

**Review of Outcomes
for Children and
Young People in
Solihull**

October 2008

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For further information on the Solihull Children and Young People's Trust see www.solihullonevoice.org.

Section 1: Setting the Scene

Introduction

The government's aim is to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up¹. This ambition is shared locally, where the Children and Young People's Trust's vision of the Borough is "a place where all children and young people have an equal chance and achieve their full potential." Success in delivering services for children, young people and their families is measured in terms of outcomes – are children and young people healthy, safe, do they enjoy life and achieve success, make a positive contribution, and benefit from economic well-being?

These are the criteria which the government use for inspection and are the conditions of well being that matter to children, young people and their families

This Review, the second to be undertaken by the Children and Young People's Trust, gives an honest self-assessment of the outcomes which children and young people achieve in Solihull. It sets out to tell the 'story' rather than list the statistics.

The purpose of the Review is to:

- Measure the impact of the Children and Young People's Plan;
- Inform service planning and commissioning
- Build consensus and inform local planning.

Joint planning and commissioning is the key mechanism for reshaping services around the needs of children and young people. It is the vehicle for organisational shift from traditional patterns of service provision, to a clear focus on outcomes.

The 'Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-being' (Department of Health, 2007) and the 'Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services' (Department for Education & Skills and Department of Health, 2006) both stress that understanding the needs of individuals as well as of the population as a whole is integral to helping them achieve good outcomes.

Planning and commissioning of services must be led by the needs of children, young people and their families. Commissioning for outcomes supports the Children and Young People's Trust to make the shift from funding services to investing in results that make a difference.

¹ The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures DCSF 2007

Review Structure

This Review is structured around the 5 'Every Child Matters' outcomes, and the 25 aims which form the Revised Outcomes Framework published by the Department for Children Schools and Families in 2008. Indicators have been chosen for each outcome to give a perspective on what life is like in Solihull for children and young people, mapped to The New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships.

Each indicator is broken down into:

- Trend: Have things been getting better or worse over recent years?
- Comparisons: How does Solihull compare with other places?
- Impact on particular groups: Do some children and young people do particularly poorly?
- How do outcomes compare across the Borough in different localities?
- Key Areas of Service Development: What contribution have or will services make?

Fig 1



Solihull Borough – Proposed Locality Split

In some areas there is still little robust evidence. Historically, measuring success may have focused on 'how many' rather than 'did it make a difference'. It is also important to stress that having an improving trend, and being a class leader in comparison does not necessarily mean that children and young people achieve positive outcomes.

The data used for this Review comes from many different sources, some more robust and precise than others. The challenge is to continue to fill the gaps and ensure a consistent, rigorous approach, which is open to scrutiny. The Solihull Observatory, to be established by the Commissioning Project within the Solihull Partnership, will bring together a multi agency team to deliver better commissioning intelligence.

Data used in this Review has been obtained from sources including the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire 2004,2006 and 2007; Education data; Census data; Annual Performance Assessment; Audit Commission; Public Health Annual Report 2007/8; The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Health) 2008; Strategic Needs Assessment (CDRP) 2008; West Midlands Public Health Observatory; Children's Services Benchmarking Tool; Council Results 2007/8; Sexual Health Needs Assessment; Joint Area Review.

Table 1

The 'Every Child Matters' Outcomes Framework	
1. Be Healthy	1.1. Physically healthy
	1.2. Mentally and Emotionally Healthy
	1.3. Sexually Healthy
	1.4. Healthy Lifestyles
	1.5. Choose not to take Illegal drugs
2. Stay Safe	2.1. Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
	2.2. Safe from accidental injury and death
	2.3. Safe from bullying and discrimination
	2.4. Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
	2.5. Have security, stability and are cared for
3. Enjoy and Achieve	3.1. Ready for school
	3.2. Attend and enjoy school
	3.3. Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school
	3.4. Achieve personal & social development and enjoy recreation
	3.5. Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school
4. Make a Positive Contribution	4.1. Engage in decision-making & support the community & the environment
	4.2. Engage in law abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school
	4.3. Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate
	4.4. Develop self confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges
	4.5. Develop enterprising behaviour
5. Benefit from Economic Well-being	5.1. Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school
	5.2. Ready for employment
	5.3. Live in decent homes and sustainable communities
	5.4. Access to transport and material goods
	5.5. Live in households free from low income

The Solihull Context

Solihull is home to 203,600 people, (Aug 2008 ONS) including just under 51,000 children and young people, who live mainly in the residential suburbs of Solihull, Shirley, Olton, Balsall Common and Knowle in the south of the borough, and in Castle Bromwich, Smith's Wood, Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst and Fordbridge in the north of the Borough.

Solihull's recognised economic success and general affluence masks the deprivation in the north of the Borough. Three of the wards in the north of the Borough have areas that are in the 10% most deprived in England, and there are other pockets of deprivation such as in Bickenhill, Elmdon, Lyndon, Olton and Shirley.

While there is economic growth in the south of the Borough, only 5% of the Borough's jobs are in the north and yet over 20% of the population lives there. North Solihull suffers from structural unemployment as a result of being on the edge of the West Midlands conurbation, with traditionally poor transport links to the south of the Borough and most of the West Midlands. People living in North Solihull have poorer health, unsuitable housing, and lower educational attainment levels. Child poverty levels are higher, (as measured by the % of children under 16 who live in families in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Persons Tax Credit whose equivalised income is below 60% of median before housing costs), and the proportion of people of working age in employment for the three deprived wards in the north of the borough stands at 64.14% compared to a whole Borough figure of 75.9% (based on the 2001 Census).

Solihull has an ageing population. From 2003 to 2021 it is expected that the number of people over 70 will increase by over 30%. Within this period, the number of people over 85 will increase by over 70%. The population of children in Solihull is reducing:

Table 2: Solihull Children Mid 2007 Population Estimates (Census Information - Solihull MBC)

Age	1996	2001	2006	2007
0-4 yrs	12300	11,800 = 4% decrease on 1996 figure	11,200 = 9% decrease on 1996 figure	11,000 = 10.6% decrease on 1996 figure
5-9 yrs	13600	13,000 = 4.5% decrease on 1996 figure	12500 = 8% decrease on 1996 figure	11,900 = 12.5 % decrease on 1996 figure
10-14yrs	13100	14,100 = 0.7% increase on 1996 figure.	13500 = 0.3% increase on 1996 figure	13,800= 0.5 %increase on 1996 figure
15-19yrs	11600	12,200 = 5% increase on 1996 figure	13,000 = 12% increase on 1996 figure	14,200 = 22.4 % increase on 1996 figure

Just over 8% of the Solihull population is from a minority ethnic background, though 14% of school-age children and young people identify with a black or minority ethnic heritage, and this is forecast to increase. The January 2008 School Census showed that the largest ethnic minority group in schools is Indian, with the second largest being mixed White/Black Caribbean and third Pakistani.

Solihull is also home to a growing population of children and young people who are separated from their parents and seeking asylum in the UK. More than a third of the children and young people looked after by the local authority are UASC

The fundamental challenge that Solihull faces remains the gap of inequality between the north and south of the borough. The evidence shows that whether in terms of health, educational attainment housing or employment, residents in north Solihull face significant disadvantages.

Annual Performance Assessment 2007

The Annual Performance Assessment assesses the Council's contribution to improving the lives of children and young people through its education and social care services, and other services as relevant.

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2007 states that:

- Overall effectiveness of services to improving outcomes for children and young people is good, and is outstanding in the aspect of children and young people making a positive contribution
- Good multiagency partnerships underpin positive developments within the services for children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities. As a result of preventative measures, the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training is significantly decreasing
- Although the development of preventative services is improving, more evidence is needed on outcomes for children who have disabilities.
- Although the costs of placements is reducing, they are still higher than in similar authorities the national average.
- The recording, monitoring and evaluation of the performance of groups of children and young people, particularly those from ethnic minorities in order to evaluate outcomes was an area for development and is now a considerable strength, though their achievement remains an issue, as the attainment of particular Black and minority ethnic groups is below the Borough average. .

Joint Area Review 2008

The Joint Area Review describes the outcomes achieved by children and young people growing up in an area, and evaluates the way local services, taken together, contribute to their wellbeing. Solihull underwent a Joint Area Review in April 2008, and below are some of the headlines from the report.

Safeguarding

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- Impressive multi-agency focus given to safeguarding. Awareness of safeguarding is very high in the Police, schools and across all agencies.
 - The Local Children's safeguarding Board provides high profile strategic leadership and effectively identifies key risks in the community, such as internet bullying
 - There are excellent systems in place that track children who are not in school to ensure that they are safeguarded
 - The LSCB has delivered a well attended and highly regarded multi-agency training programme
 - The duty, referral and assessment service including the out of hours service is well resourced with a high level of management input in DART
 - The quality of assessments carried out is of a high standard; they are detailed and comprehensive.

Looked After Children

- Outstanding collaboration to provide 100% of care leavers with suitable housing. There is an excellent relationship with housing providers and the priority given to care leavers ensures that 100%, including those with disabilities go into suitable housing.
- Effective work between Solihull Community Housing and Connexions ensures that 100 per cent of care leavers, including asylum seeking young people, have excellent access to suitable housing.
- Outstanding rates of children and young people participation in their reviews have been achieved; at 95% this is well above the level in comparable authorities and the national average.
- Outcomes for education of looked after children (EDULAC) are good. EDULAC, the education team for looked after children lead and managed by a virtual head teacher, provides highly effective targeted support Robust systems ensure very high levels of school attendance
- Although the council gives a very high priority to services for looked after children and care leavers, a corporate parenting approach is not embedded.

Family Support

- Services to prevent family breakdown and avoid children being looked after are excellent.
- There are excellent and well resourced preventive services - There is a very good range of high quality preventative services - there are extensive, high quality services to families to prevent family breakdown and avoid children coming into care.

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- Partners and community sector organisations make an impressive contribution to preventative and family support work and to meeting the increasingly diverse needs in the area.

Learning Difficulty and/or Disability

- Outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are good overall. Highly skilled staff in all agencies well established multi-agency working practice ensures that there are good outcomes in health, safeguarding and educational attainment; social and emotional development is skilfully supported.
- Highly collaborative approach to special educational need (SEN) and early intervention initiatives.
- The CAMHS is highly valued at the point of access by parents of those, for example with attention deficit hyperactive disorder, and by other professionals
- There is insufficient information in accessible formats for children and their families on the provision and services available.

Positive Contribution

- Positive contribution to be outstanding at a time of intensive consultation with children and young people regarding the CYPP. One year on, although the intensive activity has ended, the excellent impact is evident in the refreshed priorities
- Young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are enabled to develop impressive inter-personal and social skills in youth provision, including representing others in the UK Youth Parliament.
- The views of young people with disabilities have been highly influential in securing recent improvements to access in a range of play facilities

Service Management

- The management of services for children and young people is good, with strong leadership within each partner organisation
- The capacity of the Children and Young People's Trust to meet the specific needs of vulnerable groups is greatly enhanced by partnership working
- The council and its partners have a clear vision to ensure that outcomes are consistent for children and young people, regardless of where in Solihull they live or their personal characteristics
- Partners have a shared understanding of local need at a strategic level, and the Children and Young People Plan demonstrates a good analysis of need.

Section 2: Review Headlines

Summary across all outcomes

Are children and young people in Solihull healthy?

- While there are improvements in initiation rates for breastfeeding the numbers of babies receiving breast milk at 6-8 weeks in Solihull appears to be decreasing, so a comprehensive breast-feeding strategy is in development.
- One in every 5 children in Solihull is overweight or obese. Plans are in place to deliver weight management programmes, which include being more physically active.
- The majority of children say that they are happy with their lives, but still comment on the need for support with their emotional well-being
- There is renewed improvement in the under 18-conception rate and chlamydia rates are beginning to decline.
- While there has been significant progress in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use, the Tellus survey indicates that 11-15 year olds are more likely to have had an alcoholic drink than the national average, which is being investigated further as part of the needs analysis for the emerging Alcohol Strategy.

Are children and young people in Solihull safe?

- The level of children subject to child protection plans is low in comparison to national averages, with low numbers of children remaining on child protection plans
- Bullying remains a significant issue for children and young people, and there is now a refreshed Anti Bullying Strategy, and new policy guidance for schools. However rates of bullying in Solihull are below national averages.
- Concerns about personal safety rate highly in consultations with children and young people.
- Local evidence shows that young people aged 10-15 are more likely than any other group to become a victim of crime² and this is an issue which is also being considered by the Safer Communities Strategic Group of the Local Strategic Partnership
- The proportion of looked after children is rising, mainly attributable to rising numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, with Solihull now one of the most affected Councils
- The number of children who die in road traffic accidents remains low

Are children and young people in Solihull enjoying and achieving?

- At five, children in Solihull are achieving above national expectations in all six areas of learning, though children in north Solihull do less well, particularly in communication, language and literacy, and personal and social development
- There are good attendance rates at both primary and secondary school, and HRBQ data suggests that a high percentage of children of all ages enjoy school, though this reduces as pupils get older

² Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008

- Overall attainment at primary school is very good, and the gap in attainment between north and south Solihull is closing rapidly at Key Stage 2 across all three core subjects, English, Maths and Science
- The gap in attainment at Key Stage Three has remained fairly constant over the last 5 years between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull.
- 493 young people (13-19) yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects, and 719 young people gained recorded outcomes
- In 2007, 71% of secondary pupils reported that, in general, they were 'quite a lot' or 'a lot' satisfied with their life.

Are children and young people in Solihull making a positive contribution?

