

Review of Outcomes for Children and Young People in Solihull

October 2009

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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

This Review, the third to be undertaken by the Children and Young People's Trust, comes at an important time, as Partners and key stakeholder, including children, young people and families begin the process of consultations to identify the priorities for change for the next Children and Young People Plan to be published in February 2010. This new Plan will be used by all of the Trust's partners when deciding how to use their resources.

Based on the latest information available, the Review 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 just list the statistics, and to show how outcomes in Solihull compare to elsewhere in the country.

The purpose of the Review is to:

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

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?

The Children and Young People's Trust is one of 5 thematic groups within the Solihull Partnership, all of which work together to deliver the vision in the Sustainable Community Strategy for Solihull 2008-2018¹: where everyone has an equal chance to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous.

Commissioning is the key mechanism for reshaping services around the needs of local people, including children and young people. Planning and commissioning of services with a focus on outcomes supports the Children and Young People's Trust to make the shift from funding services to investing in results that make a difference.

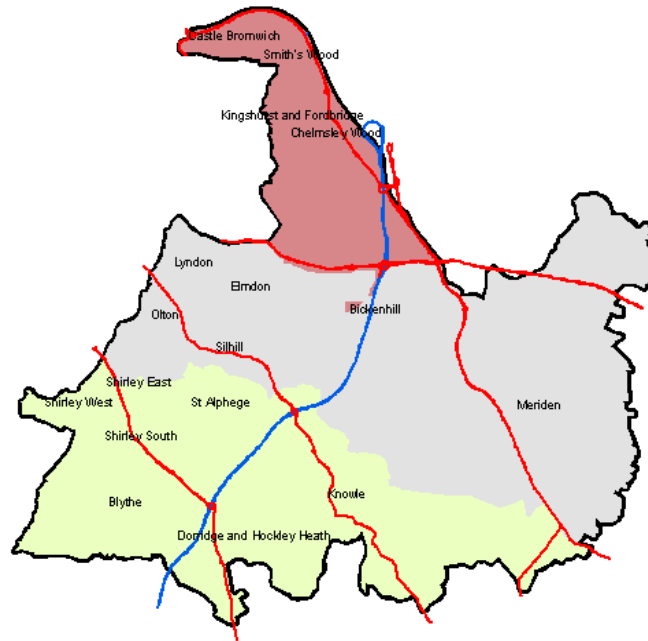
Review Structure

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?

¹ One Borough: An Equal Chance for All Sustainable Community Strategy for Solihull 2008-2018



Solihull Borough – 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. Much of the perception data about how young people feel about outcomes for them comes from the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire, conducted with children and young people in Year 4, Year 6, Year 8 and Year 10 in schools across the Borough. The last survey was in 2007, with the next one planned for February 2010, so this data has yet to be updated. Where possible, we have tried to give a local level view of outcomes, as well as a Borough level view, but this is still work in progress, and much information on outcomes is not yet readily available at locality level. The challenge remains to continue to fill the gaps and ensure a consistent, rigorous approach, which is open to scrutiny. This is being supported by the Solihull Observatory, being established within the Solihull Partnership, 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; Tellus 2 and Tell Us 3, Education data; Census data; Annual Performance Assessment 2008; 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; One Borough: An Equal Chance for All Sustainable Community Strategy for Solihull 2008-2018; Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008; Solihull NHS Care Trust; NCHOD; Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures: A strategy for children and Young People’s Health DoH; DCSF Statistical Publications; Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England DoH; Understanding Solihull; Places Analysis Tool - <http://www.pat.communities.gov.uk/>; PWC Benchmarking Club, 2008/9 End of Year Data; <http://www.ncmp.ic.nhs.uk/newresults.aspx>; 2008/2009 – Youth Service Customer Satisfaction Survey; Bullying Today: A Report by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner, 2006; Ofsted Early Years Profile Aug 2008; Solihull Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007; National School Survey 2009

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 203,900 people², a quarter of whom are children and young people under the age of 20, 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. In 2007, three of the wards in the north of the Borough were rated as amongst the most deprived 10% in England, and there are other pockets of deprivation such as in Bickenhill, Elmdon, Lyndon, Olton and Shirley. A significant number of local people across Solihull face poor health, education, housing and employment opportunities.

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 2008 Population Estimates (Census Information - Solihull MBC)

Age	2001	2006	Change since 2001	2007	Change since 2001	2008	Change since 2001
0-4 yrs	11800	11200	-5.08%	11000	-6.78%	9100	-22.88%
5-9 yrs	13000	12500	-3.85%	11900	-8.46%	11800	-9.23%
10-14yrs	14100	13500	-4.26%	13800	-2.13%	13700	-2.84%
15-19yrs	12200	13000	6.56%	14200	16.39%	14200	16.39%

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 2009 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. Nearly half of the children and

² One Borough: An Equal Chance for All Sustainable Community Strategy for Solihull 2008-2018

young people looked after by the local authority are Unaccompanied Asylum seeker Children (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 2008

The Annual Performance Assessment (APA) 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 underwent a Joint Area Review (JAR) in March 2008, which described the outcomes achieved by children and young people growing up in an area, and evaluated the way local services, taken together, contribute to their wellbeing, and the headlines from the Joint Area Review were highlighted in last year's Review of Outcomes.

The 2008 APA, published in December 2008, states that the council is making generally good progress in responding to the recommendations of the JAR, and that overall, strong leadership, combined with effective partnerships, has accurately identified six key priorities which are successfully driving improvements in services for children and young people, and beginning to narrow the gap for vulnerable groups. Solihull demonstrates that its ambitions for children and young people are good, and clear priorities are set which successfully steer the work of all partners. The council and its partners demonstrate effective working practices leading to improved outcomes for children and young people, and this is seen as a major strength.

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2008 states that:

- Solihull Council provides services that consistently deliver above minimum requirements for most users
- Health outcomes for Looked After Children and young people are good and better than statistical neighbour because their needs are addressed well.
- Children and young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities are well supported through effective multi disciplinary work
- The proportion of mothers who are breast feeding continues to be too low.
- There are extensive, high quality and well resourced preventative services to families to prevent family breakdown, contributing to a below average proportion of children in the local population becoming looked after by the council.
- Standards continue to be high at Key Stages 1, 2, and 4 compared with national levels.
- The achievement gap for children and young people between the north of Solihull and the rest of the Council is reducing, but remains too wide at Key Stages 1, 3 and 4.
- The involvement and consultation with children and young people including the most vulnerable is good.
- In response to the concerns of children and young people reported in the 2007 APA, there is an effective multi agency anti bullying strategy in place.
- The recent JAR identified a lack of strategic overview to broaden corporate parenting. An action plan has been produced but it is too early to evaluate the impact of the plan in improving outcomes for these children.
- New schools and college provision in the north of Solihull have contributed to reducing significantly the proportion of young people who are NEET.
- Strong partnerships have led to good progress towards the delivery of new 14-19 vocational diplomas.
- The percentage of teenage parents who are in education, employment or training remains too low

Section 2: Review Headlines

Summary across all outcomes

Are children and young people in Solihull healthy?

- Breastfeeding initiation rates appear to be declining, and while rates at 6-8 weeks are rising, they are still lower than the national average and remain too low.
- At a time when national obesity rates are rising, rates in Solihull appear to be slightly reducing, though 14% of Year 6 children are considered obese
- The majority of children say that they are happy with their lives, but there is some evidence that young people in Solihull are more likely to worry about exams and tests, the way they look and growing up.
- There has been a rise in the under 18 conception rate, particularly in north Solihull
- Chlamydia screening in Solihull is well below national and regional averages
- While there has been progress in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use, the Tellus survey indicates that 11-15 year olds in Solihull are more likely to have had an alcoholic drink than the national average.
- Health outcomes for Looked After Children and young people are good and better than statistical neighbours

Are children and young people in Solihull safe?

