the website was especially necessary in the face of changes to the school system initiated by the Secretary of State for Education which offers Birmingham the opportunity to make a national contribution through the new Academies and Free Schools. The new website, 'Faith makes a Difference', will be launched at the Education Exhibition at the NEC on March 15th at 11am. The website will build on the existing successful website and incorporate all its tools and teaching resources plus additional material, including films of exemplary lessons at primary and secondary level together with expert commentary.
207. There has been a programme of continuing evaluation of the Agreed Syllabus with a pilot study and with conferences stimulating discussion and debate. Conferences were held at the University of Birmingham on March 23rd-25<sup>th</sup> and on September 23rd. Members of SACRE have continued to be active within other areas of the city and with faith groups; specifically work on supporting relationships and sexual health education in schools, supporting the training of faith guides within the city, and collaborating with the Faith Leaders Group. Members of SACRE accompanied the Faith Leaders on their pilgrimage marking the tenth anniversary of their formation on the 10th of September following the events of 9/11 in 2001. To encourage community cohesion amongst the young, a film of this pilgrimage is included on the new website.
208. Nationally members of SACRE have continued to engage with Central Government and its Department of Education, ensuring that at governmental level ministers are aware of the vision for Religious Education in Birmingham and how it is driven and resourced at a local level. The Agreed Syllabus and the good interfaith relations in Birmingham has been presented and discussed at national and international levels to interested parties, including teachers and researchers in Higher Education, the General Synod of the Church of England, the Luce Foundation Conference in Boston, a presentation to the education committee of the National Assembly of the Sudan, and the Museum of World Religions Conference in Taipei, Taiwan. There is

also close communication between the chair of SACRE and the chair of the national Religious Education Council.

### **Homeless Young People**

209. We are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for homeless young people and know that only by working in partnership that we can meet the range of need expressed by young homeless people through the joint protocol signed up to in 2010 and updated in March 2011 and development of a Youth Hub, which is a continued commitment in our recently agreed Homelessness Strategy.
210. Jointly commissioned with the Children, Young People and Families Directorate, the Youth Hub service is delivered by St Basils. This includes the provision of a Young Persons Home Options Service. Young people aged 16–21 are directed to this service which offers access to a wide range of housing and complementary advice and support services. Importantly, it ensures that the statutory duties that the Local Authority has for some young people who have been in the care of the Council, are discharged in a coordinated way that delivers the best outcome for our young people.
211. Using Homelessness Prevention funding, a pilot with St Basils has been commissioned to develop a model of respite for young people who leave home. The 'Time Out Project' offers a "crash pad", breathing space and an alternative to the more conventional homeless routes for young people, giving them the opportunity to return home if safe to do so. All of those who have used the scheme have either been helped to return home, or to make a planned move without becoming homeless.
212. St Basils have delivered effective sessions in schools in Birmingham to raise awareness and understanding of the causes and precursors of homelessness. The Council has commissioned an expansion of this work to develop and deliver a focused programme of sessions addressing housing, homelessness, advice and practical solutions. Those areas of the city where there are large numbers of young people presenting as homeless have been targeted.

### **Education working groups**

213. Exemplified by work with Bordesley and Washwood Heath, I have set up education working groups to improve attainment and facilities available to local schools to support attainment.

## KEY ACTIONS OVER THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

- Delivering the Improvement Plan and in particular priority areas such as IT/data systems, court processes, and corporate parenting.
- Strengthening leadership, supporting morale, and ensuring a clear view and understanding of the front-line service
- Continued development of Community Sports Hubs (CSH's). This pioneering development will be part of the future development of the Youth Service linking to our preventative strategy and assisting in delivering our key priorities.
- Improving literacy and numeracy levels for pupils aged 4 to 8 years.
- The sustainability of Early Intervention and Prevention service changes and remodelling.
- Tackling under performance in schools which are struggling

## CLOSING COMMENTS

214. Over the last year, a remarkable amount has been achieved through a city council team effort by members and officers. A truly comprehensive approach has been taken to making sure that Birmingham provides high quality services to children, and in particular, maximises its effectiveness in protecting children from harm. We are at the start of a new dawn for the directorate. However, it is also true that only the utmost determination will make sure that we do achieve what we want to, and need to. There is still much to do to consolidate and develop our new service, and to further ensure that we and all our partners are working smoothly with each other, and effectively for the benefit of Birmingham's children.
215. Looking forward to this New Year, 2012 and beyond, the portfolio responsibility is about planning and preparing for the legal framework, associated guidance and outstanding legislative papers from the DfE Business Plan and more recently, the Public Health white paper, flowing from the Health and Social Care Bill and the full impact of the changes to accountability structures. We will be seeking to meet those challenges, including ameliorating any detrimental effects, through greater joint working with partners.