- Consultation with children and young people is seen as a significant strength, with young people routinely involved in recruiting staff and quality assuring services.
- Young people have been involved in commissioning sports and leisure activities
- There are high levels of participation of children in care in their statutory reviews, including unaccompanied asylum seeking young people
- The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system is significantly lower than the 2005-6 baseline

Are children and young people in Solihull achieving economic well-being?

- The majority of young people in Solihull aged 16-18 are in full time education, employment or training, and numbers of young people who are NEET is reducing
- The numbers of children living in Solihull families where no one is working has reduced and is lower than the national average, but this masks significant deprivation in North Solihull.
- There are now areas of South Solihull which fall into the 40% nationally most deprived wards, notably in Bickenhill, Elmdon, Lyndon, Olton and Shirley.
- Although Solihull is regarded as affluent, many children, young people and families live in circumstances of material deprivation, and this is likely to be further impacted by the economic downturn
- The percentage of care leavers at age 19 who live in suitable accommodation has improved
- There is evidence of sufficient childcare for those parents who want to work, however parents would like to see more choice in the types of childcare available in some areas of south Solihull and better provision for disabled children

Crosscutting issues

- 15-19 year olds are now the largest group of young people in the Borough, which has implications for services for this age group
- There is insufficient evidence of outcomes for children in localities beyond a north/south split, which will be addressed for the next Review of Outcomes in 2009.
- More evidence is required about the outcomes for particular groups of young people, including disabled children and young people, young carers, children in care and unaccompanied asylum seeking children, which is being addressed with the Revised Scorecard for the Children and Young People Plan.

1. Are children and young people in Solihull healthy?

Review evidence

'Be Healthy' Outcome areas	Headlines
1.1 Physically healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fewer babies born in Solihull have low birth weight but the highest proportion of these is in north Solihull. ▪ An increasing number of pregnant women in Solihull continue to smoke throughout their pregnancy ▪ A low number of mothers initiate breast feeding ▪ One in every 5 children in Solihull is overweight or obese. ▪ MMR Immunisation rates are high and improving.
1.2 Mentally and Emotionally Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The majority of children say they are happy with their lives, but still comment on the need for more support for their emotional well-being. ▪ Some evidence from HRBQ that stress for young people is rising due to exams and tests, and is the top worry for boys ▪ Year 10 girls worry more about the way they look than anything else
1.3 Sexually Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is renewed improvement in the under 18 conception rate. ▪ Chlamydia infection rates amongst young people are rising nationally, although local rates are beginning to decline
1.4 Healthy Lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The healthy eating message seems to be having some impact in Solihull, with more young people eating 5 or more fruit or vegetables a day, however those on lower incomes are likely to eat less fruit & vegetables. ▪ Girls are more likely to report that they smoke occasionally or regularly than boys, but the number of pupils saying that they have never smoked is rising ▪ An increasing number of school pupils participate in at least two hours high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week ▪ There has been a small improvement in initiation rates for breastfeeding however numbers of babies receiving breast milk at 6-8 weeks is decreasing
1.5 Choose not to take Illegal drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant progress has been made in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use ▪ Limited evidence implies that children and young people are slightly less likely to choose drugs in Solihull than the national average ▪ Limited evidence indicates that the number of 11-15 year olds that have ever had an alcoholic drink is slightly higher than the national average

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2007 states that

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- During 2006/7 developments in partnership arrangements have improved outcomes for children. The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good;
 - Children's healthy lifestyles are effectively promoted and the majority of schools are judged as good or better in relation to this aspect.
 - The percentage of looked after children and young people who had healthcare assessments is good, which is above similar authorities and in line with the national average

JAR Headlines 2008

- Good progress has been made towards a comprehensive CAHMS, which is making satisfactory impact on decreasing the need for referrals to specialist services. Waiting times for service, including those with non-acute needs referred by the Youth Offending Service are low.
- Looked after children's health needs are addressed well. The % of children having annual health assessments and regular dental checks is well above both statistical neighbours and the national average.

2. Are children and young people in Solihull safe?

Review evidence

'Stay Safe' Outcome areas	Headlines
2.1 Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There has been an appropriate reduction in the proportion of children subject to a child protection enquiry as a result of work on thresholds and improved communication with the police ▪ The level of children subject to child protection plans is low in comparison to national averages, with low numbers of children remaining on child protection plans. ▪ Assessment timescales continue to improve
2.2 Safe from accidental injury and death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of children who die in road traffic accidents remains low. ▪ Levels of hospital admissions for other accidents appear to be rising although this does not necessarily mean that accident rates are rising
2.3 Safe from bullying and discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bullying is a significant issue for children and young people. Although rates of bullying are difficult to measure accurately it is clear that, through evidence from surveys such as HRBQ and TellUs, bullying in Solihull is below national averages.
2.4 Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Although limited evidence currently available, concerns about personal safety rate highly in consultations with children and young people ▪ Local evidence shows that young people aged 10-15 are more likely than any other group to become a victim of crime³.
2.5 Have security, stability and are cared for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An increasing number of Looked After Children are in stable placements, although 41 % of children are in homes outside the Borough. ▪ The proportion of looked after children is rising, mainly attributable to rising numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2007 states that

- The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good
- Good preventative work is enabling more effective safeguarding of children. A range of initiatives engages parents and other professionals in order to improve outcomes for children from an early age.
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³ Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008

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- Schools generally promote children and young people's safety well, however, there is more work to be done to implement effective strategies to ensure all children and young people feel safe from bullying and racism.

JAR Headlines 2008

- The contribution of local services to improving outcomes for children and young people at risk, or requiring safeguarding is good
- The level of children subject to Child Protection plan is low in comparison to national averages and in line with statistical neighbours.
- The stability of placements is very good in national terms and has improved steadily for three years, though not consistently for those who have been looked after for two and a half years or more.
- Road safety is very good, and street crime figures relating to young people are very low.

3. Do children and young people in Solihull enjoy life and achieve success?

Review evidence

'Enjoy & Achieve' Outcome areas	Headlines
3.1 Ready for School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solihull performance at Foundation Stage Profile is above national expectations in all six areas of learning. ▪ Achievement in North Solihull schools is consistently lower than the rest of the Borough at the FKS. It is most significant within the communication language and literacy, and personal and social development aspects of the profile. ▪ The average performance of children from BME groups is in line with Borough averages, however, Pakistani children, black Caribbean and white mixed heritage children, and children from other mixed heritages have lower levels of achievement. ▪ At FKS Girls achieve higher points scores than boys
3.2 Attend and enjoy school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good attendance rates at both primary and secondary schools with results in 2007 showing an improving picture. ▪ Permanent exclusion rates had been rising but are now at national average rates, and services have been put in place to target children who are at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded ▪ HRBQ data suggests that a high percentage of children of all ages enjoy school. This reduces as pupils get older. ▪ HRBQ data suggests that most children feel happy and safe in school
3.3 Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall attainment at primary school is very good. ▪ There is a significant attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, but the gap is closing rapidly at Key Stage 2 across all three core subjects, English, Maths and Science.
3.4 Achieve personal & social development and enjoy recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The evidence here mostly comes from the HRBQ data. In 2007, 71% of secondary pupils reported that, in general, they were 'quite a lot', or 'a lot' satisfied with their life. ▪ The recent audit of what schools are offering as part of their extended services confirmed a substantial offer of after school activities (School Census Jan 2008) ▪ HRBQ also offers good data on the take up of recreational activity. This is high, also suggesting enjoyment. • 493 young people (13-19yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects. • 719 young people (13-19yrs) gained 'recorded outcomes' via Youth Service projects • 75.8% of young people surveyed via baseline reviews identified that Youth Service projects have had a positive impact on them.
3.5 Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attainment is good and improving at Key Stage 3 for English and Science. Slight decline in Maths attainment in 2007 ▪ The gap between North and South Solihull in attainment at Key Stage 3 has remained fairly constant over the last 5 years

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2007- states that

- The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good. Although standards are above, or well above, the national average at the end of each phase, the rates of progress are at least satisfactory between Key Stage 2 and 3 and this is an area of improvement.
- The authority has responded appropriately to the issue of achievement of particular Black and minority ethnic groups and those in disadvantaged areas by improving the tracking, monitoring and analysis of rates of progress, planning targeted interventions and provide appropriate levels of support to schools. These combined actions are closing the attainment gap.

JAR Headlines 2008

- Outcomes for the education of looked after children are good. EDULAC provides highly effective targeted support.

4. Do children and young people in Solihull make a positive contribution?

Review evidence

'Positive Contribution' Outcome areas	Headlines
4.1 Engage in decision-making and support the community and the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultation with children and young people is viewed as a significant strength, with young people routinely involved in recruiting staff and quality assuring services ▪ 98% of young people said they are happy with the support they had to express their views in their community/ about young people's issues in Solihull ▪ High levels of participation of children in care in their statutory reviews, including unaccompanied asylum seeking young people ▪ Young people have been involved in commissioning sports and leisure activities
4.2 Engage in law abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system is significantly lower than the 2005-6 baseline ▪ Significant reduction in re-offending rates compared to baseline for community penalties and custody penalties, though a smaller level of increases for pre-court penalties and first tier penalties.
4.3 Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HRBQ and the Tellus Surveys are the main data sources, as there are few formal measures available ▪ National evidence shows that some children and young people, particularly those from black and minority ethnic groups, are more likely to suffer severe bullying, though there is no evidence that this applies in Solihull.
4.4 Develop self confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not enough evidence to draw any firm conclusions, though 76.3 % of young people surveyed via baseline reviews conducted while using the Youth Service reported an increase in confidence.
4.5 Develop enterprising behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little local evidence available, but new services are being developed to support enterprising behaviour, including free support to people wanting to start their own business, including young people post 16, with opportunities to bring schools and key industries together within the Borough

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2007 states that:

- The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is outstanding.
- Children and young people play a crucial role in shaping council services and determining future work.

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- As a result of positive preventative work, the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and proportion of re-offenders is lower than in similar authorities
 - . Initiatives such as the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning and Building Learning Power programmes, recognise the importance of building a solid emotional foundation and help children and young people become more effective and independent learners.

JAR Headlines 2008

- Outstanding rates of LAC participation in their reviews have been achieved; at 95% this is well above the level in comparable authorities and the national average.

5. Do children and young people in Solihull benefit from economic well-being?

Review evidence

'Economic Well-being' Outcome areas	Headlines
5.1 Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The majority of young people in Solihull aged 16 – 18 are in full time education, employment or training, and numbers of young people who are NEET are significantly reducing. ▪ North Solihull has a larger proportion of young people not in education, employment or training. ▪ Young people from a mixed ethnic background have the highest rates of NEET
5.2 Ready for employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving: More 19 year olds achieve a Level 2 or higher NVQ than the national and West Midlands average. ▪ Inspections indicate that the majority of schools make a good contribution towards children and young people's workplace skills
5.3 Live in decent homes and sustainable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By March 2008, less than 20% Council homes in the Borough did not meet the Government's 'Decent Homes' standard. ▪ The percentage of care leavers at age 19 who live in suitable accommodation has improved
5.4 Access to transport and material goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Although Solihull is regarded as affluent, many children, young people and families in north Solihull will live in circumstances of material deprivation, and this is likely to be impacted further by the economic downturn. ▪ Families in central and south east Solihull have to travel further for services that will impact particularly on those on lower incomes in terms of barriers to access.
5.5 Live in households free from low income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numbers of children living in Solihull families where no one is working has reduced and is lower than the national average, but masks significant deprivation in North Solihull, and some new areas in south Solihull. ▪ There is evidence of sufficient childcare in Solihull, however parents would like to see more choice in the types of childcare available in some areas in South Solihull, and better provision for disabled children.

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2007 states that

- The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good.
-
- Good partnership work with the LSC has led to the development of a 14-19 strategic framework that promotes a collaborative approach towards increasing attainment.
-
- As a result of preventative measures, the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training is significantly reducing.

-
- The percentage of looked after young people and care leavers in employment, education or training is increasing and is now well above similar authorities and the national average.

JAR Headlines 2008

- Arrangements to ensure that UASC and young people achieve economic well being are satisfactory

Section 3: Review Indicators

1. Are children and young people in Solihull healthy?

'Be Healthy' Outcome areas	Indicators
1.1 Physically healthy	1 Birth weight (under 2500 grams) 2 Obesity (NI 55 and 56) 3 MMR Immunisations
1.2 Mentally and Emotionally Healthy	4 Children and young people who say they 'feel happy' (NI 50) 5 Referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
1.3 Sexually Healthy	6 Teenage pregnancy rates for 15 – 17 year olds (NI112) 7 Prevalence of chlamydia (NI 113)
1.4 Healthy Lifestyles	8 5-a-day fruit and vegetables 9 Smoking 10 Taking part in physical exercise (NI 113) 11 Breast Feeding at 6 weeks from birth (NI 138)
1.5 Choose not to take illegal drugs	12 Self reported use of drugs (NI 115) 13 Drugs screening of young offenders

1.1. Are children and young people in Solihull physically healthy?

Headlines:

- 1.1.1.
- Fewer babies born in Solihull have low birth weight but the highest proportion of these is in north Solihull.
 - An increasing number of pregnant women in Solihull continue to smoke throughout their pregnancy
 - A low number of mothers initiate breast feeding
 - One in every 5 children in Solihull is overweight or obese.
 - MMR Immunisation rates are high and improving.