- The level of children subject to child protection plans is low in comparison to the national average as would be expected from the level of deprivation within Solihull as a whole.
- Bullying in schools is reported as below national averages, and 75% of pupils think that their school takes bullying seriously.
- Concerns about personal safety rate highly in consultations with children and young people. A higher proportion of local children feel unsafe on public transport compared with the national picture.
- Local evidence shows that young people aged 10-15 are more likely than any other group to become a victim of crime³ and this is an issue which is also being considered by the Safer Communities Strategic Group of the Local Strategic Partnership
- Because of the Home Office centre in the borough, just over 40% of Looked After Children are unaccompanied asylum seekers, nearly doubling numbers in recent years.
- Since July 2008 the rate of local Looked After Children has also risen, possibly relating to national events.
- The number of children who die in road traffic accidents remains low and below national rates.
- The hospital admission rate for Solihull girls was noticeably higher than the England and the West Midlands average for girls, and this needs further investigation.

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. Children in north Solihull do less well than the Solihull average although they perform above national levels.
- There are good attendance rates at both primary and secondary school, but Tellus data suggests that only 50% of children and young people enjoy school.
- Overall attainment at primary school is very good. There is an attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, but the gap is closing at Key Stage 2 in the key indicator of the percentage of pupils attaining Level 4 or above in English and Mathematics from 20% in 2005 to 13% in 2009.
- The gap in attainment at Key Stage Four has reduced from 33% to 19% from 2005 to 2008 for the percentage of students gaining five or more grades A*-C.

³ Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008

- Provisional results for the 2008/9 academic year for GCSE 5A*-C including English and Maths show that we are moving in the right direction in terms of improvement, but not fast enough to meet our LAA target.
- 721 young people (13-19) yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects, up 46% on the previous year, and 883 young people gained recorded outcomes up 23% on the previous year
- 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 viewed as good, with young people regularly involved in recruiting staff and quality assuring services.
- Young people have been involved in commissioning and a range of programmes including positive activities, antibullying work and play area developments.
- 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 and performance is well above regional national and family group comparators.
- There has been a considerable reduction in re-offending rates, with a strong performance compared with national, regional and statistical neighbour averages.

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
- In 2008/9 Solihull had the lowest percentage of NEETs of all Metropolitan Councils, however, the percentage of young offenders and teenage parents in education, employment and training remains too low
- Although Solihull is regarded as affluent, many children, young people and families live in circumstances of material deprivation, and this has been further impacted by the economic downturn
- The numbers of children living in Solihull families where no one is working is lower than the national average, but this masks significant deprivation in North Solihull.
- Nearly 20% of under fives in Solihull lives in a household dependant on workless benefits
- There are now areas of Central Solihull which fall into the 40% nationally most deprived wards, notably in Bickenhill, Elmdon, Lyndon, Olton and Shirley.
- The percentage of care leavers at age 19 who live in suitable accommodation remains very high
- 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 continue to be the largest group of young people in the Borough, which has implications for services for this age group
- There is still insufficient evidence of outcomes for children in localities beyond a north/south split.
- 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.

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 compared with West Midlands but the highest proportion of these is in north Solihull. ▪ An increasing number of pregnant women in Solihull continue to smoke throughout their pregnancy ▪ Although national obesity rates are rising, rates in Solihull appear to be slightly reducing, though 14% Year 6 children in Solihull are considered obese. ▪ MMR Immunisation rates are high although have recently reduced slightly.
1.2 Mentally and Emotionally Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The majority of children say they are happy with their lives but evidence from HRBQ shows that Solihull pupils in Secondary School are more likely to worry about exams and tests, the way they look and growing up compared to pupils in the reference sample. ▪ Exams and tests is the top worry for boys ▪ Year 10 girls worry more about the way they look
1.3 Sexually Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There has been a rise in the under 18 conception rate in Solihull particularly in the north of the borough ▪ Chlamydia infection rates amongst young people are rising nationally, but local rates are beginning to decline ▪ Chlamydia screening in Solihull is well below national and regional averages
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, 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. ▪ The number of school pupils participating in at least two hours high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week appears to be falling ▪ Breastfeeding initiation rates appear to be declining, and while rates at 6-8 weeks are rising, they are still lower than the national average and remain too low.
1.5 Choose not to take Illegal drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress has been made in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use ▪ 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 2008 states that

- The percentage of Looked After Children and young people who had healthcare assessments is good, and in line with the national average

- Comprehensive child and adolescent mental health services are being delivered with no long waits.
- Health outcomes for Looked After Children and young people are good and better than statistical neighbour because their needs are addressed well.
- Children and young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities are well supported through effective multi disciplinary work
- The proportion of mothers who are breast feeding continues to be too low.

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"> ▪ The level of children subject to child protection plans is low in comparison to the national average as would be expected from the level of deprivation within Solihull as a whole. ▪ Solihull's percentage of repeat child protection plans increased from 11% in 2006/07 to 19% in 2007/08 and 23% in 2008/09. However, performance for the first half of 2009/10 is showing significant improvement.
2.2 Safe from accidental injury and death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of children who died in road traffic accidents remains low and the percentage is further reducing. ▪ The rate of hospital admissions in Solihull continues to compare favourably with regional and national averages as well as with statistical neighbours. ▪ The hospital admission rate for Solihull girls was noticeably higher than both England and the West Midlands average for girls
2.3 Safe from bullying and discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bullying in schools is reported as below national averages ▪ Children and young people report that schools take bullying seriously ▪ Almost three quarters of children and young people think their school takes bullying seriously
2.4 Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 crime⁴. ▪ A higher proportion of local children feel unsafe on public transport compared with national averages.
2.5 Have security, stability and are cared for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proportion of Looked After Children is rising, mainly attributable to rising numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. ▪ LAC stability remains good although the recent growth in local LAC and the high number of UASC means that the increased in-house foster placements have not kept up with demand. ▪ Increasing LAC numbers and costs are putting the LAC budget under pressure

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2008 states that

- The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good
- Children and young people are provided with a safe environment in Solihull through effective multi agency preventative action
- There are extensive, high quality and well resourced preventative services to families to prevent family breakdown, contributing to a below average proportion of children in the local population becoming looked after by the council.

⁴ Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008

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 although it is in line or above national levels of attainment, and closing the gap remains a top priority. ▪ 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 scores than boys in Foundation Stage Profile.
3.2 Attend and enjoy school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good attendance rates at both primary and secondary schools with results in 2008 showing an improving picture. ▪ Attendance of Looked After Children is good and above both the national average and that for statistical neighbours ▪ Permanent exclusion rates had been rising but are below the national average rates, and services have been put in place to target children who are at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded ▪ TellUs data suggests that only 50% of children and young people enjoy school 'always' or 'most of the time'.
3.3 Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall attainment at primary school is very good. ▪ At KS1, Solihull is in the top 10 local authorities for all indicators. ▪ There is a significant attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, but the gap is closing at Key Stage 2 in the key indicator of the percentage of pupils attaining Level 4 or above in English and Mathematics. ▪ Children from BME groups, and children with dual heritage perform less well than Borough averages for English and Maths
3.4 Achieve personal & social development and enjoy recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The recent audit of what schools are offering as part of their extended services confirmed a substantial offer of after school activities ▪ TellUs 3 shows that 68.4% young people took part in positive activities. ▪ 721 young people (13-19yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects, an increase of 46% on the previous year ▪ 883 young people (13-19yrs) gained 'recorded outcomes' via Youth Service projects, an increase of 23% on the previous year • 98.9% 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 4 for the percentage of students gaining 5 or more grades A*-C including English and Maths, • Provisional results for the 2008/9 academic year for GCSE 5A*-C including English and Maths show that we are moving in the right direction in terms of improvement, but not fast enough to meet our LAA target. ▪ 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 increased over the period 2005- 2008 in relation to pupils achieving 5 GCSEs including Maths and English at grades A*-C by 9.2 percentage points, but decreased by 13% for 5 GCSEs at

	<p>A*-C, not including Maths and English.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people from White and Black Caribbean and other mixed heritage backgrounds have consistently achieved lower results. ▪ Nationally, 14% Looked After Children achieve 5+ grades A*-C. In Solihull, only 4% Looked After Children achieve this level of success.
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Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2008- states that