SIGNED



CABINET MEMBER

SIGNED



EXECUTIVE MEMBER

## MOTION

That the report of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families and Executive Member for Children's Social Care be received.

## APPENDIX 1

### LIST OF DECISIONS FROM JANUARY 2011 TO DATE

385598/2011 Capital Grants to Birmingham Catholic Diocese and the Trustees of Al-Furqan Primary School Cabinet Committee (Procurement) Jan 2011

342139/2011 Full Business Case and Contract Award -myplace Young People's Centre – Longbridge Cabinet Committee (Property) Jan 2011

392866/2011 Future Trading Models - Services to School Full Business Case Cabinet Jan 2011

392869/2011 Shenley Academy Sports and Leisure Centre Red Line Drawing Cabinet Committee (Property) Jan 2011

385601/2011 Provision of permanent accommodation to meet the additional primary places required for September 2011 Full Business Case Cabinet Jan 2011

377663/2011 Holloway Head Playing Field Regeneration Cabinet Committee (Property) Mar 2011

378186/2011 Compulsory Purchase Order for Silver Cue Snooker Club for the expansion of St Saviour's Church of England School 4/2011

392765/2011 Primary and Secondary School Admission Arrangements - September 2012/13 4/2011

397423/2011 Provision Of Permanent Accommodation To Meet Additional Primary Pupil Places Required For September 2011. Full Business Case / Contract Award - Phase 2 - Wave 3 4/2011

398262/2011 School Organisation Issues Which May Include Closures, Amalgamations, Opening of a New School 4/2011

395659/2011 Early Years & Childcare Capital Schemes Post Implementation Review Report 5/2011

394420/2011 School Organisation Issues which may include closures, amalgamations, opening of a new school 5/2011

397392/2011 Children Young People And Families (CYPF), Centrally Managed Capital Programme 2011/12 Cabinet 6/2011

405547/2011 Leasehold Agreement with Perry Beeches Academy Cabinet 6/2011

408012/2011 Leasehold Agreement with Plantsbrook Academy Cabinet 6/2011

405957/2011 Children's Centre Agreement with Deanery Primary School Cabinet 7/2011

409787/2011 Leasehold Agreement with Hillcrest Academy Cabinet 7/2011

405953/2011 Leasehold Agreement with James Brindley Academy Cabinet 7/2011

409796/2011 Leasehold Agreement with Oldknow Junior Academy Cabinet 7/2011

408012/2011 Leasehold Agreement with Plantsbrook Academy Cabinet 7/2011

409793/2011 Leasehold Agreement with Rookery Primary Academy Cabinet 7/2011

409790/2011 Leasehold Agreements with Arthur Terry & Stockland Green Academy Cabinet 7/2011

406266/2011 Project Definition Document (PDD) - Phase 3 Additional Primary Places for September 2012 Cabinet 7/2011

394420/2011 School Organisation Issues which may include closures, amalgamations, opening of a new school Cabinet 7/2011

410559/2011 Authorisation of Procurement Proposals to Support Implementation by the Youth Offending Service of the Custody Pathfinder Scheme Cabinet Committee (Procurement) 8/2011

403757/2011 Broadway Decant Facility Cabinet Committee (Property) 9/2011

95659/2011 Early Years & Childcare Capital Schemes Post Implementation Review Report Cabinet 9/2011

417435/2011 Holford Drive Community Sports Hub; Project Definition Document Cabinet Committee (Property) 9/2011

411061/2011 Provision of Replacement Permanent Accommodation At Harborne Primary School Following the Fire of 27 April 2011- Full Business Case / Contract Award Cabinet Committee (Property) 9/2011

415624/2011 Dorrington Primary School Replacement Classrooms Cabinet Committee (Property) 10/2011

420020/2011 Holloway Head Unattached School Playing Field Disposal and Regeneration Cabinet Committee (Property) 10/2011

415618/2011 Provision of permanent accommodation to met the additional primary places required for September 2012 Full Business Case Wave 3 Cabinet 10/2011

416622/2011 School Organisation Issues Which May Include Closures, Amalgamations, Opening of a New School Cabinet 10/2011

423858/2011 BSF and Academies Update Cabinet 11/2011

423388/2011 Contract for the Provision of External Fostering Placements April 2012 Cabinet 11/2011

417853/2011 Full Business Case (FBC) - Phase 3 Additional Primary Places Programme for September 2012 Cabinet 11/2011

420020/2011 Holloway Head Unattached School Playing Field Disposal And Regeneration Cabinet Committee (Property) 11/2011

423675/2011 Transition of Brighter Futures Transformation programme into the CYPF Directorate New Model of Service Cabinet 11/2011