Indicators for physical health:

- Birth weight is a good predictor of future physical health and relates to parental health and lifestyle. Research shows that low birth-weight is closely associated with death in infancy and increased risk of coronary heart disease in later life. Reasons for low birth weight include premature delivery, young maternal age, poor maternal health, and maternal smoking.
- Childhood obesity has a significant impact on life chances, and is now seen as a major public health concern. Levels of obesity link to many lifestyle factors such as choice of diet, leisure activity, and emotional health. The Government's vision is one where every child grows up with a healthy weight, through eating well and enjoying being active.⁴
- Immunisation rates for measles, mumps and rubella are a good measure of the level of protection against vaccine preventable diseases and the comprehensiveness of preventative health services for children.

1.1.2. Indicator 1: Birth weight (under 2500 grams)

Table: Birth Weight

	2005	2006	2007
Solihull	7.6%	7.5%	7.5%
West Midlands	-	-	8.8%
National	7.9%	7.9%	7.9%
Statistical Neighbours	6.8%	-	6.6%
North	-	-	9.6%
Central	-	-	7.4%
South	-	-	5.7%

(Data Source – JAR Data Set and Solihull NHS Care Trust (2004-7))

⁴ Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England DoH/DCSF Jan 2008

Solihull trend

- Stable – the last 7 years has remained at a constant number of low birth weight. In Solihull between March 2003 and April 2007, around 7.5% of all births were characterised as low birth weight, and the Borough average is now 7.3%⁵

Comparisons

- Fewer babies born in Solihull have low birth weight than the national average of 7.9% and the rate is significantly lower than the West Midlands average of 8.8% However this varies across the Borough
- The average for statistical neighbours is 6.6%

Impact on particular groups

- Babies born to poorer families are more likely to be born prematurely and to have low birth weight.
- The ward with the highest proportion of low birth weight babies is Shirley East, followed by Olton, Bickenhill and Castle Bromwich, and the lowest Dorridge and Hockley Heath.⁶

Key areas of Service Development

- Activity by the Smoking Cessation team has started to deliver reductions in the proportion of expectant mothers who smoke through pregnancy, with 2006/7 figures of 15.6 % showing a 2.4% point reduction, a performance that is better than both statistical neighbours and national rates. Further improvements were seen in 2007/8 with smoking cessation figures at 18.3

1.1.3. Indicator 2: Obesity

Solihull trend

- In line with most areas, consistent, high quality data is not available over time to produce robust estimates of local trends in childhood obesity: Weight measuring was introduced in Reception school year some years ago, and since 2006 the data has been part of the NCMP. School nurses and other school staff have now been trained using the new equipment, and there is 85% compliance across schools. In 2006/7, 71% of children in Year 6 were measured.
- Nationally published 2006/7 data for Solihull⁷ show an 8.9 % prevalence of obesity in Reception, and 14.5 % prevalence of obesity in Year 6.
- Local statistics at Reception, as measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) show that 20% of children are either overweight or obese (3% lower than national average⁸)
- NI 56- Obesity among primary age children in Year 6 is one of 4 priority indicators relating to children and young people in the LAA, with targets to be determined once baselines are in place for 2 years worth of schools data at 80% coverage

Comparisons

⁵Solihull Strategic Needs Assessment (Health) 2008

⁶Understanding Solihull November 2007

⁷Health Survey for England data in How to set and monitor goals for prevalence of child obesity: Guidance for PCT's and Local Authorities 2008

⁸Progress Report on Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People in Solihull Feb 08

- Results in 2006 show that slightly fewer children in Solihull are likely to be overweight or obese than the national average, but this is still one in every five children.
- Nationally the rate of obesity in children under the age of 11 grew from 9.9% in 1995 to 13.4% in 2004. National data now suggests a third of children are either overweight or obese, and these figures look set to rise. A target of reducing the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels forms part of the new Public Service Agreement 12: to improve the health and well-being of children and young people under 11.

Impact on particular groups

- There are strong indications that breastfeeding has an important role to play in the prevention of obesity.
- Obese children are more likely to have obese parents.
- Boys are slightly more likely to be over-weight than girls.
- Over half of girls report wanting to lose weight.

Key areas of Service Development

- Obesity has been chosen as a target within the new Local Area Agreement
- The Watch it Programme (project name to be finalised) is targeting support to overweight children and young people through addressing healthy lifestyles- increase physical activity, improve healthy eating and improving mental health.
- Recently published Food for Health Strategy and Action plan designed to improve health and reduce inequalities through promoting healthy eating

1.1.4. Indicator 3: MMR Immunisations

Table: MMR Immunisations

	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
Solihull	81%	80%	84%
West Midlands	-	-	85%
National	80%	81%	84%
Statistical Neighbours	82%	83%	86%
North	-	-	83.2
Central	-	-	81.3
South	-	-	80.4

(Data Source – JAR Data Set and Solihull NHS Care Trust - GP Practice)

Solihull trend

- Improving: MMR immunisations uptake has increased since 2003, from 80% to 89% in 2006/7 ⁹

⁹ Strategic Needs Assessment (Health) 2008

Comparisons

- Solihull performs better than the national average to current levels of 89% (national average is 85%), the second highest rate in the West Midlands, though our statistical neighbour (Stockport) is slightly higher at 90%¹⁰

Impact on particular groups

- Because of the levels of coverage of MMR, the notification rate for measles is below that for England, but not significantly different, although Stockport is significantly lower.

Key areas of Service Development

- An integrated care pathway has been set up for those children who had failed to attend 2 appointments for primary immunisations
- A similar pathway for school entry booster is being implemented

¹⁰ Strategic Needs Assessment (Health) 2008

1.2. Are children and young people in Solihull mentally & emotionally healthy?

1.2.1.

Headlines:

- The majority of children say they are happy with their lives, but still comment on the need for more support for their emotional well being.
- Some evidence that stress for young people is rising due to exams and tests, and is the top worry for boys
- Year 10 girls worry more about the way they look than anything else

Indicators for mental and emotional health:

- The quality of their relationships with family and friends is a key indicator of the emotional health of children.¹¹ Parents are the single most important influence on young people's development, with peers of increasing importance to older adolescents. The quality of relationships young people enjoy is a key contributor to their emotional well-being.
- Children and young people's own views of how happy they feel can give a general indication of their emotional wellbeing.
- Rates of referrals to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) can indicate the prevalence of children and young people with mental health problems and disorders although this can be influenced by other factors.
- The types of mental health problems that young people might experience during their adolescent years include, amongst other things, depression, anxiety, behaviour problems, and hyperactivity. Related difficulties include bullying, fighting, self-harm and stealing. Of course not all adolescents face these sorts of problems. Surveys suggest that clinically significant emotional or behavioural difficulties are restricted to a minority of around one in ten children aged 11-15 (The Nuffield Foundation – Time Trends in Adolescent Well-being, 2004).

1.2.2. **Indicator 4: Children and young people who say they 'feel happy'**

Solihull trend

- In surveys of secondary school pupils anxiety about exams and tests seems to be rising. However 7 in 10 reported feeling satisfied with their life.
- The majority of children say they are happy with their lives, but still comment on the need for more support for their emotional well-being¹²

Comparisons

- Solihull pupils report more anxiety than the national average, according to research by the Schools Health Education Unit.

Impact on particular groups

- Primary school pupils report less life satisfaction than secondary pupils.

¹¹ One Borough An Equal Chance for All -Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018

¹² Progress Report on Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People in Solihull Feb 08

1.2.3. **Indicator 5: Referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

Solihull trend

- Improving: there has been a reduction in the length of time for children and young people waiting for a CAMHS service since 2004 (CAMHS mapping).
- Current performance within the CAMHS service from April 2007 to December 2007 indicates that 100% of all non- acute assessments were started within timescales.

Comparisons

- Not readily available.

Impact on particular groups

- The longest waiting times (over 26 weeks) were for children and young people with autism support needs and, although the 2006 APA Report noted that as a result of increased funding, response times for the assessment of children with autistic spectrum disorder have improved, anecdotal evidence suggests this improvement has not been maintained

Key areas of Service Development

- The Intensive Community Outreach Service (ICOS) scheme at Tiers 3 and 4 has avoided inpatient admission by providing support in the home and school/college for 13 young people so far, between the ages of 12 and 17 years
- A new consultant psychiatrist for children with learning difficulties is to be appointed extending the capacity of CAMHS to meet the needs of children and young people with learning difficulties/disabilities, addressing a key priority within the national CAMHS strategy

1.3. Are children and young people in Solihull sexually healthy?

Headlines:

- 1.3.1
- There is renewed improvement in the under 18 conception rate.
 - Chlamydia infection rates amongst young people are rising nationally, but local rates are beginning to decline

Indicators for sexual health:

- Teenage Pregnancy is considered a marker of poor sexual health. Solihull has generally had an under –18 conception rate that was less than the national average¹³,
- Becoming a parent as a teenager is associated with wide ranging disadvantage for both mother and child, including a greater likelihood of dropping out of school, of having no or low qualifications, of being unemployed or low-paid, and of living in poor housing conditions.
- Children of teenage mothers experience poorer health outcomes, for example, teenage mothers are 25% more likely to have a baby weighing less than 2,500 grams; post natal depression is three times as common amongst teenage parents, and teenage mothers are only half as likely to breastfeed as older mothers
- Chlamydia is the most common STI in the UK, so rates are an indicator of wider sexually transmitted infections, which tell us about trends in sexual behaviour and safety.

1.3.2. **Indicator 6: Under 18 conception rates for 15 – 17 year olds**

Table: Teenage Pregnancy

	2004	2005	2006
Solihull	43 (7.2%)	36 (-10.9%)	32.8 (-18.6%)
West Midlands	-	-	45.7
National	42(-13.9)	41 (11.4)	40.4 (-13.4)
Statistical Neighbours	32 (-10.3)	32 (-13.4)	33 (-12.5)
North		244	
Central		109	
South		105	

(Data Source –JAR Data Set and Sexual Health Needs Assessment 2008

Number of conceptions per 1000 15-17 females (% change in conception rate from base year –1998)

Locality Data - Teenage Pregnancy Data 2003-5 – Number of Under 18 Conceptions per Ward)

Solihull trend

- Improving: Teenage conception rates have been falling in Solihull since 1998. Although there was a sharp increase in 2004-5. The most recent data (2006) showed a rate of 32.8 per 1000 of relevant population, an 18.6% reduction on the 1998 baseline. However the 2010 50% reduction target still proves

¹³ Sexual Health Needs Assessment for Solihull December 2007

challenging locally and nationally.

Comparisons

- Solihull compares favourably with the national under 18 conception rate of 40.4 per 1000 15 – 17 year old females, and well below the West Midlands rate of 45.7
- Solihull has a lower teenage conception rate than England and Wales and the West Midlands, but in real terms the numbers of young women becoming pregnant in Solihull are low (140 conceptions in 2006).¹⁴

Impact on particular groups

- Teenage conception rates are higher in Chelmsley Wood, Fordbridge, Kingshurst and Smith's Wood, almost certainly related to the high rates of socio economic deprivation with the concomitant poorer educational achievement. Rates in Bickenhill are also high.
- National evidence shows that Looked After Children are a high-risk group for teenage pregnancy, and this is supported by anecdotal local evidence.

Key areas of Service Development

- Targeted work with "at risk" groups of young people, especially looked after children and care leavers
- Joint relationships/sexual health and substance mis-use (including alcohol) workforce training within mainstream partner agencies.
- Effective delivery of Sex and Relationship Education / Personal Social Health Education by schools. National recognition for the local CPD programme for PSHE, with 86 % of secondary schools having a teacher who has completed/undertaken the programme

1.3.3. Indicator 7: Prevalence of Chlamydia

Solihull trend

- Rates of chlamydia were rising until 2002 in Solihull, but a downturn in this rate has been seen in the last few years.¹⁵
- Highest rates of infection occur in Fordbridge & Kingshurst , and Smithswood
- 2.3 % of 15-24 year olds in Solihull were screened by the NCSP between Dec 2006 and May 2007, and 3.6 % between April and October 2007, the best progress of the four Birmingham and Solihull PCT's. However, the National target was 15%, and this is set to rise to a challenging target of 50% over the next few years
- In the period Dec 2006 to May 2007, 10.35 % of those screened in Solihull in this age group were positive, in line with National trends.

Comparisons

- Rates of Chlamydia are almost half the HPU area average. 3.29 per 1000 population aged 15-44 in Birmingham, 1.95 in Solihull
- Increasing rates of chlamydia infection amongst young people is a significant national issue, particularly amongst young women.

¹⁴ Solihull Health Profile 2008 WMPHO

¹⁵ Sexual Health Needs Assessment for Solihull. Solihull NHS Care Trust Dec 2007

-
- In Solihull in 2005, the rate in females was 1.87 and in males 1.76 per 1000 population aged 15-44

Impact on particular groups

- The greatest rate of chlamydia infection is in the most deprived wards in North Solihull
- The greatest rate of disease is in the white population. However, because the white population is so large compared to BME populations in Solihull, the rates in BME groups are much higher, though in reality only reflect a handful of cases (less than 5).
- Solihull does not have a genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic within its boundaries, and services are accessed via Heartlands Hospital and a clinic in central Birmingham. While rural areas of Solihull have the furthest to go to access services, the highest prevalence in North Solihull suggest rates are more associated with socio economic deprivation than having access to services in more affluent communities.