- Overall, standards continue to be high at Key Stage 1,2, and 4 compared with national levels
- The proportion of children in Foundation Stage who achieve national expectations continues to rise and is now well above average
- The school attendance of Looked After Children is well above average and this group have had no permanent exclusions during the year
- The achievement gap for children and young people between the north of Solihull and the rest of the Council is reducing, but remains too wide at Key Stage 1,3 and 4

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 good , with young people regularly involved in recruiting staff and quality assuring services in the Youth Service, but the numbers of young people who say they have given their views about the local area are lower than the national average ▪ There are high levels of participation of children in care to their statutory reviews, including unaccompanied asylum seeking young people ▪ 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 ▪ Young people have been involved in commissioning a range of services, including positive 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 and performance is well above regional national and family group comparators. ▪ There has been considerable reduction in re-offending rates, with strong performance compared with national, regional and statistic neighbour averages.
4.3 Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National evidence shows that some children and young people, particularly those from black and minority ethnic groups, are more likely to suffer severe bullying. ▪ There is sparse local evidence as to the trend in relation to racist bullying
4.4 Develop self confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 98.9% of young people surveyed reported an increase in confidence as a result of using the Youth Service.
4.5 Develop enterprising behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New services have been 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 2008 states that:

- The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good
- The involvement and consultation with children and young people including the most vulnerable is good.
- Children continue to play an important role in shaping many services. For example, children with learning disabilities and/or disabilities have campaigned successfully for improvements to four playgrounds
- Good arrangements have increased opportunities for unaccompanied asylum – seeking children and young people to contribute to the wider community and to influence decision making.

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 is significantly reducing. ▪ In 2008/9 Solihull had the lowest percentage of NEETs of all Metropolitan Councils. ▪ 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 ▪ In terms of Young Offenders engaged in suitable education, employment or training, Solihull is performing less well than national and regional averages.
5.2 Ready for employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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"> ▪ As at 1st April 2009, 88% of Solihull Community Housing properties met the Government's 'Decent Homes' standard. This was an increase of 7% on the previous year and SCH are on target to complete the programme by 2010/11
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 live in circumstances of material deprivation and this has been impacted further by the economic downturn. ▪ Families in central and south east Solihull have to travel further for services which impacts particularly on those on lower incomes
5.5 Live in households free from low income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nearly 20% of under fives in Solihull lives in a home dependant on workless benefits ▪ The percentage of children living in income deprived families has increased although this is still well below the national average. ▪ 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.

Solihull Council's Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people in 2008 states that

- The contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect is good.
- New schools and college provision in the north of Solihull have contributed to reducing significantly the proportion of young people who are NEET.
- The percentage of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who are NEET has reduced considerably and is now lower than the national average
- Strong partnerships have led to good progress towards the delivery of new 14-19 vocational diplomas.

- The percentage of teenage parents who are in education, employment or training remains too low

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' 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 11. Breast Feeding at 6 weeks from birth
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?

1.1.1.

Headlines:

- Fewer babies born in Solihull have low birth weight compared with West Midlands but the highest proportion of these is in north Solihull.
- An increasing number of pregnant women in Solihull continue to smoke throughout their pregnancy
- Although national obesity rates are rising, rates in Solihull appear to be slightly reducing, though 14% of Year 6 children in Solihull are considered obese.
- MMR Immunisation rates are high although they have recently reduced slightly.

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.
- Babies who are not breastfed are five times more likely to be admitted to hospital with gastroenteritis and they are more at risk of becoming overweight or obese in later childhood⁵
- 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.⁶
- 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: % of babies under 2500 grams at birth

	2005	2006	2007	2006-9
Solihull	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.8
West Midlands	8.8	8.8	8.7	-
National	7.9	7.9	7.5	-
Statistical Neighbours	6.8	-	6.6	-
North	-	-	9.6	8.4
Central	-	-	7.4	8.0
South	-	-	5.7	7.0

(Data Sources – JAR Data Set and Solihull NHS Care Trust ⁷)

Solihull trend

- Stable – the last 7 years has had a consistently low birth weight percentage. In Solihull between March 2003 and April 2007, around 7.6% of all births were characterised as low birth weight, and the Borough average for 2006-9 was 7.8%⁸
 - 2006/7 figures for women smoking in pregnancy was 15.6 % showing a 2.4% point reduction on previous years, a performance that was better than both statistical

⁵ Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures: A Strategy for Children and Young People's Health DoH, DCSF, Feb 2009

⁶ Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England DoH/DCSF Jan 2008

⁷ National Centre for Health Outcomes Development & Public Health Birth File

⁸ Understanding Solihull November 2007

neighbours and national rates. Further improvements were seen in 2007/8 with smoking cessation figures at 18.3

- 2008/9 figures gave a prevalence of 16.67% which although lower than the previous year, only just met the target of <17%. 2009/10 will be a challenging year as the target is <15% and given current projections, we will be unlikely to meet this
- Unfortunately, this figure increased to 19.6% in 2008/9 with similar increases occurring in many PCTs.

Comparisons

- Fewer babies born in Solihull have low birth weight than the West Midlands average of 8.7%. However this varies across the Borough with more low birth weights occurring in north Solihull.
- 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 in 2006 was Shirley East, followed by Castle Bromwich, Olton, Chelmsley Wood and Bickenhill. The wards with the lowest rates were Dorridge and Hockley Heath.⁹
- Solihull's smoking prevalence amongst pregnant women is relatively high given the relative affluence of the area. Part of the reason for this is that compared with parts of Birmingham we have a low percentage of Black and Ethnic Minority females, who typically do not smoke.

Key areas of Service Development

- Activity by the Smoking Cessation team continues to focus on reductions in the proportion of expectant mothers who smoke through pregnancy.

1.1.3 **Indicator 2: Obesity**

Solihull trend

- Slightly improving. In line with most areas, consistent, high quality data is not available over time to produce robust estimates of local trends in childhood obesity, but rates in Solihull appear to be slightly reducing. Weight measuring was introduced in Reception school year some years ago, and since 2006 the data has been part of National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). School nurses and other school staff have been trained using the equipment, and there is 85% compliance across schools in Reception. In 2006/7, 71% of children in Year 6 were measured, and there was some improvement in 2007/8, but the 2008-9 results show only 75% coverage, which means that the target on coverage (80%) has not been achieved..

Comparisons

- Results in 2007/8 show that slightly fewer children in Solihull, both at Reception age and at Year 6, are likely to be overweight or obese than the national average

% of Reception children with height and weight recorded who are obese (NI 55)

	2006/7	2007/8
Solihull	8.9	8.5
SHA Average	10.4	10.0
Statistical Neighbours	9.0	8.5
National	10.2	9.9

⁹ Understanding Solihull November 2007

Source: <http://www.ncmp.ic.nhs.uk/newresults.aspx>; Places Analysis Tool - <http://www.pat.communities.gov.uk/>

% of Year 6 children with height and weight recorded who are obese (NI 56)

	2006/7	2007/8
Solihull	14.5	14.1
SHA Average	19.1	19.6
Statistical Neighbours	15.5	15.9
National	18.1	18.9

Source: <http://www.ncmp.ic.nhs.uk/newresults.aspx>; Places Analysis Tool - <http://www.pat.communities.gov.uk/>

- 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

- 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 planned interventions to avoid an increase in the percentage of children recorded as obese as part of the national target.
- A key challenge remains the reluctance of some schools and parents to be involved in the National Child Measurement Programme, so looking again at how data might be collected next year
- One key intervention is the SHINE, (Stay Healthy: Improve Nutrition and Exercise) programme for children aged 8-15 years which provides support with diet and activity over an 8 week period. The programme appears to be working well, and pilot sessions with under 7's and 16-18 year olds are now planned. Impact only on limited numbers.
- Make and Taste sessions in Children's Centres and other venues supports parents by improving confidence and skills in preparing healthy meals for the family.
- Food for Health Strategy and Action plan is designed to improve health and reduce inequalities through promoting healthy eating

1.1.3. Indicator 3: MMR Immunisations

Solihull trend

- Declining: MMR immunisations uptake was increasing, from 80% in 2004 to 89% in 2006/7, but showing a slight reduction in 2007/8 down to 87%. The target recommended by the World Health Organisation to prevent outbreaks of disease is 95%.

Comparisons

- Solihull at 87% take up, performs slightly better than the national average (85%), and is in line with the average for the West Midlands.
- Because of the levels of coverage of MMR, the notification rate for measles is slightly below that for England.

Table: % children receiving first MMR Immunisation by second birthday

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
Solihull	80	84	89	87
West Midlands	-	85	88	88
National	81	84	85	85
Statistical Neighbours	83	86		
North	-	83.2		
Central	-	81.3		
South	-	80.4		

(Data Source – JAR Data Set and Solihull NHS Care Trust - GP Practice & www.ic.nhs.uk)

Impact on particular groups

- Not available for this report

Key areas of Service Development

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

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 evidence from HRBQ shows that Solihull pupils in Secondary School are more likely to worry about exams and tests, the way they look and growing up than pupils in the reference sample.
- Exams and tests is the top worry for boys
- Year 10 girls worry more about the way they look

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.¹⁰ 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

- Stable: 7 in 10 pupils in secondary school through HRBQ reported feeling quite a lot, or a lot satisfied with their life in 2007, the same result as in 2006, though anxiety about exams and tests seems to be rising.
- In the Tellus 3 survey in 2008, 66% of pupils answered "true" to the question "I feel happy about my life at the moment".
- In 2007, 64% of pupils in Year 2 said that they 'mostly feel happy', up from 62% in 2006.

Comparisons

- In the Tellus 3 survey in 2008, the national average of pupils who answered "true" to the question "I feel happy about my life at the moment" was 69%, slightly higher than the Solihull figure of 66%.
- Data collected via Tellus3, against NI 50 'Emotional Health of Children', measuring the quality of children and young people's relationships with significant others, gives a Solihull result of 63.7 compared with 64.2 West Midlands and 63.3 nationally.

Impact on particular groups

- Exams and tests is the top worry for boys in Year 8 and Year 10 (HRBQ 2007)
- Year 8 and 10 girls worry more about the way they look (HRBQ 2007)
- Self esteem increases with age, but boys record levels of higher self esteem than girls

¹⁰ One Borough An Equal Chance for All -Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018

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

- While Solihull is improving, improvements have not kept pace with other authorities.

Impact on particular groups

- The longest waiting times (over 26 weeks) were for children and young people with autism support needs.

Key areas of Service Development

- An action plan is in development following a review of CAMHS by the Strategic Health Authority and will be submitted in Dec 09.
- The Solihull Approach is a nationally recognised model to supporting families with emotional and behavioural difficulties in universal services
- Solihull is preparing a commissioning plan for when Phase Three Targeted Mental Health in Schools funding becomes available in 2010
- The Intensive Community Outreach Service (ICOS) scheme at Tiers 3 and 4 has ensured inpatient admissions are appropriate and length of stay in hospital is significantly reduced.
- Due to difficulties in recruiting, the appointment of a new consultant psychiatrist for children with learning difficulties is still outstanding and so the model to extend the capacity of CAMHS to meet the needs of children and young people with learning difficulties/disabilities, which is a key priority within the national CAMHS strategy needs to be reviewed.
- In the 2009 National Schools Survey, Solihull schools responses ranged from adequate to good in terms of local services meeting the mental health needs of children and young people¹¹.

¹¹ National School Survey 2009-Summary of results

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

1.3.1.

Headlines:

- There has been a rise in the under 18 conception rate in Solihull particularly in the north of the borough
- Chlamydia infection rates amongst young people are rising nationally, but local rates are beginning to decline
- Chlamydia screening in Solihull is well below national and regional averages

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 average¹²,
- 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**

No. of conceptions/1000 females aged 15 – 17 (difference from 1998 baseline) (NI 112)

	2005	2006	2007
Solihull	36 (-10.9)	32.8 (-18.6)	40.2 (-0.3)
West Midlands	-	45.7	47.4 (-8.2)
National	41 (11.4)	40.4 (-13.4)	41.7 (-10.7)
Statistical Neighbours	32 (-13.4)	33 (-12.5)	35.7 (- 11.1)

(Data Sources: - DCSF: Under 18 Conception Statistics 1998-2007; Data Source – JAR Data Set and Sexual Health Needs Assessment 2008)

Solihull trend

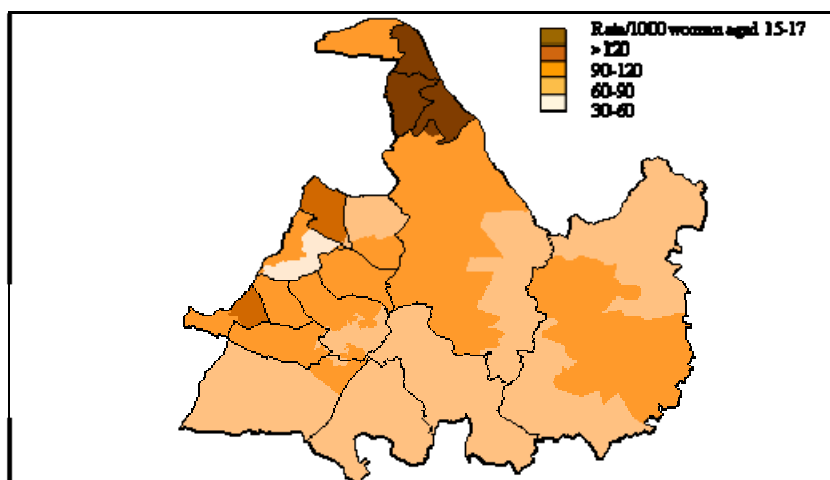
- Declining: End of year target has not been met as Quarter 4 figures for 2007 have just been released which show an 'under 18 conception rate' of 46.0 per 1000 females aged 15 – 17 (2007). However there are signs of improvement with the latest figures (Q1/Q2 2008).
- Teenage conception rates have been falling in Solihull since 1998, although there was a sharp increase in 2004-5. For 2007 as a whole Solihull has achieved an overall decline of 0.3% from the 1998 baseline; this is an under 18 conception rate of 40.2 per 1000 15-17 year old females.
- Whilst this is discouraging, there are complexities in reducing teenage pregnancy, and the bluntness of a percentage measure given the small number of conceptions locally which stand at 177 in 2007.

¹² Sexual Health Needs Assessment for Solihull December 2007

Comparisons

- Solihull still maintains a significantly lower rate of under 18 conceptions compared with the National rate of 41.7 per 1000 15 – 17 year old females and the West Midlands rate of 47.4 per 1000 15 – 17 year old females.
- Excluding the Shire authorities Solihull has the lowest under 18 conception rate in the West Midlands region.
- Solihull has a lower teenage conception rate than England and Wales and the West Midlands, and in real terms the numbers of young women becoming pregnant in Solihull are low (177 conceptions in 2007).

Impact on particular groups



Under 18 conception rate by middle SOA, 2005-2007

- Teenage conception rates are higher in Chelmsley Wood, Fordbridge and Kingshurst and Smith's Wood, almost certainly related to the high rates of socio economic deprivation with the concomitant poorer educational achievement. There are other hotspots in Olton and Shirley West.
- 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

- In Solihull we continue to increase young people's access to contraception and have recently added Solihull College Blossomfield Campus as a venue for our Just 4 yoU-2 service. Just 4 yoU-2 is a nurse led contraceptive 'clinic in a box' session held in non-clinical locations, taking services to where young people are rather than expecting them to attend traditional health settings. Other venues include Woodlands Campus, Chelmsley Wood Connexions and The Base at Kingshurst Youth Centre.
- Joint relationships/sexual health and substance misuse (including alcohol) workforce training has been delivered within mainstream partner agencies.
- There is effective delivery of Sex and Relationship Education / Personal Social Health Education by schools, with national recognition for the local CPD programme for PSHE. 100% of secondary schools have a teacher certificated with the PSHE CPD accreditation.