Key areas of Service Development

- Strong Sexual Health in Practice (SHIP) scheme in place with 29 out of 31 GP practices currently engaged
- Increasing access to young person focused sexual health/contraceptive services – Just 4yoU clinics based in non-clinical settings

1.4. Do children and young people in Solihull have healthy lifestyles?

Headlines:

- 1.4.1.
- The healthy eating message seems to be having some impact in Solihull, with more young people eating 5 or more fruit or vegetables a day, but those on lower incomes are likely to eat less fruit & vegetables.
 - Girls are more likely to report that they smoke occasionally or regularly than boys, but the number of pupils saying that they have never smoked is rising
 - An increasing number of school pupils participate in at least two hours high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week
 - There has been a small improvement in initiation rates for breastfeeding but numbers of babies receiving breast milk at 6-8 weeks is decreasing

Indicators for healthy lifestyles:

- The association of a healthy balanced diet with health and well-being is well recognised. Poor diet in the early years of life is likely to continue into adulthood and increases risk from health problems including diabetes. Research suggests that increasing consumption of fruit and vegetables may be the most effective cancer prevention strategy (DoH, 2003).
- Smoking is well known as the leading cause of premature illness and death and is a good measure of attitudes towards legal but harmful drugs including alcohol.
- Physical activity provides an important vehicle for play and recreation, learning physical and social skills, improving health, developing creative intelligence and stimulating growth and fitness.

1.4.2. **Indicator 8: 5-a-day fruit and vegetables**

Solihull trend

- Improving: In school surveys the number of pupils saying that they regularly eat fresh fruit and vegetables is rising. 51 % of boys and 64% of girls in Year 6 stated they had fresh fruit on most days in 2007 HRBQ, up from 34% and 44% respectively in 2004

Comparisons

- Good: Solihull pupils are significantly more likely to report regularly eating fresh fruit and vegetables than the national average 53 % of Solihull primary school pupils said they had fresh fruit on most days, compared to 39% in the wider SHEU sample –HRBQ 2007

Impact on particular groups

- Girls are more likely to report eating fruit and vegetables, but also more likely to report that they miss breakfast.
- The diet of people on low incomes is an area of particular concern. Information from the National Food Survey, and the National Diet and Nutrition Survey, shows that poorer households consume 7% less fruit and 4% less vegetables (DoH, 2003).

Key areas of Service Development

- Work in Children's Centres to promote healthy eating, including the introduction of "taster" food and cooking sessions
- Focus on food and nutrition through the healthy schools programme,

1.4.3. **Indicator 9: Smoking**

Solihull trend

- Improving. In school surveys the number of pupils saying that they have never smoked is rising. 72% of secondary aged pupils said they had never smoked at all. In 2004, this figure was only 54% (HRBQ 2007)

Comparisons

- Nationally the prevalence of regular smoking (at least one cigarette a week) has remained stable, at between 9 per cent and 10 per cent, since 1999.
- Girls were more likely to be regular smokers than boys (10 per cent of girls, compared to 7 per cent of boys).
- Nationally smoking prevalence for adults has been steadily falling.

Impact on particular groups

- Girls are more likely to report that they smoke occasionally or regularly than boys.

1.4.4. **Indicator 10: Taking part in physical exercise**

Solihull trend

- Improving: In 2004/05 70% of all pupils in school reported participation in at least two hours high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week. In 2005/06 this has increased to 80% for both North Solihull and South Solihull. In the 2007 survey 57% of secondary aged pupils had been involved in 2 or more hours of physical activity at school in the previous week, up from 51% in 2006
- In 2007/8 this again increased to 89% of pupils in both North and South Solihull Schools taking part in 2 hours of high quality PE and school sport.

Comparison

- Satisfactory: nationally in 2007/9 ,90% of pupils in partnership schools participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week – thereby achieving the PSA target(2008) of 85% .

Impact on particular groups

- International data of all age groups found boys are more likely to be physically active than girls (UNICEF, 2007; Health Survey for England ,2006).
- Surveys of school pupils indicate that the number of pupils considering themselves fit decreases with age, and more boys consider themselves to be fit than girls.
- Physical activity participation trends between 2002 and 2006 have remained static (Health Survey for England 2002 and 2006)
- Parental physical activity patterns are closely correlated with children and young people's physical activity behaviour patterns (Health Survey of England 2006)

Key areas of Service Development

- A children and young people's weight management programme launched in September 2008 to address healthy lifestyles also includes increasing physical activity patterns

1.4.5 **Indicator 11: Breastfeeding**

Table: Breast Feeding Initiation

	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
Solihull	60.7 %	56.4%	57.3%
West Midlands	-	-	-
National	64.6%	68.9%	69.6%
Statistical Neighbours	64.8%	70.9%	69%
North			40.1
Central			63.1
South			71.5

(Data Source – JAR Data Set and Solihull NHS Care Trust - Heart of England Foundation Trust April 05 –Sept 06 Breast Feeding Initiative)

Solihull Trend

- A small improvement in rates of take-up from 2005/6 to 2006/7 by 0.9% with Initiation 56.4 % in 2005/6, and 57.3 in 2006/7. Latest figures show continued improvement in 2006/7 to 64%.¹⁶
- Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks was 40.6% in 2005, but has reduced to 33% in 2006/7

Comparison

- Solihull falls below the national average on initiation and duration rates of breastfeeding. National average for initiation is 77%
- The national target for mothers initiating breastfeeding is 70.3 by 2009/10, and 46% breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

Impact on Particular Groups

- There are significant inequalities in breastfeeding rates, particularly in North Solihull. Numbers initiating breastfeeding are above the national average of 77% in affluent areas, but large areas of Solihull have rates below this.¹⁷

Key areas of Service Development

- New Breastfeeding Co-ordinator recruited in October 2007 to implement a multi agency action plan targeting the increase in take up and duration of breastfeeding.
- Implementation of the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative to support best practice standards in the support of breastfeeding

¹⁶ Council Results (Solihull Local Area Agreement) 2007/8

¹⁷ Strategic Needs Assessment (Health) 2008

1.5. Do children and young people in Solihull choose not to take illegal drugs?

Headlines:

- 1.5.1
- Significant progress has been made in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use
 - Limited evidence implies that children and young people are slightly less likely to choose drugs in Solihull than the national average
 - Limited evidence indicates that the number of 11-15 year olds that have ever had an alcoholic drink is slightly higher than the national average

Indicators for choosing not to take illegal drugs

- Nationally, drug use among young people aged 10-24 years is higher than it is for the rest of the population and, within this group, young people who belong to one or more of the vulnerable groups report the highest rates of all
- National drugs strategy focuses on persuading potential users not to use drugs. Drug use is closely linked to poor outcomes for children and young people. The total number of problem drug users is not known locally or nationally, and measures of drug use set by the Government focus on service targets (numbers involved in drug treatment programmes) rather than on whether children and young people are choosing not to take illegal drugs.
- Children and young people's own report of illegal drugs can give an indication of attitudes, despite the risk of deliberate over and under-reporting.
- All young offenders in contact with the Youth Offending Team are screened for drugs.

1.5.2. **Indicator 12: Self reported use of drugs**

Solihull trend

- Through the HRBQ questionnaire 2006, 39% of 12-15 year olds were fairly sure or certain that they knew someone who took drugs. In 2007, this figure was 30%, lower than the 43% seen in the wider data.
- 5% of Year 4 males (8-9 year olds) have been offered cannabis. This figure is 44% of males in Year 10 (14-15 year olds)
- The majority of young people who use substances report using cannabis or alcohol, which is similar to the national picture (Ref. NDTMS)

Comparisons

- 18% of boys and 22% of girls in Year 10 in Solihull say they have "ever" tried drugs, which is slightly less than the SHEU sample of 20% and 22% respectively (HRBQ 2007).
- The TellUs2 (2007) survey in Solihull secondary school pupils indicated that the number of 11-15 year olds that had ever had an alcoholic drink is slightly higher than the national average (Solihull 53%, National Average 48%)
- Fewer 10-15 year olds had got drunk in the previous 4 weeks than the national average (Not got drunk Solihull 29%, National Average 23 %)
- Drug misuse is considered to be less prevalent in Solihull than the rest of the West Midlands Police force area¹⁸

Impact on particular groups

¹⁸ Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008 (CDRP)

- In surveys of Solihull secondary school pupils there is a small gender difference in self reported use of illegal drugs. 18% of boys and 20% of girls in Year 10 say that they have ever tried drugs.
- Approximately 25% of young people in treatment have drug-misusing parents.
- Vulnerable groups including Looked After Children, young people involved in the criminal justice system and excluded and frequent truants are more likely to use illegal drugs.

Key areas of Service Development

- Multi agency Drug and Alcohol guidance for schools launched at a conference in February 2008
- Training offered to secondary schools in appropriate identification and referral practices for young people with substance misuse issues to make best use of Str8 Up service

1.5.3. Indicator 13: Drug screening of young offenders

Solihull trend

- During 2006/7 70 young people (under 18 years) received treatment through Str8 Up, the specialist Drug and Alcohol Service for young people in Solihull. 69% were discharged with successful completion of the programme. Throughout 2007/8, 84 young people received treatment, 54 of who were new presentations. The main source of referral for treatment is YOS

Comparisons

- Solihull is above national and statistical neighbour averages for young offenders who receive specialist assessments within 5 days, and early intervention and treatment within 10 days (JAR data set)

Impact on particular groups

- 64% of young people accessing Str8Up are female
- 86% of young people accessing Str8Up are white, 7% Black and 7% Dual Heritage

Key areas of Service Development

- A drug and alcohol screening and referral protocol (DUST) was implemented across children's services in 2006/7, which assists in the identification and referral of young people with substance misuse problems who would benefit from interventions into Str8 Up.

2. Are children and young people in Solihull safe?

'Stay Safe' Outcome areas	Indicators
2.1 Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation	14 Identifying and supporting at risk children and young people 15 Re-registrations on the child protection register
2.2 Safe from accidental injury and death	16 Road traffic accidents 17 Admissions to hospital for other accidents
2.3 Safe from bullying and discrimination	18 Young people who are bullied
2.4 Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school	19 Children and young people who feel safe in their local area 20 Young people as victims of crime
2.5 Have security, stability and are cared for	21 Stable placements for Looked After Children

2.1. Are children and young people in Solihull safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation?

Headlines:

- 2.1.1
- There has been an appropriate reduction in the proportion of children subject to a child protection enquiry as a result of work on thresholds and improved communication with the police
 - The level of children subject to child protection plans is low in comparison to national averages, with low numbers of children remaining on child protection plans.
 - Assessment timescales continue to improve

Indicators for safety from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation:

- The rate of child protection enquiries to Social Work Services gives an indication of how sensitive the wider community is to their responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people. Enquiries where there is a strong concern about significant harm lead to a Child Protection Case Conference where a judgement is made on whether the child or young person should be subject to a Child Protection plan to protect them and secure support services.
- The rate of re-subjections of all Child Protection plans gives a good indication of how successful local services are in keeping the most at risk children safe. High levels of re-registration means that children may be de-registered too quickly and/or may not receive the services necessary to bring about the required changes in the family situation.

2.1.2. **Indicator 14: Identifying and supporting at risk children and young people**

Solihull trend

- There has been an appropriate reduction in the proportion of children subject to a child protection enquiry as a result of work on thresholds and improved communication with the police

Comparisons

- The level of children subject to child protection plans is low in comparison to national averages, and in line with statistical neighbours, with low numbers of children remaining on child protection plans

Impact on particular groups

- When comparing the proportion of children subject to child protection plans who are from a Black and Minority Ethnic background with the local population, the ratio is 1.59 in 2006/7 a slight rise in the 2005/6 ratio of 1.5 which is statistically insignificant. (JAR Data Set -DCSF2008)

Key areas of Service Development

- Regular meetings with police and children's social work managers have led to an increase in trust and improvements in responding at appropriate level to concerns about children, and identification and follow up of concerns in

safeguarding practice at hospital. This joined up approach across agencies ensures a rapid response to referrals. Strategy meetings are usually held within 2 hours, and children seen quickly.

2.1.3. **Indicator 15: Re-subjections to a Child Protection Plan**

Solihull trend

- In 2006/7, the % of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time was 10.9 %, which was a 5 blob banding performance. (APA 2007). In 2007/8, this figure is 19%. An influencing factor in the decline in performance is the overall reduction in the number of children and young people subject to a child protection plan, by 9%, with currently only 100 children or young people subject to a child protection plan.

Comparisons

- Average: In Solihull the average re-subjection to a child protection plan rate of 15% is higher than the national and statistical neighbours average of 13.4%, and 14.5 % respectively. Solihull has comparatively low numbers of children subject to child protection plans, which means that this indicator is subject to wide variations, which make it difficult to make meaningful comparisons.

Impact on particular groups

- Re-subjection rates may be higher where there are high levels of family mobility in and out of the Borough.

Key areas of Service Development

- The use of the Integrated Children's System (ICS) is improving consistency and standards in practice, for instance in sharing information, decision making and action planning

2.2. Are children and young people in Solihull safe from accidental injury and death?

Headlines:

- 2.2.1
- The number of children who die in road traffic accidents remains low.
 - Levels of hospital admissions for other accidents appear to be rising although this does not necessarily mean that accident rates are rising.

Indicators for safety from accidental injury and death:

- Road traffic accidents involving children and young people give a good indication of safety in local areas.
- Admission to hospital for other accidents, including those in the home, give an indication of how effective children and young people are in using safe behaviours to keep themselves safe, as well as risk management by parents and carers. Rates of hospital admission do need to be treated cautiously however, because variable availability of local primary care services will influence the likelihood of a child accident resulting in a hospital admission.
- Nationally the burden of accidental injury is disproportionately heavy on the most disadvantaged. Children from the poorest families are more likely to die from accidents, to be admitted to hospital, and to be admitted with more severe injuries. (Child Accident Prevention Trust, 2006)
- The types of accidents children have relate to their age and stage of physical development. The younger the child, the greater the risk with about half of all deaths among children under 5 happening in the home (DoH, 1999).
- Accidental injury is one of the leading causes of death among children and young people and puts more children in hospital than any other cause. Every year in the UK, over two million children are taken to hospital accident and emergency departments as a result of accidents (Health protection in the 21 Century, Health Protection Agency October 2005)

2.2.2. **Indicator 16: Road traffic accidents**

Solihull trend

- Solihull has already made large reductions in the numbers of children killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents. NB The numbers are now so small that a single traffic collision could change the trend.
- 9 children killed or seriously injured in 2006 (reduction from 13 in 2005 ¹⁹)

Comparisons

- Solihull has below England average road injuries and deaths. Solihull is joint second in terms of the lowest casualty figures out of all 36 metropolitan boroughs.