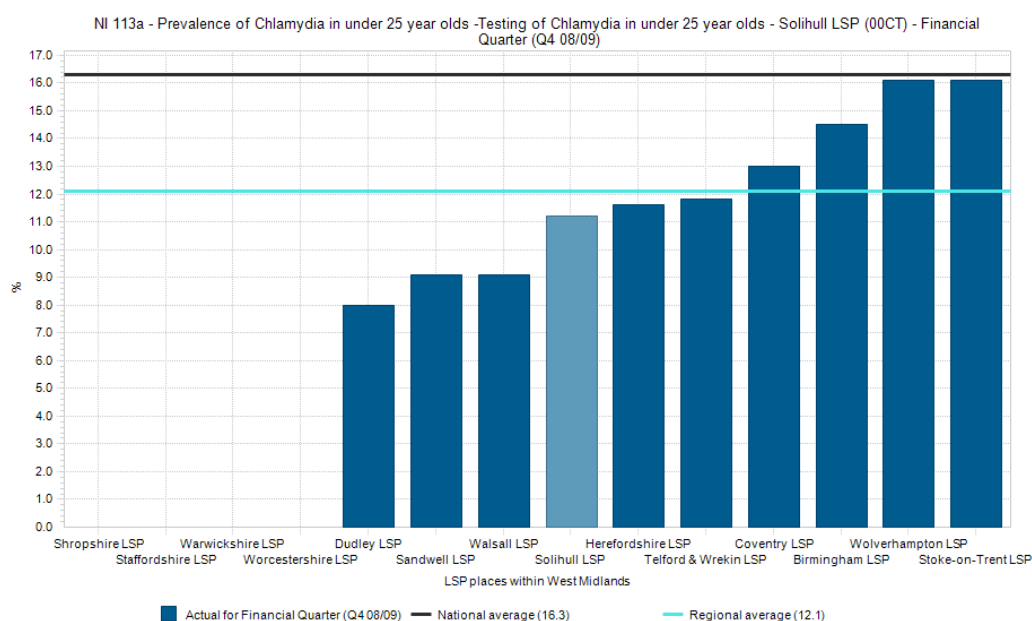
1.3.3. Indicator 7: Prevalence of Chlamydia

Solihull trend

- Improving. Rates of Chlamydia were rising until 2002 in Solihull, but a downturn in this rate has been seen in the last few years.¹³
- Highest rates of infection occur in Fordbridge & Kingshurst, and Smithswood
- 11.2 % of 15-24 year olds in Solihull were screened by the NCSP during 2008/9 (with approx 4% positivity rate). However, the National target was 17%, and this is set to rise to a challenging target of 50% over the next few years
- Solihull does not have a readily available target such as a university for focussing a screen program. This makes increasing screening more challenging. Also the young people that take up higher education in other authorities are encouraged to register with GP's in that authority. As a result any subsequent screening they receive will not contribute to the borough's screening statistics.

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.
- 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

¹³ Sexual Health Needs Assessment for Solihull. Solihull NHS Care Trust Dec 2007

associated with socio economic deprivation than having access to services in more affluent communities.

Key areas of Service Development

- New initiatives include: offering screening from Solihull GP Practices; developing an 'opt out' screening protocol within the Contraception and Sexual Health Service; Training. Youth Workers are being trained to deliver screening at regular health events with Land Rover Occupational Health.'
- 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?

1.4.1.

Headlines:

- 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 than boys to report that they smoke.
- The number of school pupils participating in at least two hours high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week appears to be falling
- Breastfeeding initiation rates appear to be declining, and while rates at 6-8 weeks are rising, they are still lower than the national average and remain too low.

Factors 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
- HRBQ shows that as children get older both boys and girls appear to eat less fruit and vegetables

% Solihull pupils by age group and gender who ate 5 fruit and vegetable portions the previous day

Yr 4		Yr 6		Yr 8		Yr 10	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
36	36	26	34	20	20	14	16

(Data Source: - HRBQ 2007)

Comparisons

- Solihull pupils are much 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
- In the Tell Us Surveys in which pupils self record if they have had five portions of fruit and vegetables, the Solihull average was slightly lower than national average.

% of pupils who eat 5-a-day fruit and vegetables

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	22	21
National	23	23

(Data Source: - Tell Us 2 & Tell Us3)

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.
- Strong 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 young people regularly smoking (at least one cigarette a week) has remained stable, at between 9 per cent and 10 per cent, since 1999.
- Nationally smoking prevalence for adults has been steadily falling.

% of pupils who have never smoked

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	73	70
National	73	75

(Data Source: - Tell Us 2 & Tell Us3)

Impact on particular groups

- Girls are more likely to report that they smoke occasionally or regularly than boys. In 2007, 16% of Year 10 girls had smoked in the last 7 days, compared to 11% boys.

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

Solihull trend

- Stable: 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 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

% of pupils who have spent at least 30 mins doing sports or similar activities on 3 or more days in the past week

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	73	71
National	73	71

(Data Source: - Tell Us 2 & Tell Us3)

- 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%.
- 29% pupils reported spending 30 minutes doing sports or similar activities on three or more days in the previous week. This is in line with the national average.

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). This is borne out in the local HRBQ survey, with girls in Year 10 reporting 50% less hard exercise on 5 days in the previous week than boys.
- 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.
- 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

- SHINE, (Stay Healthy: Improve Nutrition and Exercise) the children and young people's weight management programme launched in September 2008 to address healthy lifestyles also includes increasing physical activity patterns
- Increasing the uptake of free swimming opportunities for under 16's
- Eight new play areas in development in 2009/10 through Playbuilder grant
- Sports co-ordinators working with schools to develop physical activity programmes as part of Healthy Schools

1.4.5 **Indicator 11: Breastfeeding**

Solihull Trend

- Declining: While there has been an improvement in rates of initiation of breastfeeding from 56.4% in 2005/6 to 63.2% in 2008/9, rates remain too low, and results for the first quarter of 2009/10 show a decline to 61.3%. Solihull is unlikely to meet the national target of 70.3% for 2009/10..
- Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks was 40.6% in 2005. This reduced to 27% in 2007/8, but has recently increased back to 38% for 2008/9, and Q1 results for 2009/10 show rates of 43%. Coverage has increased from 85% to 98%, partly as a result of improved data collection and analysis.

Comparison

- Solihull has fallen below the national average on initiation and duration rates of breastfeeding. National average for initiation is 69.9% - 2008/9 comparison data not yet available
- The national target for mothers initiating breastfeeding is 70.3 by 2009/10, and 46% breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

% Mothers Initiating Breast Feeding

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	56.4	57.3	61.5	64.4
West Midlands	-	59.5	61.9	64.4
National	69.6	68.1	69.9	-
Statistical Neighbours	69	-	-	-
North	40.1	-	-	-
Central	63.1	-	-	-
South	71.5	-	-	-

% Mothers breastfeeding at 6 weeks

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	27%	36%
West Midlands		36.2
Statistical Neighbour (Trafford)		52%

(Data Source - Solihull Care Trust)

Impact on Particular Groups

- There are significant inequalities in breastfeeding rates, particularly in North Solihull. For 2008/9 the breastfeeding rate at 6-8 weeks is 22% for the North of the Borough and 50% for the South

Key areas of Service Development

- Breastfeeding Co-ordinator implementing a multi agency action plan targeting the increase in take up and duration of breastfeeding.
- Moving forwards towards accreditation through the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative to support best practice standards in the support of breastfeeding
- The new health shop in Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre (You+) will have a breastfeeding team based there to provide information and support to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers
- New post at Heartland's Hospital to support increase in initiation rates until end of March 2010
-
- The Care Trust have commissioned a social marketing campaign to target young mums under 25 in North Solihull. The campaign will follow a scoping exercise with the target audience and the Be a Star campaign will run until Dec 09.

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

Headlines:

- 1.5.1.
- Progress has been made in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use
 - 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.

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

Solihull trend

- Improving. Though 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%, and lower than the 43% seen in the wider SHEU sample for 2007.
- 5% of Year 4 males (8-9 year olds) report that they 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 respective samples of 20% and 22%¹⁴.
- 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 area¹⁵. However, when including alcohol, the picture appears to be different, as self reported by young people.