Impact on particular groups

- In the West Midlands boys are more likely to have traffic accidents (West Midlands Public Health Observatory, WMPHO).
- The wards of Meriden, St Alphege and Chelmsley Wood have the highest casualty statistics, while 9 wards did not have any casualties in 2006. There

¹⁹ Understanding Solihull November 2007

does not appear to be a pattern in terms of where the casualties occur, except for Solihull Town Centre area, a notable school and transport hub, bearing in mind the small numbers involved.

2.2.2. Indicator 17: Admissions to hospital for other accidents

Solihull trend

- Attendance at Solihull and Heartlands hospitals for accidents appears to be increasing. The Accident & Emergency data available is not detailed enough regarding the reason of attendance but there are a variety of reasons e.g. accidents, sports injuries, minor ailments.

Comparisons

- Nationally deaths caused by childhood injuries have fallen considerably since the 1970s. The West Midlands comes fourth highest in the overall ranking of child injury death rates (WMPHO).

Impact on particular groups

- The child injury death rate for males in the West Midlands is the highest of any region and significantly higher than the England average but the child injury death rate for females is much lower.
- Admission to hospital for Solihull girls was significantly higher than both England and the West Midlands average.

2.3. Are children and young people in Solihull safe from bullying and discrimination?

Headlines:

- Bullying is a significant issue for children and young people. Although rates of bullying are difficult to measure accurately it is clear that, through evidence from surveys such as HRBQ and TellUs, bullying in Solihull is below national averages.

2.3.1 Indicators for safety from bullying and discrimination:

- Rates of bullying are hard to measure as much goes unreported. However national evidence indicates that bullying is one of the biggest concerns for children and young people, causing stress and anxiety to anything from a quarter to a half of all children and young people. E-bullying and harassment is also being increasingly used, using text, email, and internet chat rooms.

2.3.2 **Indicator 18: Young people who are bullied**

Solihull trend

- In HRBQ surveys of school pupils in 2004 and 2006 a third of primary pupils and a quarter of secondary school pupils said that they had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months. In 2007, the figure was 33% of primary pupils (Years 4 & 6), a 3% increase on the 2006 survey. For secondary pupils (Years 8&10), the figure was 18%, a 3% reduction on the 2006 survey (HRBQ).
- Comparison of a breakdown by year group and gender with the national data base held by the Schools Health Unit (SHEU) shows that although primary schools report more bullying the trend is reversed for secondary school pupils

	Boys		Girls	
	Solihull 2007	National 2006	Solihull 2007	National 2006
Year 4	40%	37%	37%	35%
Year 6	26%	26%	29%	25%
Year8	19%	23%	22%	26%
Year10	15%	17%	15%	20%

Comparisons

- In the Tellus2 Survey 2007, 75% of Solihull young people said they had never been bullied in school, which was higher than the national figure of 70%
- Only 54% of Solihull young people feel safe on public transport, compared to 68% nationally.
- Around 25% say they have experienced some form of bullying. Playtime and lunchtime can cause anxiety for up to 16% of 10-11 year olds, and 24% of

females felt picked on for 'the way they looked'.

Impact on particular groups

- In Year 8 more girls than boys say they are at least 'sometimes' afraid to go to school because of bullying. This is reversed in Year 4 primary school
- Almost three quarters of children thought that school takes bullying seriously.

Key areas of Service Development

- Anti bullying peer support is offered through services commissioned from The Children's Society including Playground Pals
- The ABBA (Anti Bullying Behaviour Alliance) group of young people, co-ordinated through the Youth Service and NSPCC have recently won the Diana award for outstanding achievement in schools and their community for their work on raising anti bullying awareness, including a poster campaign, a DVD for schools, and workshops about bullying and how to prevent it.
- Anti bullying Strategy in development with a wide range of stakeholders

2.4 Are children and young people in Solihull safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school?

2.4.1

Headlines:

- Although limited evidence currently available, concerns about personal safety rate highly in consultations with children and young people
- Local evidence shows that young people aged 10-15 are more likely than any other group to become a victim of crime

Indicators for safe from crime and anti-social behaviour:

- Nationally young people (particularly young men) aged 16 to 25 are more likely to be the victim of crime than any other age group (British Crime Survey 2004/05). Rates of reported crime against young people provides a good indicator of how safe an area is for young people.
- Although perception of safety does not necessarily reflect the level of actual risk of crime or anti-social behaviour, it provides a good measure in this context because we want children and young people to both be safe and feel safe.
- Research sponsored by the Economic & Social Research Council found that young offenders and young people who are victims of crime are often the same people. Being a victim of crime at the age of 12 is one of the most powerful indicators that a child will offend at 15. Likewise, offending at age 12 brings a strong possibility of victimisation at 15. One explanation of this link is that young offenders tend to group together and commit offences on each other. Another is that young people who get into risky situations together - such as late-night clubs or amusement arcades - end up both committing offences and being victims of crime. A third point is that personality traits such as being impulsive and taking risks lead both to offending and victimisation. Finally, people may bounce backwards and forwards between offending and victimisation, as when they have their possessions stolen or trashed when in prison. Victims may be traumatised, leading to later offending or simple retaliation.
- Boys offend only slightly more often than girls at the ages of 13-15, if every kind of offending is included however the study reveals considerably higher levels of serious offending in boys compared with girls.
- Social class and household income were found to be only slightly related to offending in terms of individual families, but where a neighbourhood was deprived, this was strongly linked to the local crime rate

2.4.2 **Indicator 19: Children and young people feeling safe in their local area.**

Solihull trend

- No trend over time is currently available, but there is some evidence that this is an important issue for children and young people locally, as evidenced by the 2006/7 Solihull Youth Service Needs Assessment, where personal safety was the number one safety issue.
- In a schools survey (HRBQ) in 2006 a third of children reported feeling unsafe during the day. This rose to just under half when asked if they felt safe at night. In 2007, 64.8 % of young people said they feel safe after dark

Comparisons

- According to national surveys (SHEU) 15% of secondary aged pupils say that they have been a victim of violence or aggression in the area where they live in the last 12 months. The Solihull figure is 14% for the 2007 survey.
- Up to 25% of the national sample felt that safety after dark was 'poor' or 'very poor' in their neighbourhood, with females feeling more apprehensive after dark (SHEU). In Solihull, 20% of secondary pupils rated the safety of their area, when going out after dark as poor or very poor (HRBQ2007)

Impact on particular groups

- A small Children's Fund survey of children and young people under the age of 13 found that they often felt unsafe in the presence of groups of older people with bullying being cited as the main cause of victimisation.

Key areas of Service Development

- The Street Crime Initiative and other multi agency work on personal safety in parks and open spaces, diversionary activities promotional work within Community Note, and NS Fusion all designed to help young people feel safe and reduce anti social behaviour.

2.4.3 **Indicator 20: Young people as victims of crime**

Solihull trend

- In Solihull, young men aged 14-19 are most at risk from violent crime, with 24% reporting one, whilst the vast majority of robbery victims were aged 19 and under²⁰
- A quarter of young people who had been victims of crime had not reported this to the Police (Solihull Crime and Drugs Audit 2004).

Comparisons

- Solihull has a relatively low crime rate compared to neighbouring areas such as Birmingham and Coventry, and is about average compared to similar areas.

Impact on particular group

- Fear of violent crime is greatest amongst young women aged 16-24, despite the fact that young men of the same age are twice as likely to be victims.

Key areas of Service Development

- Commissioned service with Barnado's offers counselling to young people who are victims of crime - Quarter 1 2008- 14 young people supported.

²⁰ Solihull Strategic Assessment

2.5 Do children and young people in Solihull have security, stability and are cared for?

2.5.1

Headlines:

- An increasing number of Looked After Children are in stable placements, although 41 % of children are in homes outside the Borough.
- The proportion of looked after children is rising, mainly attributable to rising numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children

Indicators for security, stability and care:

- Treatment of the most vulnerable children and young people by society is seen as a measure of attitudes towards children more generally. Children who become Looked After will have experienced a lack of care, security and stability and so placement stability while in the care of the Local Authority is a key indicator.

2.5.2 **Indicator 21: Stable placements for Looked After Children**

Solihull trend

- Improving: There has been a steady increase in the proportion of looked after children in stable placements since 2003.
- The proportion of looked after children who have had 3 or more placements within a 12-month period is reducing.
- However, the rising number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Solihull is having an impact on the proportion of Looked After Children in stable placements.

Comparisons

- Solihull has been performing above both the national and statistical neighbour average for the proportion of Looked After Children in stable placements for the last three years. 71.6% of children were in a stable placement in 2005/6, the national target is 80% by 2008.
- The proportion of Looked After Children who have had 3 or more placements is in line with the national average and statistical neighbours.
- The JAR 2008 records that the stability of placements for children looked after by the council is very good in national terms, although not so consistently for those who have been looked after for two and a half years or more. Residential childcare provision costs are high and this reduces funding available for preventative services.

Impact on particular groups

- 41% of Looked After Children are placed in homes outside of Solihull, though the majority live no more than 20 miles away.
- There is a rapidly increasing rate of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who require Solihull Council to look after them – over 45% of the Borough's looked after population (June 2008))

Key areas of Service Development

-
- The reconfigured Children's Placement Board, with dedicated procurement and commissioning expertise, is having a positive impact on overall placement expenditure, down by £1.1 m in 2007/8, with a continued emphasis on innovative ways for alternative provision to reduce placement costs while maintaining quality.

3. Do children and young people in Solihull enjoy life and achieve success?

'Enjoy & Achieve' Outcome areas	Headlines
3.1 Ready for School	22 Progress towards early learning goals
3.2 Attend and enjoy school	23 School attendance 24 Children and young people reporting that they enjoy school
3.3 Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school	25 Results for 7 year olds at Key Stage 1 26 Results for 11 year olds at Key Stage 2
3.4 Achieve personal & social development and enjoy recreation	27 Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in schools 28 Numbers of young people gaining accredited and recorded outcomes via Youth Service projects
3.5 Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school	29 14 year olds achieving Level 5+ 30 16 year olds achieving 5 A-C GCSEs

3.1. Are children in Solihull ready for school?

3.1.1.

Headlines:

- Solihull performance at Foundation Stage Profile is above national expectations in all six areas of learning.
- Achievement in North Solihull schools is consistently lower than the rest of the Borough. It is most significant within the communication language and literacy, and personal and social development aspects of the profile.
- The average performance of children from BME groups is in line with Borough averages, however, Pakistani children, black Caribbean and white mixed heritage children, and children from other mixed heritages have lower levels of achievement.
- Girls achieve higher points scores than boys

Indicators for whether children are ready for school:

- The Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) assesses children's preparedness for school across 13 different dimensions covering; personal, social and emotional development; communication, language and literacy; mathematical development as well as their physical and creative development and understanding of the world.

3.1.2. **Indicator 22: Progress towards early learning goals**

Solihull trend

- Improving: Children in Solihull have achieved well across all dimensions for a number of years. In 2006 significant investment in Foundation Stage Profile assessment training improved consistency in assessment, which resulted in a slight reduction of measured achievement across the profile.
- In 2007, standards at Foundation Stage rose across all elements of the profile, with the exception of Physical Development, with results showing an average points score (APS) of 94 – a rise of 3 points- while 64 % of pupils achieved at least a level 6 in all dimensions.
- APA 2007 report states that the overall quality of early years provision is good or better and ensures children get a good start to their education.

Comparisons

- Solihull performance at Foundation Stage Profile is within the top 20 nationally and performance across categories follows the national profile.
- Solihull is in line with statistical neighbours across most categories with the exception of 'Knowledge & Understanding of the World', which is lower than statistical neighbours. Performance is consistently lower across the 'communication, language and literacy' dimension, which can impact on ability to progress through other Key Stages.

Impact on particular groups

- Achievement in North Solihull schools is consistently lower than the rest of the Borough, with an average 11-point gap between this group of children and the Local Authority as a whole. It is most significant in reading, writing, though the gap has closed by 8% points, and creative development, where again the gap has closed by 11 %.

-
- Boys perform less well than girls by an average of 13 points This is most notable within the communication language and literacy, and personal and social development aspects of the profile.
 - The average performance of children from black and minority ethnic groups is in line with Borough averages. However Pakistani children, black Caribbean and white mixed heritage children and children from other mixed heritages all have poorer achievement, particularly in language and communication skills as well as emotional and social development aspects of the profile.

Key areas of Service Development

- The support and challenge role of the local authority with early years settings has been specified, and a delivery plan is in place to take a more consistent approach across schools and settings.
- A process similar to the Annual Review of Schools is now in place for all Early Years settings to ensure the quality of provision is assessed consistently and on the basis of clear evidence and data

3.2. Do children and young people in Solihull attend and enjoy school?

Headlines:

- 3.2.1
- Good attendance rates at both primary and secondary schools with results in 2007 showing an improving picture.
 - Permanent exclusion rates had been rising but are now at national average rates, and services have been put in place to target children who are at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded
 - HRBQ data suggests that a high percentage of children of all ages enjoy school. This reduces as pupils get older.
 - HRBQ data suggests that most children feel happy and safe in school

Indicators for attending and enjoying school:

- Absences from school are made up of authorised (requested by parents and authorised by the school) and unauthorised (truancy) absences. Policies within school and the Local Authority target the reduction of both. Other factors that can affect school attendance are if the young person has been excluded (either fixed term for a few days or permanently) from school.
- Whether children and young people enjoy school is seen as a key indicator for the Enjoy and Achieve outcome – a common criticism is that 'enjoy' is often forgotten when measuring this outcome.