% of young people reporting substance misuse (NI 115)

	2008/9
Solihull	14.9
West Midlands	10.2
National	10.9
Stat Neighbours	11.6

(Data Source: - DCSF: Local Authority Measures for National Indicators supported by the Tellus3 Survey – Released January 2009)

¹⁴ HRBQ 2007

¹⁵ Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008 (CDRP)

- The table above shows the percentage of young people pupils in years 6, 8 and 10, reporting frequent misuse of drugs/volatile substances and/or alcohol. (Frequent use is defined as being drunk and/or have taken illegal drugs or volatile substances twice or more in the last 4 weeks).

Impact on particular groups

- 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

- Targeted programmes of education and prevention for vulnerable young people, linked to the development of targeted youth support.
- Alcohol Theatre project targeting young people in the community where alcohol is a factor in ASB and levels of consumption is high as identified in HRBQ
- 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
- National Healthy Schools programme supports the development of substance misuse policies in schools
- A Solihull Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was approved in April 09 and includes actions relating to young people

1.5.3. Indicator 13: Drug screening of young offenders

Solihull trend

- Stable: All young offenders in contact with the Youth Offending Team are screened for drugs.
- Throughout 2007/8, 84 young people (under 18 years) received treatment through Str8 Up, the specialist Drug and Alcohol Service for young people in Solihull. 54 of these were new presentations and 69% were discharged with successful completion of the programme.
- During 2008/09, 66 young people received tier 3 treatment within Solihull, 91% of whom receive treatment within 3 weeks. Forty four young people were treated through Str8 Up. During this year 78% of young people were discharged in a planned way from Solihull services. Within Str8 Up, the planned completion rate was 92%.

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

- During 2008/09, the young people accessing Str8Up were
 - 59% female; 41 % male
 - 81% of white ethnicity; 4% were 'other'; 2% were Asian or Asian British
 - 2% were black or black British

The main drug of use was

- 66% cannabis

— 23% alcohol

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.
- Planned investment in health assessment and 'hidden harm' support in 2010/11

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. Repeat Child Protection plans (NI 65)
2.2 Safe from accidental injury and death	16. Road traffic accidents (NI 48) 17. Admissions to hospital for other accidents (NI 70)
2.3 Safe from bullying and discrimination	18. Young people who are bullied (NI 69)
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 (NI 63)

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

2.1.1.

Headlines:

- The level of children subject to child protection plans is low in comparison to the national average as would be expected from the level of deprivation within Solihull as a whole.
- Solihull's percentage of repeat child protection plans increased from 11% in 2006/07 to 19% in 2007/08 and 23% in 2008/09. However, performance for the first half of 2009/10 is showing significant improvement.

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.
- With the discontinuation of Child Protection Registers, current terminology has now changed so that both the terms "re-subjections of all CPPs" and "re-registration" are now referred to as "repeat child protection plans"; and that "de-registered" has been replaced by the phrase "having their child protection plans ended".
- The rate of repeat 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

- Declining : During 2008/9 the number of children with an open child protection plan rose from 63 to 88. This had further risen to 109 by July 2009. The rate of open child protection plans is now close to similar councils and may increase further due to the "Baby Peter effect".
- Primary Schools in Solihull consider that the training, advice and support on child protection provided by the Local Safeguarding Children Board for designated members of staff and governors; Communication between the Local Safeguarding Children Board and schools; and the guidance on when to make a child protection referral to the relevant service are all Good to Excellent in Solihull. This compares favourably with the national rating of Adequate to Good.¹⁶
- Primary Schools in Solihull consider that local services' safeguarding of children and young people and protecting them from harm and neglect are Good in Solihull. This compares favourably with the national rating Adequate to Good.¹⁶

Comparisons

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

¹⁶ National School Survey 2009 - Summary of results

- A large proportion of victims of domestic violence live in north Solihull, and domestic violence peaks in school holidays and at weekends

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

- Pilot of a new response to domestic abuse referrals from the police where children and young people are involved began on 6th July 2009, is designed to provide a more co-ordinated, speedy multiagency response to police referrals where children and young people are affected by domestic abuse.

2.1.3. Indicator 15: Repeat Child Protection Plans

Solihull trend

- Improving : Solihull's percentage of repeat child protection plans increased from 11% in 2006/07 to 19% in 2007/08 and 23% in 2008/09, but performance for the first half of 2009/10 shows significant improvement (9.6% in Q2)

Comparisons

- Similar authorities and the England average were 15% in 2007/08. However the small numbers involved in Solihull and the sensitivity of the indicator to sibling groups can produce highly variable results.

Impact on particular groups.

- The rate of repeat child protection plans may be higher where there are high levels of family mobility in and out of the borough

Key areas of Service Development

- A thorough case file audit of all the children in this cohort was undertaken in December 2008 and January 2009 and the findings discussed and used to shape an action plan. This plan has been approved by LSCB , has been incorporated into Solihull's Action Plan in the light of Lord Laming's recommendations post-Haringey, and the learning and practice implications shared widely with social work staff.

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

2.2.1.

Headlines:

- The number of children who died in road traffic accidents remains low and the percentage is further reducing.
- The rate of hospital admissions in Solihull continues to compare favourably with regional and national averages as well as with statistical neighbours.
- The hospital admission rate for Solihull girls was noticeably higher than both England and the West Midlands average for girls

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

- Stable :During 07/08 10 deaths were reported, and 11 for 08/09. This represents an increase of 10% over the previous year, however, the numbers are extremely small and the variation is statistically 'not significant'.
- Solihull has made large reductions in the numbers of children killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents. The numbers are now so small that a single traffic collision can change the trend.

Comparisons

- The Children's Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Tool (DCSF) shows that during 2007, there were 8 children/young people killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents in Solihull, compared to a statistical neighbourhood average of 24.6.

% reduction in children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (3 year rolling average)

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
Solihull	-3.3	-3.2	6.3
National	8.4	7.2	6.6
Statistical Neighbours	2.8	4.6	10.9

Data Source 2005-9: - Ofsted Portal)

- Solihull has below England average road injuries and deaths, and well below statistical neighbours. In terms of % reduction, we appear to be doing less well, as there were small increases of just over 3% in 2005/6 and in 2006/7. This was offset by a decrease of 6.3% in 2007/8. However the numbers are so small in Solihull that these variations are not statistically significant.

Impact on particular groups

- In the West Midlands boys are more likely to have traffic accidents (West Midlands Public Health Observatory, WMPHO).
- There 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.

2.2.3. Indicator 17: Admissions to hospital for other accidents

Solihull trend

- Improving: Admissions at Solihull and Heartlands hospitals for accidents appears to be decreasing

The rate per 10,000 of hospital admissions of children or young people resulting from injuries whether deliberate or unintentional (NI 70)

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
Solihull	109.7	103.0	82.6
West Midlands	121.2	121.5	114.1
National	114.9	110.1	123.9
Stat Neighbours	122.9	125.2	110.0

- (Data Source 2005-9: - Ofsted Portal)

Comparisons

- Nationally deaths caused by childhood injuries have fallen considerably since the 1970s. The West Midlands comes fourth highest out of nine regions in the overall ranking of child injury death rates¹⁷.
- The rate of hospital admissions in Solihull continues to compare favourably with regional and national averages as well as with statistical neighbours.

Impact on particular groups

- The child injury death rate for males in the West Midlands is the highest of any region and considerably higher than the England average but the child injury death rate for females is much lower.¹⁷
- The hospital admission rate for Solihull girls was noticeably higher than both England and the West Midlands averages for girls.¹⁷

Key area of service development

- Currently no detailed information collected as to the nature of the injury for 94% of children attending A&E for general accidents which makes targeted prevention approaches very difficult. Improved data collection systems required

¹⁷ WMPHO Childhood Injuries - July 2006

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

2.3.1

Headlines:

- Bullying in schools is reported as below national averages
- Children and young people report that schools take bullying seriously
- Almost three quarters of children think their school takes bullying seriously

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

- Stable :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

% of children who have experienced bullying (NI 69)

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	25	44.3
West Midlands		46.3
National	30	48.0
Stat Neighbours	-	47.8

(Data Source: - DCSF: Local Authority Measures for National Indicators supported by the Tellus3 Survey – Released January 2009)

- 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%. This figure was 58% in 2008 compared to a national average of 56%
- 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

- Solihull has a revised target to reduce bullying based on young people's perceptions of bullying measured from Tellus survey returns, with 2008/9 Tellus3 being the baseline year (NI69).
- 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.
- Refreshed Anti bullying Strategy published in 2008, and new policy guidance issued for schools.

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:

- 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
- A higher proportion of local children feel unsafe on public transport compared with national averages.

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 2008/9 Solihull Youth Service Needs Assessment, where personal safety remained a priority.
- 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
- Only 60% of Solihull young people feel safe on public transport, compared to 70% nationally as reported through the Tellus Survey.
- 11- 12% responded that they were 'certain' or 'fairly sure' that they or their friends carried weapons for protection. About half of these weapons were

passive or defensive such as phones or alarms but the remainder were aggressive, such as knives (Source: - HRBQ 2007)

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) Similar results were reported in the Tell Us Surveys.

% of pupils who felt a 'bit unsafe' or 'very unsafe' around their local area

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	25	23
National	25	24

(Data Source: - Tell Us 2 & Tell Us3)

- A higher proportion of Solihull pupils report feeling unsafe on public transport than the national average.

% of pupils who felt a 'bit unsafe' or 'very unsafe' on public transport

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	42	37
National	27	27

(Data Source: - Tell Us 2 & Tell Us3)

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

- Declining : 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 under¹⁸
- A quarter of young people who had been victims of crime had not reported this to the Police (Solihull Crime and Drugs Audit 2004).

Number of children and young people (aged 10-17) in Solihull who were victims of crime

	2007/8	2008/9
Assault	386	402
Robbery	166	166

¹⁸ Solihull Strategic Assessment

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.
- Solihull Town Centre is one of the hotspots for violent crime and Robbery in the Borough. Other crime hotspots are in parks and Chelmsley Wood Town Centre
- The results from HRBQ (2007) showed that 18% of Solihull secondary school boys and 10% of girls have been victims of aggression or violence in the area in which they live.

Key areas of Service Development

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

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

2.5.1

Headlines:

- The proportion of Looked After Children is rising, mainly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
- LAC stability remains good although the recent growth in local LAC and the high number of UASC means that the increased in-house foster placements have not kept up with demand.
- Increasing LAC numbers and costs are putting LAC services under pressure.

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

- Stable: LAC stability remains good although the high number of UASC and recent growth in local LAC means that the significant recent growth in in-house foster placements has not kept up with demand and placements increasingly have to be purchased externally.

Comparisons

- The national indicators for stability of LAC have remained fairly level in the last few years. The number of LAC with 3 or more placements in the year is slightly above England and statistical neighbour authorities, but, as for most authorities, it is still in the 'very good' PAF band.

% of LAC with 3+ placements in the previous year (NI 62)

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	13	14
National	11	
Stat Neighbours	11	

- The proportion of LAC looked after for 2½ years who have been in the same placement for 2 years is slightly better than the England average and similar to statistical neighbour authorities.

% of LAC with stable placements (NI 63)

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	69	68
National	66	
Stat Neighbours	67	

Impact on particular groups

- There is an increasing rate of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who require Solihull Council to look after them – 41% of the Borough's looked after population (March 2009)

Key areas of Service Development

- Both 2008/09 and 2009/10 have seen increasing pressure on the LAC placements budget as numbers and costs have risen. This will remain a pressure for 2010/11 onwards though a dedicated procurement team are looking at innovative ways to provide alternative provision and minimise costs.

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 (NI 73)
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. 16 year olds achieving 5 A-C GCSEs (NI 75)

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 although it is in line or above national levels of attainment, and closing the gap remains a top priority.
- 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 scores than boys in Foundation Stage Profile.

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 2009, standards at Foundation Stage rose in the majority of elements of the profile, with the exception of Physical Development. 67% of pupils achieved at least a level 6 in all dimensions, a 3% increase on the 2007 results.
- APA 2008 report states that the proportion of children in Foundation Stage who achieve national expectations continues to rise and is now well above average.

Comparisons

	FSP Scale Score 6+	Solihull		National		Ranking	
		2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Personal, Social & Emotional	Dispositions and attitudes	92	(93)	88	(87)	13	(4)
	Social development	89	(88)	82	(80)	9	(7)
	Emotional development	86	(85)	77	(76)	9	(7)
Communication, Language & Literacy	Lang for com and thinking	86	(86)	79	(78)	15	(9)
	Linking sounds and letters	79	(79)	71	(65)	11	(3)
	Reading	82	(82)	70	(69)	7	(3)
	Writing	74	(73)	61	(58)	3	(5)
Mathematical Development	Numbers as labels for counting	93	(93)	88	(87)	4	(2)
	Calculating	82	(83)	72	(70)	5	(5)
	Shape, space and measures	88	(88)	81	(80)	11	(11)
Knowledge & Understanding of the World		88	(89)	79	(77)	7	(4)
Physical development		93	(93)	89	(88)	7	(9)
Creative Development		88	(88)	79	(78)	12	(7)

- Solihull performance at Foundation Stage Profile in 2009 has slipped slightly on the previous year but is still within the top 15 nationally, and performance across categories follows the national profile.
- Solihull performance is in line or above statistical neighbours across all areas of learning.

Impact on particular groups

Six Areas of Learning	North			South		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Personal, Social & Emotional	65	73	75	88	86	86
Communication, Language & Literacy	50	53	59	75	75	74
Mathematical Development	66	70	71	85	84	85
Knowledge & Understanding of the World	80	84	85	93	90	91
Physical Development	89	89	91	95	95	94
Creative Development	77	80	86	93	90	92

- Achievement in 2009 shows the North Solihull schools is consistently lower than the rest of the Borough, with an average 8-point gap between this group of children and the Local Authority as a whole. It is most significant in communication, language & literacy and mathematical development.
- Boys perform less well than girls by an average of 6 points in 2009 This is most notable within the communication language and literacy, and personal and social development aspects of the profile.
- The 2008 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.
- Primary Schools in Solihull consider that the provision for Early Years in meeting local needs is Good to Excellent in Solihull. This compares favourably with a national perception of authorities being Adequate to Good.¹⁹
- 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. The Local Authority is seeking a more regular data collection from schools in order to identify underperformance in a more timely manner in order to deploy early intervention.

¹⁹ National School Survey 2009 - Summary of results

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

- 3.2.1. Headlines:**
- Good attendance rates at both primary and secondary schools with results in 2008 showing an improving picture.
 - Attendance of Looked After Children is good and above both the national average and that for statistical neighbours
 - Permanent exclusion rates had been rising but are below the national average rates, and services have been put in place to target children who are at risk of exclusion or who have been excluded
 - TellUs data suggests that only 50% of children and young people enjoy school 'always' or 'most of the time'.

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 in the main. 2008 results demonstrate an improving picture, with the rates of half days missed due to unauthorised and authorised absence at 4.6 %.
- Improving: In Secondary schools, attendance has improved year on year with rates of half days missed at 6.6 % (27th nationally)

% of primary and secondary pupils excluded from school

	Permanent		Fixed Term	
	Solihull	National	Solihull	National
2005-2006	0.15	0.12	Data not available	
2006-2007	0.23	0.12	5.48	5.66
2007-2008	0.10	0.11	4.94	5.14

- Permanent exclusion rates showed an increasing trend to 2006/7, though the 2007/8 academic year has seen a significant reduction in permanent exclusions with rates of permanent exclusions 50% the previous year.

Comparisons

- Solihull is currently ranked 10th nationally for attendance at primary schools and 18th in secondary schools
- The numbers of permanent exclusions in primary, secondary and special schools are now 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 Ofsted with only 8% of looked after young people missing more than 25 days schooling. This is

slight improvement on the 2007/8 figure of 9% and compares favourably against the national and statistical neighbour averages in 2007/8 of 13%.