3.2.2. **Indicator 23: School Attendance**

Solihull trend

- Improving: In Primary schools, attendance has improved year on year between 1999 and 2005, with a fall in 2006 mainly due to a serious flu outbreak in the borough. Results for 2007 academic year demonstrate an improving picture, with the rates of half days missed due to unauthorised and authorised absence at 4.7 % (13th nationally)
- Improving: In Secondary schools, attendance has improved year on year between 1999 and 2008, with rates of half days missed at 7.1 % (27th nationally). Rates of authorised absences are consistently improving, but unauthorised absences have consistently deteriorated.
- Permanent exclusion rates have risen over the last 3 years while fixed term exclusions are fairly static, although they do fluctuate across the school year.
- Permanent exclusion rates showed an increasing trend in 2006/7, though the start of 2007/8 academic year saw a significant reduction in permanent exclusions compared to the previous year at a similar point in the school year, with current rates of permanent exclusions 50% below last year's at the same point in the year.

Comparisons

- Solihull is currently ranked 13th nationally for attendance at primary schools. Attendance in secondary schools is in line with national and statistical neighbour averages. England average is 7.8 in secondary schools. Improvement rates are in line with the national improvement rate and nearly 40% better than the improvements achieved by statistical neighbours.
- The number of permanent exclusions in primary and secondary schools remain below the national average.

Impact on particular groups

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that young people with either Special Educational Needs, receiving free school meals or from black and minority ethnic groups are more likely to be excluded. However, the numbers of children and young people involved are very small so it is difficult to draw any conclusions or trends.
- School attendance for Looked After Children is rated good by CSCI with only 4% of looked after young people missing more than 25 days schooling, which is a third of the national and statistical neighbours rate.

Key areas of Service Development

- Building on the proven success of Craig Croft PRU, an expanded outreach service and increased placement capacity is being developed to reduce the proportion of pupils excluded from primary school.
- In order to build capacity in secondary school, training has been developed with the objective of achieving a whole school approach to behaviour.
- A planned expansion of secondary PRU provision to be opened in September 2008 will extend the preventative range of opportunities for young people across the Borough

3.2.3. **Indicator 24: Children and young people reporting that they enjoy school**

Solihull trend

- Limited samples of school pupils in year 2 were asked in 2004 and 2006 whether they like going to school. In both surveys around half said that they did. The reasons for responding 'sometimes' or 'no' are not explored in the survey (HRBQ). In 2007, 53% said they liked going to school, and 22% said no, they didn't like going to school, which compares to 18% in 2006
- In the TellUs2 Survey 2007, 57% of pupils said they enjoy school, always or almost always.

Comparisons

- In the TellUs2 Survey 2007, the national average of pupils who said they enjoy school, always or almost always was 58%, slightly up on the Solihull sample.
- According to research by UNICEF, compared with European counterparts English schoolchildren enjoy school the least, are most likely to want to leave school as soon as they can, and feel that school gets in the way of their lives.

Impact on particular groups

- National evidence shows that girls tend to like school more than boys, and young people tend to like school less than younger children (SHEU). In the local surveys detailed above boys were far more likely than girls to respond 'no' when asked if they enjoyed going to school.

Key areas of Service Development

- Inspection findings for schools indicate that the majority of children and young people enjoy being at school and behaviour is good or better.

3.3 Do children and young people in Solihull achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school?

3.3.1

Headlines:

- Overall attainment at primary school is very good.
- There is a significant attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, but the gap is closing rapidly at Key Stage 2 across all three core subjects, English, Maths and Science..

Indicators for achieving stretching standards at primary school:

- At Key Stage 1, children are assessed in core skills including reading, writing & maths. The expected attainment across all subjects is Level 2+.
- At Key Stage 2, children are examined in core subjects including English, maths and science. The expected attainment across all subjects is Level 4+.

3.3.2 **Indicator 25: Results for 7 year olds at Key Stage 1**

Solihull Trend

- Good: Attainment at Key Stage 1 (KS1) has been improving steadily over the last 7 years. In 2007, 90% of pupils achieved level 2 or above in reading, 80% in writing and 94% in mathematics. This high level of attainment across all 3 subjects has been maintained over the last 5 years and is recognised at outstanding by the National Strategies.

Comparisons

- Good: At KS1, Solihull is in the top 5 local authorities nationally for reading, writing and mathematics and 1st for reading at L2b+ and L3.
- Standards at Key Stage 1 are consistently above similar authorities and the national average in reading writing and mathematics (APA 2007)

Impact on particular groups

- The attainment gap at Key Stage 1 between north and south Solihull is closing, although there are cohort variations between years. The greatest improvement is in reading where, since 2004, a 6% point improvement has been achieved (rising from 78 % to 84%) closing the gap by 3% points.

Key areas of Service Development

- On the basis of careful use of data, primary literacy consultant support has been targeted at those schools with significant underachievement of boys (those with Key Stage 1 Reading below 70% at 2B+) and where results have wide variations between reading and writing

3.3.3 **Indicator 26: Results for 11 year olds at Key Stage 2**

Solihull Trend

- Improving: Attainment at Key Stage 2 has been improving steadily over the last 5 years. The 5-year trend shows a 3% point improvement for Science, while English improved by 7% points and Maths 4 points.

Comparisons

- Very Good: Solihull is one of the best performing authorities nationally, ranked in the top 7 local authorities nationally for English, Maths and Science in 2007(2nd for Science and 4th for English at L4+).
- Solihull has performed better than statistical neighbours and national averages for a number of years. The pace of this improvement is 50% faster than the national average, when comparing the aggregated APS across all three subjects with a 12-point improvement (from 248 in 2004 to 260 in 2007) compared to an 8-point improvement nationally, so the gap between Solihull and the national average is widening.

Impact on particular groups

- In English, 61 % of those working below level 4 are boys, and 63 % in science
- There is a significant attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, but the gap in attainment is closing rapidly across all three main core subjects.
- Particular black and minority ethnic groups are not achieving the Borough averages for English and Maths. Black Caribbean children have consistently achieved lower in English (2007, 5% points lower; 2006, 3% lower; 2005, 6.8 % lower; 2004, 18.7% points lower) and Maths (2007, 7.7 %points lower; 2006, 11.7 % points lower; 2005, 12.2 % lower; 2004 13.7 % points lower). The gap is however closing.
- A disproportionate number of those not achieving the required standard received Free School Meals. In 2006, 10% more in mathematics, and 15% more in English

Key areas of Service Development

- A number of innovative programmes are in place, such as Building Learning Power and Creative Partnerships, to support schools in delivering a rich and responsive curriculum,
- A robust approach to intervention in schools causing concern is having demonstrable results and impacting on the quality of education for pupils
- A Task and Finish Group of Schools Forum has undertaken a research project to consider the current distribution of funding across the Borough and review whether it is targeted as fairly as it could be to support those schools where the impact of deprivation is greatest, and a funding strategy has been agreed for the next three years to further target resources to need.

3.4 Do children and young people in Solihull achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation?

3.4.1

Headlines:

- The evidence here is quite sketchy, and most comes from the HRBQ data. In 2007, 71% of secondary pupils reported that, in general, they were 'quite a lot', or 'a lot' satisfied with their life.
- The recent audit of what schools are offering as part of their extended services confirmed a substantial offer of after school activities (School Census Jan 2008)
- HRBQ also offers good data on the take up of recreational activity. This is high, also suggesting enjoyment.
- 493 young people (13-19yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects
- 719 young people (13-19yrs) gained 'recorded outcomes' via Youth Service projects
- 75.8% of young people surveyed via baseline reviews identified that Youth Service projects have had a positive impact on them.

Indicators for achieving personal and social development, and enjoying recreation:

- There are currently limited measures of this area. Each year some schools are externally assessed for their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of their pupils, which provides a partial answer.
- Achieving an accredited or recorded outcome through youth work is an indicator that young people are engaged in activity which enhances their learning and development.
- Participation in youth work activities, particularly where engagement is sustained over time, is seen as a positive measure of young people acquiring new skills and making gains in self-confidence and self-esteem.

3.4.2 **Indicator 27: Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in schools**

Solihull trend

- Not readily available

Comparisons

- Not readily available

Impact on particular groups

- Not readily available

Key areas of service development

- A wide range of cultural and creative activities run by Music Service e.g. 800 pupils a week participate in musical ensemble groups, 460 pupils receive instrumental lessons in the evening,
- 756 children access open access play opportunities on school sites, including 46 disabled children

-
- 1200 children have benefited from weekend and holiday activities run by extended schools supported by the Big Lottery Fund
 - 896 attendances at study support groups in libraries

3.4.3 Indicator 28: Young People gaining accredited outcomes and recorded outcomes through the Youth Service

Solihull trend

- 493 young people (13-19yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects
- 719 young people (13-19yrs) gained 'recorded outcomes' via Youth Service projects. These are two of the national performance indicators, and the trend is for both accreditation and recorded outcomes is improving.
- 75.8% of young people surveyed via baseline reviews identified that Youth Service projects have had a positive impact on them.

Comparisons

- Not readily available

Impact on particular groups

- Not readily available

3.5 Do children and young people in Solihull achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school?

3.5.1

Headlines:

- Attainment is good , and improving at Key Stage 3 for English and Science. Slight decline in Maths attainment in 2007
- The gap in attainment at Key Stage 3 has remained fairly constant over the last 5 years between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull.

Indicators for achieving stretching standards at secondary school:

- At Key Stage 3 young people are examined in the core subjects English, maths and science. The expected attainment across all subjects is Level 5+.
- At Key Stage 4 young people are examined in a range of GCSEs or equivalents; good performance is measured by the number of young people who attain 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalents) at grades A* - C. Attainment in English and maths is becoming the most influential indicator.

3.5.2 **Indicator 29: 14 year olds achieving level 5+**

Solihull trend

- Improving: At KS3 the 5-year trend for English Maths and Science is improving attainment at KS3.
- In 2007, 80% of pupils achieved level 5 or above in English, 78 % in maths and 77 % in science. This is just over 1 % point improvement in attainment against last years results for English and Science, while mathematics fell by 2% points

Comparisons

- Average: attainment at KS3 has generally been in line with statistical neighbours for English, maths & science.
- The fast rate of improvement is in line with national improvement rates between 2004 and 2007, based on comparing the aggregated percentages of pupils achieving level 5 and above.
- Contextual Value Added scores show that Solihull young people are progressing at the national average between KS2 and KS3, (99.7) however at individual schools level there is a range of levels of progress demonstrated from well below to well above national averages. 4 out of 12 maintained secondary schools have a value added measure of above 100 while 1 has a measure of below 99 (this school was in special measures which has now been reduced to a notice to improve)

Impact on particular groups

- There is a significant attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, which has remained constant. There has been year on year improvements in levels of attainment over the last 5 years, which are in line with the Borough's rate of improvement, with English improving by 13.5 points, Maths 11% points and Science 16% points.

- Particular groups of BME communities are not achieving the borough averages in core subjects. In particular young people from Black Caribbean and mixed heritage backgrounds have consistently achieved lower results than the Borough average, although there are variations between cohorts, the gap is closing over time. In 2007, Black Caribbean pupils achieved higher attainment rates than the general population, however this improvement was not replicated in mathematics and science.
- A disproportionate number of those not achieving the required standard received Free School Meals.

Key areas of Service Development

- Secondary Mathematics consultants ensure intervention and targeted support responds to a careful analysis of the conversion rates between Key Stage 2 and 3 to build capacity in schools to enable them to ensure vulnerable groups of learners make the best progress.
- 1st wave BSF will deliver 3 new secondary schools, and a special school with a co-located PRU by late 2008, early 2009.

3.5.3 Indicator 30: 16 years achieving 5 A-C GCSEs

Solihull trend

- Improving: attainment at KS4 most significant for 5+ A*-C. 69.2 %, just below the 2007 target of 70%
- Improvements have also been seen for 5+ A*-C including English and Maths, with 53 % of pupils achieved this result in 2007

Comparisons

- Attainment at KS4 for 5+ GCSE A*-C was well above both national and statistical neighbour averages, with Solihull in the top quartile.
- The rate of improvement at KS4 is significantly above national rates from 2004 to 2007. This is most evident for 5+ A*-C including English and maths, where the 6.2 % point rise is 82% higher than the national rate while the 5+A* -C a 9% rise is 25% above national improvement rates.

Impact on particular groups

- While there is a significant attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, at Key Stage 4 the gap has narrowed over the period 2002- 2006 in relation to pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C by 4.3 percentage points.
- Particular groups of black and minority ethnic communities are achieving below the borough average at KS4. In particular young people from Black Caribbean and mixed heritage backgrounds have consistently achieved lower results, with an average of 16 percentage points lower results for 5+A*-C and 20 percentage points lower when including English and Maths.
- It is recognised nationally that looked after children achieve poor educational outcomes that the general population. In Solihull, the overall levels of achievement have fallen slightly: 44% of looked after children aged 16 and over leaving care achieved at least 1 GCSE (a*-G) in 2007 and 12 % of looked after children achieved at least 5 A*-C GCSEs or equivalent. These results are viewed as a success for children and young people in care, considering that of the cohort of 25 pupils, including 5 UASC in care for more than 2 years), 7 young people had a statement of SEN, with learning difficulties being the primary or secondary area of need.

Key areas of Service Development

- Progress is well advanced in developing an induction programme for UASC to prepare them for school life and raise their cultural awareness to support effective integration, starting in September 2008.

4. Do children and young people in Solihull make a positive contribution?

'Positive Contribution' Outcome areas	Indicators
4.1 Engage in decision-making and support the community and the environment	31 Involvement in local democratic processes 32 Voluntary and community engagement
4.2 Engage in law abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school	33 First time entrants to the youth justice system 34 Youth re-offending rates
4.3 Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate	35 Reporting to schools on racist incidents
4.4 Develop self confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges	36 Self-esteem and confidence
4.5 Develop enterprising behaviour	37 To be identified

4.1. Do children and young people in Solihull engage in decision-making and support the community and the environment?

Headlines:

- 4.1.1.
- Consultation with children and young people is viewed as a significant strength, with young people routinely involved in recruiting staff and quality assuring services
 - 98% of young people said they are happy with the support they had to express their views in their community/ about young people's issues in Solihull
 - High levels of participation of children in care to their statutory reviews, including unaccompanied asylum seeking young people
 - Young people have been involved in commissioning sports and leisure activities

Indicators for involvement in decision-making and supporting the community and environment

- Involving children and young people in decision-making is seen by many to be at the heart of sustainable changes to the community. It is also often a contentious cultural issue in discussions about how resources are controlled and influenced.
- Children and young people consistently say that they want to be more involved in decision-making and that their views are not taken seriously.
- The majority of opportunities for involvement in decision-making are informally recorded and so a perception measure of whether children and young people feel that they are taken seriously in decision-making is likely to be added to future reviews
- Involvement in local democratic processes such as the UK Youth Parliament gives a headline indication of participation rates, and also of attitudes towards young people's democratic processes amongst service providers.
- Involvement in formal volunteering is a limited sample of support for community and environment but again, gives an indication of attitudes.

4.1.2. **Indicator 31: Involvement in local democratic processes**

Solihull trend

- From a strong base, there was a decline in 2007/8 turnout from a previous position of year on year increases in numbers of 11-18 year voting in the UK Youth Parliament elections.
- Increase in the number of young people participating in decision making and commissioning activity relating to Youth opportunity and Capital Funds – 222 in 2007/8 (target was 125)²¹
- The majority of schools have pupil school councils.
- The recent Youth Service Inspection noted access to a wide range of opportunities for engaging in decision making as a strength in Solihull

Comparisons

- In the TellUs2 survey 2007, Year 8 and Year 10 pupils were asked if they had given their views about the local area through a questionnaire, as a member of Youth Parliament or through a meeting outside school, the number of young

²¹ Council Results 2007/8

people who answered no was slightly higher than the national figure at 78 % and 74% respectively.

- The number of young people who felt their views are listened to in the running of their schools is lower than the national figure at 45% and 52% respectively

Impact on particular groups

- Young people with learning disabilities are specifically targeted, and a young person with a disability has recently been re-elected as one of two Solihull UK Members of Youth Parliament for 2008/9

Key areas of Service Development

- The Children and Young People's Trust Board agreed Solihull's Standards of Involvement in June 2008, developed in consultation with young people through the Active Involvement Management (AIM) Group
-

4.1.3. Indicator 32: Voluntary and community engagement

Solihull trend

- Numbers of children and young people applying to volunteer via 'do-it' (a national database of volunteering opportunities) and personal interviews are rising. However these figures reflect enquiries, not the numbers that actually go onto volunteer.

Comparisons / Impact on particular groups

- Not readily available

4.2. Do children and young people in Solihull engage in law abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school?

Headlines:

- 4.2.1
- The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system is significantly lower than the 2005-6 baseline
 - Significant reduction in re-offending rates compared to baseline for community penalties and custody penalties, though a smaller level of increases for pre-court penalties and first tier penalties.

Indicators for law abiding and positive behaviour

- Numbers of young people entering the youth justice system have broken the law and come to the attention of the Police and Youth Offending Team, which triggers an intervention to prevent further criminal or anti-social behaviour.
- The rate at which young people who have offended and been caught, then go on to offend again (and be caught) shows how successful the interventions are at diverting them from criminal and anti-social behaviour in the longer-term.

4.2.2. **Indicator 33: First time entrants to youth justice system**

Solihull trend

- Improving: Between April and December 2006/7 there were 335 first time entrants into the youth justice system. This is nearly 25% lower than the 2005/6 baseline of 444, and more than meets the target of 5% reduction.

Comparisons

- The national target for the reduction of first time entrants into the criminal justice system has consistently been exceeded and performance is well above regional national and family group comparators.
- Reported crime levels for children and young people aged 10-17 years old across the area at 45.7 per 1000 were below the average for England/Wales of 53²²

Impact on particular groups

- Males aged 13 to 27 comprise the main defendant age group for all crimes across Solihull and BME groups are over represented.²³
- The proportion of Looked After Children aged 10 and over sanctioned for an offence committed whilst looked after was 7.3 for 2006/7. The Average for England /Wales was 9%. During 2007/8 11 children in care were given a final warning or convicted of an offence whilst in care, which equates to a ratio of 1.16 compared to the total number of offending young people in the area, which is rated as 3 blob band performance, the highest available.

Key areas of Service Development

- Review of YISP and YISP + (which target young people at risk of anti social behaviour or offending) as part of IYSS Project
- NS Fusion, a 5 year sport and physical activity programme has targeted crime hotspots, which have seen significant reductions in total recorded crime,

²² Report on Solihull Youth Offending Service June 2008

²³ Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008

including a 17% reduction in recorded criminal damage and anti social behaviour in Smithswood between June – August 2006 to 2007

4.2.3. Indicator 34: Youth Re-offending rates

Solihull trend

- There has been a significant reduction in re-offending rates when tracking cohorts of young people over a two-year period, which demonstrates that recidivism has been reduced for all penalty types except custodial sentences.
- For community penalties there has been a 23% reduction and custody penalties a 67% reduction on 2002/3 performance.

Comparisons

- Equates to overall performance of 33.1 % compared to national average of 56.9% and West Midlands average of 57.1

Impact on particular groups

- Not readily available.

Key areas of Service Development

- An Improvement Plan is in place to address recommendations following the inspection of Solihull Youth Offending Service report in June 2008

4.3. Do children and young people in Solihull develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate?

- 4.3.1. Headlines:**
- HRBQ and the TellUs surveys are the main data sources as there are few formal measures available.
 - National evidence shows that some children and young people, particularly those from black and minority ethnic groups, are more likely to suffer severe bullying.

Indicators for positive relationships and choosing not to bully or discriminate:

- There are few formal measures of the level to which children and young people in Solihull develop positive relationships. Bullying rates, as covered in 2.3, are difficult to secure.
- Particular duties were introduced by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 on schools to protect children from racist disadvantage and discrimination. Racist bullying incidents must be collated and analysed – the only type of bullying that requires this. Racist incidents in schools should provide a good measure but accuracy is questionable – there are powerful disincentives to reporting for both pupils and schools.

4.3.2. Indicator 35: Reporting in schools on racist incidents

Solihull trend

- 97.6% of Solihull schools report racist incidents (2007/8), which is a slight decline in last year's figure of 100%. Despite the reporting there is sparse evidence as to the trend in relation to racist bullying.

Comparisons

- Studies indicate that approximately a quarter of those who had been victims of bullying had been racially insulted (Bullying Today: A Report by the Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2006).

Impact on particular groups

- Research suggests that where Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) children experience bullying, it is twice as likely to be severe. Moreover, bullying incidents are a subset of the indirect and direct racist hostility which BME children are likely to experience in a number of situations. These bullying attacks may therefore amplify a broader experience of rejection, and impact on a child's sense of cultural as well as personal worth (Bullying Today: A Report by the Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2006).
- New guidance for schools was published in recent months, with specialist advice on tackling the bullying of children with SEN and disabilities, and on homophobic bullying, to add to existing guidance on tackling bullying related to race, religion and culture.

Key areas of Service Development

- More required to improve rates of Racist incidents reporting and trend information

4.4. Do children and young people in Solihull develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges?

4.4.1 Headlines:

- Not enough evidence to draw any firm conclusions, though 76.3 % of young people surveyed via baseline reviews conducted while using the Youth Service reported an increase in confidence.

Indicators for developing self-confidence and dealing with life changes and challenges:

- Self-confidence and ability to cope with transition are key factors in building children and young people's resilience. Adults with poorly developed life skills face limited career opportunities and lower levels of work-based training and courses leading to qualifications (*Scottish Council for Research in Education, 2000*).
- These life skills have to do with the way we behave – towards other people, toward ourselves, towards the challenges and problems of life. They include skills in communicating, in making decisions and solving problems, in negotiating and asserting ourselves, in thinking critically and understanding our feelings (UNESCO)
- Life skills are both concrete and abstract and they give children and young people the opportunity to develop their potential, their personality and their strengths. Evidence is limited about life skill development as it is not merely mean measuring the learning new knowledge, but the development of abilities to make the most of life.
- Within the move towards more personalised learning, the new focus on supporting the development of children's social and emotional skills is designed to help them develop greater resilience and preparedness for change, both in learning and socially (The Children's Plan 2007)

4.4.2. **Indicator 36: Self esteem and confidence**

Solihull trend

- In the HRBQ surveys of school pupils in 2004 and 2006 high self-esteem scores have remained relatively stable at just over a third. Self esteem scores rise with age. 2007 figures show 35% at Year 2, 32 % Year 4 & 6, and 46 % Year 8 & 10

Comparisons / Impact on particular groups

- 63 % of Year 10 girls worried about their looks compared to 33 % of boys

4.5. Do children and young people in Solihull develop enterprising behaviour?

4.5.1 **Headlines:**

- New services being developed to support enterprising behaviour, including free support to people wanting to start their own business, including the young (post 16) with opportunities to bring schools and key industries together within the Borough and target the young specially.

Indicators for developing enterprising behaviour

- The concept of youth enterprise ranges from the promotion of self-employment and development of businesses to a focus on young people being 'enterprising' and entrepreneurial in their personal and collective actions.
- The Enterprise Report 2005, 'Making Ideas Happen' revealed a gap between society's growing recognition of the value of enterprise and the actual level of entrepreneurial activity across Britain. The broad cultural pattern in the UK is that over the last four years people have generally become much more positive about entrepreneurship, and 71 percent think that starting a business is a high status activity, but this has not translated into proportionate action.
- Amongst young entrepreneurs two-thirds feel that they face more challenges than those older than themselves in getting a business off the ground and over half feel they are likely to be less successful
- Research commissioned by Enterprise Insight found that teenagers and young adults have a desire for control, creativity and a longing to make their mark – all qualities that are highly desirable for enterprise to flourish. But while young people express the desire to be enterprising, only a tiny fraction of them are actually running businesses. Many do not know where or how to get started.

4.5.2. **Indicator 37: To be identified**

5. Do children and young people in Solihull benefit from economic well-being?

'Economic Well-being' Outcome areas	Indicators
5.1 Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school	38 Young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) 39 Retention rates for 16, 17 and 18 year olds on education and training programmes
5.2 Ready for employment	40 19 year olds achieving a Level 2 or higher NVQ
5.3 Live in decent homes and sustainable communities	41 Social housing in decent condition
5.4 Access to transport and material goods	42 Access to services
5.5 Live in households free from low income	43 Children living in low income households 44 Stock and take-up of childcare for all families

5.1. Do young people in Solihull engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school?

Headlines:

5.1.1.

- The majority of young people in Solihull aged 16 – 18 are in full time education, employment or training, and numbers of young people who are NEET is significantly reducing.
- North Solihull has a larger proportion of young people not in education, employment or training.
- Young people from a mixed ethnic background have the highest rates of NEET

Indicators for engaging in education, employment and training on leaving school:

- The decisions that young people make about engaging in further education, employment or training on leaving school demonstrate their aspirations and achievements. A study has shown that a key determinant for young people becoming and remaining Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) was “low levels of aspiration and little motivation” (Popham, 2003). Young people who are NEET are rarely involved in decision-making or given an opportunity to voice their concerns.
- In addition, young people who become NEET often have very poor or no qualifications from school. Their sense of self-worth and self-confidence can be improved by noting and celebrating even small achievements, which contribute to them taking bigger steps towards engaging with educational or training opportunities.
- The 14-19 White Paper (DfES 2005) highlighted four groups of young people as more likely to become NEET: Young people with low attainment at GCSE level; from low socio-economic groups; who truant persistently in year 11; who are teenage mothers.
- Recent national statistics (DfES 2005) showed that Pakistani and Bangladeshi young people aged 19 were more likely to be NEET than white young people (10% compared to 16%), whereas Indians were least likely to be NEET (5%). The data also showed that young people with a disability or a health problem were three times more likely to be NEET at 19 as those without (27% compared to 9%). 28% of young people with fewer than 5 GCSEs at any grade were also likely to be NEET at 19 and those excluded from school at some point in year 10 or 11 were more likely to be NEET at 19 (18%) than those who had not truanted (10%).

5.1.2. **Indicator 38: Young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**

Solihull trend

- Improving: The proportion of young people aged 16 and older who are NEET has been reduced from 9.42% in November 2005 to 8.46% in November 2006, and 6.41 in Nov 2007 and this improvement has been maintained with the NEET rate averaging at just under 6% over the Jan 08- May 08 period. This improvement means that Solihull has surpassed its Government target (10%).

Comparisons

- Solihull is one of the higher performing areas in reducing NEETs (Birmingham 11.4%; Sandwell 15.3%; Dudley 6.5%; Walsall 8.9%; Coventry 8.5%; Warwickshire 6.7%).
- The proportion of NEETs in Solihull is below the national rate of 6.6 %.
- In terms of Young Offenders engaged in suitable education, employment or training, Solihull is performing below national and regional averages

Impact on particular groups

- Analysis of vulnerable groups shows that 74% of teenage parents known to Connexions are NEET; 9.8 % of young people with LDD are NEET, which is lower than the national average of 11.4%; young people from mixed ethnic minority backgrounds have the highest rate of NEET, with 11.2 from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds.

Key areas of Service Development

- The reduction of NEET is a whole system approach, encompassing preventative work with Children Missing Education (potential NEETS of the future), developing appropriate 16+ provision with the LSC and targeted interventions through Connexions
- The LAA is funding an alternative curriculum project across the Borough for 14-16 year olds who are disengaged from the school curriculum.
- New schools and college provision through a wider range of vocational provision designed to reduce NEETs
- Renewed focus on improving performance of support for Young Offenders

5.1.3. Indicator 39: Retention rates for 16, 17 and 18 year olds on education and training programmes

Solihull trend

- The majority of 16-18 year olds are in education and training programmes.

Comparisons

- Solihull is above the national average for retention rates.

Impact on particular groups

- According to surveys of school pupils, young people in Solihull are more likely than the national average to say that they want to stay in full time education after Year 11.
- The proportion of care leavers who at 19 are in employment education or training is 67%, which is a 5-blob performance.

5.2. Are young people in Solihull ready for employment?

Headlines:

- 5.2.1
- Improving: More 19 year olds achieve a Level 2 or higher NVQ than the national and West Midlands average.
 - Inspections indicate that the majority of schools make a good contribution towards children and young people's workplace skills.

Indicators for readiness for employment

- According to a literature review commissioned by the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU, 2004) young people without Level 2 qualifications are increasingly identified as a risk factor with social exclusion.
- The national target is for 85% of 19 year olds to achieve a Level 2 or higher NVQ by 2013, with a longer term aim that by 2020 young people have much stronger functional, personal learning and thinking skills so that employers are satisfied with young people's readiness for work.

5.2.2. **Indicator 40: 19 year olds achieving a Level 2 or higher NVQ**

Solihull trend

- Improving: 74% achieving Level 2 or higher NVQ in 2007/8²⁴
- Since 2004 the numbers achieving Level 2 or higher NVQ have been increasing.

Comparisons

- Solihull is slightly higher than National and West Midlands average which is also reflecting an improving trend. (71% nationally in 2006)

Impact on particular groups

- Not readily available.

²⁴ Council Results 2007/8

5.3. Do children and young people in Solihull live in decent homes and sustainable communities?

Headlines:

- 5.3.1.
- By March 2008, less than 20% Council homes in the Borough did not meet the Government's 'Decent Homes' standard.
 - The percentage of care leavers at age 19 who live in suitable accommodation has improved

Indicators for decent homes and sustainable communities:

- The Government has established a 'Decent Homes' Standard to improve conditions for vulnerable households in privately owned housing, particularly those with children. In order to be decent a home should be warm, weatherproof and have reasonably modern facilities. Decent homes are important for the health and well being of those living in them. Poor housing helps an area to get a bad reputation. That makes it an unpopular place to live, which in turn may lead to the breakdown of communities.
- There is a national target to bring all social housing into decent condition by 2010.

5.3.2. **Indicator 41: Social housing in decent condition**

Solihull trend

- By April 2008, 81.42% of Council homes in the borough met the Government's 'Decent Homes' standard. In the private sector approximately 1 in 10 homes require investment to remedy disrepair and to improve thermal efficiency.
- Overall, Solihull's housing offer is good in terms of quality, condition and range of homes, although home ownership choices are limited in the North Solihull regeneration area and there is a shortage of homes which are affordable by people on mid to low incomes in the remainder of the Borough.
- The North Solihull Strategic Framework sets a long-term objective of restructuring the housing market in the regeneration area. There is a planned 4000 net increase in the number of homes over the 15 years of the programme, with a target tenure balance of 61% home ownership (including 4% intermediate) and 39% social rented. This will shift the tenure balance in the regeneration area closer to other parts of the Borough, although there will still be a higher proportion of rented accommodation in this area. At present 51% of homes in the regeneration area are owner-occupied and 49% are rented from a social landlord, primarily Solihull Community Housing (SCH).

Comparisons / Impact on particular groups

- Not readily available

5.4. Do children and young people in Solihull have access to transport and material goods?

Headlines:

- 5.4.1
- Although Solihull is regarded as affluent, many children, young people and families in north Solihull live in circumstances of material deprivation and this is likely to be impacted further by the economic downturn.
 - Families in central and south east Solihull have to travel further for services which will impact particularly on those on lower incomes.

Indicators for access to transport and material goods

- Income is an indirect measure of poverty. Living standards, in particular material deprivation, is favoured nationally as a more direct measure of poverty (Department of Work & Pensions, 2006). Material deprivation measures generally ask respondents about the ownership of items regarded as 'necessities' by a majority of the population.
- Evidence from many countries persistently shows that children who grow up in poverty are more likely to be in poor health, have learning and behavioural difficulties, underachieve at school, become pregnant at too early an age, have lower skills and aspirations, be low paid, unemployed, and welfare dependent.
- Poor access to services is an important measure for rural areas where population numbers are low and often affluent, masking pockets of deprivation which are exacerbated by a lack of local services.

5.4.2. Indicator 42: Access to services

Solihull trend

- In relation to the Index of Multiple Deprivation as a whole Solihull fares well, Dorridge for example is in the 5% least deprived areas nationally. However, some areas in north Solihull are amongst the most deprived 10% in the UK.

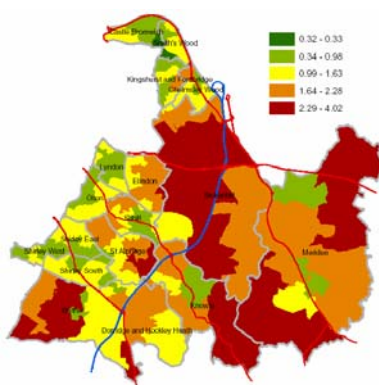
Comparisons

- A fifth of Solihull households are without a car or van, which is lower than the national average, with much lower levels of car ownership in north Solihull and a greater reliance on public transport to access jobs and services.

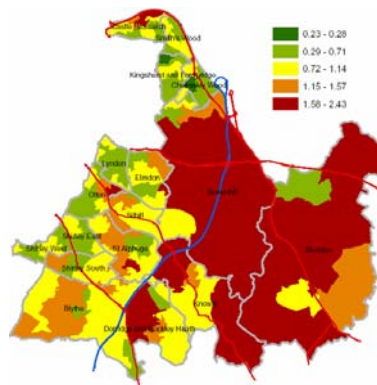
Impact on particular groups

- Families in central and south east Solihull have to travel further for services that will impact particularly on those on lower incomes.

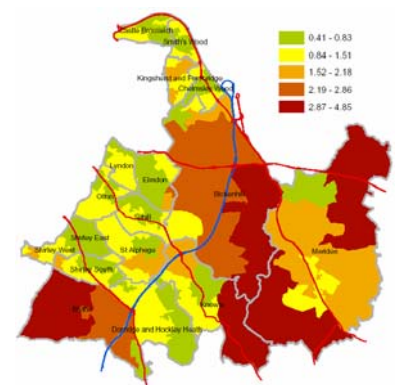
Distance from a GP



Distance from a primary school



Distance from a supermarket



5.5. Do children and young people in Solihull live in households free from low income?

5.5.1 Headlines:

- Numbers of children living in Solihull families where no one is working has reduced and is lower than the national average, but masks significant deprivation in North Solihull, and some new areas in south Solihull.
- There is evidence of sufficient childcare in Solihull, but parents would like to see more choice in the types of childcare available in some areas in South Solihull, and better provision for disabled children.

Indicators for households free from low income:

- The Child Poverty Review (Spending Review 2004) found that while some children who grow up in low-income households will go on to achieve their full potential, many others will not. Many children experiencing poverty have limited opportunities to play safely and often live in overcrowded and inadequate housing, eat less nutritious food, suffer more accidents and ill health and have more problems with school work.
- Growing up in a low-income household was more likely to lead to poverty in adulthood for those born in 1970 compared to those born in 1958.
- Childcare provision does not have a direct impact on poverty, but it can free up parents' time to enable them to participate in employment. Research suggests that paid work is a means of alleviating income poverty and material deprivation (Berthoud et al 2004) and formal childcare can make a contribution, providing it is accessible and affordable.

5.5.2. **Indicator 43: Children living in low income households**

Solihull trend

- 15.3 % of children in Solihull live in families that are income deprived.

Comparisons

- The numbers of children living in Solihull families that are income deprived is lower than the national average of 18.27%.
- However the whole of the area comprising the Regeneration Zone is within the 40% most deprived in England, and some local areas within the Zone rank in the 10% most deprived.
- There are 7 super output areas in the south of the Borough, which are now also within the 40% nationally most deprived, with Greenhill Way and Hobs Moat North most notable in terms of change since the 2004 IMD.²⁵

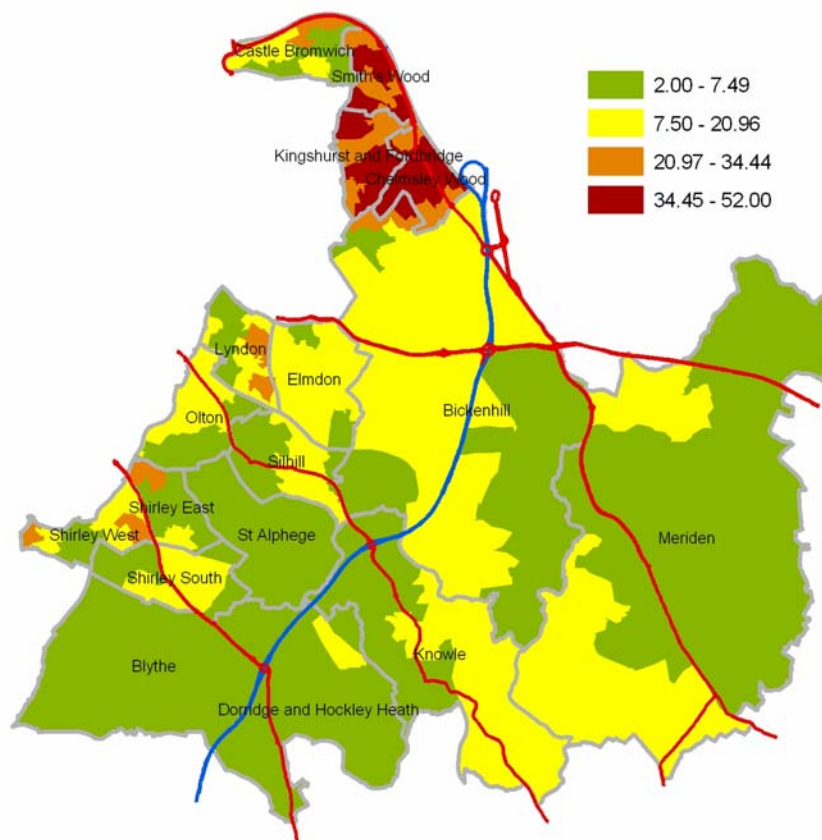
Impact on particular groups

- More children in the 3 wards in the North live in low-income households. There is a strong relationship between single parents and low-income families. Kingshurst and Smiths Wood have the highest concentration of single parents in the Borough.

Income Deprivation affecting children (IMD 2007)²⁶

²⁵ Understanding Solihull 2007

²⁶ Understanding Solihull 2007



5.5.3. Indicator 44: Stock and take-up of childcare for all families

Solihull trend

- Improving: Stock of available childcare in Solihull has increased by 6% since 2005 (²⁷).
- Use of informal childcare remains constant since 2000, at around 39%, despite the growth in childcare places ²⁸
- In the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007, 73 % of parents surveyed agreed that the quality of childcare available is high, while less than 50% of parents agreed that there was good choice available
- **Comparisons**
- Take up of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit puts Solihull in the top quartile nationally (19% compared to a national average of 16% in 2005-2006)²⁹. This is seen as an indicator of take up of formal childcare, and is linked to the Government's target to reduce the proportion of children living in households where no one is working.

Impact on particular groups

²⁷ Ofsted Early Years Profile Sept 07

²⁸ Solihull Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007

²⁹ HMRC May 2007

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- - Parents of disabled children face particular challenges in terms of accessing appropriate childcare to meet their child's needs, particularly for older disabled children 11+
 - Parents in Shirley and Castle Bromwich have expressed difficulties in accessing holiday provision, and both wards have very low numbers of holiday childcare places available.

Key areas of Service Development

- Solihull is one of 10 pilot authorities for the Aiming High for Disabled Children Childcare project

Section 4: Feedback on the Outcomes review

The Solihull Children and Young People's Trust will be publishing an Outcomes Review on an annual basis to support the development of the Children and Young People's Plan. The next Outcomes Review will be published in September 09.

1. What evidence do you have which can help the Outcomes Review tell a more accurate story?

2. What information would you need in future Outcome Reviews to make it more useful to you?

3. Are there different indicators which you feel would give a clearer story of outcomes for children and young people in Solihull?

Please return your feedback to childtrust@solihull.gov.uk or to the Children and Young People's Trust, Council House, Solihull, B91 3QU.

For more information about the Children and Young People's Trust go to www.solihullonevoice.org.