Key areas of Service Development

- Building on the proven success of Craig Croft PRU, an expanded outreach service and increased placement capacity has been 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 was opened in September 2008 to 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

- Declining :In the TellUs2 Survey 2007, 57% of pupils said they enjoy school, always or almost always, although in line with the national figures, this had gone down in 2008 to 49%.
- 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 HRBQ (2007) 39% secondary pupils reported that they enjoyed most or all of their lessons.

% of pupils who said that they enjoyed school 'always' or 'most of the time'

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	57	49
National	58	50

(Data Source: - Tell Us 2 & Tell Us3)

Comparisons

- In the TellUs3 Survey 2008, the national average of pupils who said they enjoy school, always or almost always was 50%, very 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?

Headlines:

- 3.3.1
- Overall attainment at primary school is very good.
 - At KS1, Solihull is in the top 10 local authorities for all indicators.
 - There is a significant attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, but the gap is closing at Key Stage 2 in the key indicator of the percentage of pupils attaining Level 4 or above in English and Mathematics.
 - Children from BME groups, and children with dual heritage perform less well than Borough averages for English and Maths

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 expected to achieve Level 4 or above in English and mathematics.

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

Solihull Trend

- Improving: Attainment at Key Stage 1 (KS1) has been improving steadily over the last 7 years. In 2009, 91% of pupils achieved level 2 or above in reading, 88% 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.

2009	Reading			Writing			Maths		
KS1	L2+	L2B+	L3+	L2+	L2B+	L3+	L2+	L2B+	L3+
Solihull	91	83	42	88	72	24	94	83	36
	(90)	(79)	(39)	(85)	(66)	(23)	(93)	(81)	(34)
National	84	72	26	81	60	12	89	74	21
	(84)	(71)	(25)	(80)	(58)	(12)	(90)	(74)	(21)
Ranking	4	2	2	3	2	2	6	3	2
	(2)	(3)	(2)	(12)	(9)	(1)	(8)	(4)	(2)

(2008 results are shown in brackets)

Comparisons

- Very good: At KS1, Solihull is in the top 10 local authorities nationally for all indicators in 2009.

Impact on particular groups

- The attainment gap at Key Stage 1 between north and south Solihull is closing in Reading and Writing. Standards in Maths in north Solihull are in line with those reported nationally. The greatest improvement is in writing where, since 2005, a 7% point improvement has been achieved closing the gap by 7% points.

% of students L2+ Reading	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
LA	90	91	90	90	91
North	81	83	84	83	86
Central	91	90	89	90	90
South	94	95	94	94	95

% of students L2+ Writing	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
LA	87	88	87	85	88
North	76	81	80	77	83
Central	88	87	86	84	87
South	93	93	92	91	93

% of students L2+ Maths	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
LA	94	94	94	93	94
North	91	88	90	89	90
Central	94	94	94	92	93
South	97	96	96	96	96

- The 2008 performance of children from black and minority ethnic groups along with children with dual heritage is below the Borough averages in both English and Maths. White and Black Caribbean children perform below the borough average in Maths.

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

- Slight decline: Attainment at Key Stage 2 has been improving steadily but dropped by 1% in 2009. This is in line with the national trend for children achieving Level 4 or above in English and Maths. The results show that Solihull is improving faster than the national rate.

% of pupil achieving Level 4 or above

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Solihull	74	78	77	79	78
National	69	70	71	73	72

Comparisons

- Very Good: Solihull is one of the best performing authorities nationally, ranked in the top 8 local authorities nationally for attaining Level 4 or above in English, Maths and Science in 2009 and top 5 for the combined English and Maths.
- Solihull has performed better than statistical neighbours and national averages for a number of years.

2009	English			Maths			Science			English and Maths	
KS2	L4+ %	L5+ %	APS	L4+ %	L5+ %	APS	L4+ %	L5+ %	APS	L4+ %	L5+ %
Solihull	85 (86)	35 (35)	28.1 (28.2)	84 (84)	41 (38)	28.4 (28.1)	93 (93)	52 (53)	29.6 (29.6)	79 (79)	26
National	80 (81)	29 (30)	27.3 (27.4)	79 (79)	35 (31)	27.6 (27.3)	88 (88)	43 (44)	28.7 (28.8)	72 (73)	20
Ranking	8 (11)	12 (13)	10 (9)	8 (12)	11 (12)	7 (12)	4 (6)	7 (8)	6 (8)	5 (10)	9

2008 results are shown in brackets

Impact on particular groups

% of students L4+ English & Maths combined (NI 73)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
LA	73	78	77	79	79
North	59	66	69	68	69
Central	76	79	80	80	77
South	83	86	81	85	86
Statistical Neighbours		74	75.2	76.9	76.5
West Midlands		68.6	69.8	71.7	70.4
National		69.6	71.0	73.0	71.7

- 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 across English, Maths and Science, and the percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and Maths
- The 2008 performance of children from black and minority ethnic groups is below the Borough averages along with children from other mixed heritage groups in both English and Maths. White and Black Caribbean children perform below the borough average in maths.
- The gap for free school meals pupils higher than the national average although this is due to the high attainment of Solihull pupils. FSM pupils' attainment is just above the national average.

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 recent audit of what schools are offering as part of their extended services confirmed a substantial offer of after school activities
- TellUs 3 shows that 68.4% young people took part in positive activities.
- 721 young people (13-19yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects, an increase of 46% on the previous year
- 883 young people (13-19yrs) gained 'recorded outcomes' via Youth Service projects, an increase of 23% on the previous year
- 98.9% 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: Young People's Participation in Positive Activities**

Solihull trend

- No trend data yet available. The new indicator (NI 110) determined by the responses to TellUs 3 show that 68.4% of young people took part in positive activities. This is the percentage of young people who said that they had participated in an adult led structured activity outside school, such as sports, youth club, art, craft, dance, drama, film/video-making or music.
- The recent audit of what schools are offering as part of their extended services confirmed a substantial offer of after school activities²⁰

Comparisons

- Marginally lower than national and statistical neighbours
% of children who participate in positive activities (NI 110)

	2008/9
Solihull	68.4
West Midlands	69.7
National	69.5
Stat Neighbours	71.5

(Data Source: - DCSF: Local Authority Measures for National Indicators supported by the Tellus3 Survey – Released January 2009)

Impact on particular groups

- Not available for this report

Key areas of service development

- New positive activities programme commissioned in 2009, involving young people throughout the commissioning process.

²⁰ National School Survey 2009 - Summary of results

- A wide range of cultural and creative activities run by Music Service e.g. 800 pupils a week participate in musical ensemble groups, 411 pupils receive instrumental lessons in the evening.
- 756 children access open access play opportunities on school sites, including 46 disabled children (figures for 2009 not yet available)
- 975 attendances at study support groups in libraries during 2008/9 which was an increase of 79 on the previous year

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

Solihull trend

- Improving: In 2008/9 721 young people (13-19yrs) gained accreditation via Youth Service projects. This is a 46% increase on the previous figure
- 883 young people (13-19yrs) gained 'recorded outcomes' via Youth Service. This is a 23% increase on the previous figure
- 98.9% of young people surveyed via baseline reviews identified that Youth Service projects have had a positive impact on them. This is an increase of 23.1% on the previous figure

Comparisons

- Not available for this report

Impact on particular groups

- Not available for this report

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 4 for the percentage of students gaining 5 or more grades A*-C including English and Maths.
- Provisional results for the 20008/9 academic year for GCSE 5A*-C including English and Maths show that we are moving in the right direction in terms of improvement, but not fast enough to meet our LAA target.
- 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 increased over the period 2005- 2008 in relation to pupils achieving 5 GCSEs including Maths and English at grades A*-C by 9.2 percentage points, but decreased by 13% for 5 GCSEs at A*-C, not including Maths and English.
- Young people from White and Black Caribbean and other mixed heritage backgrounds have consistently achieved lower results.
- Nationally, 14% Looked After Children achieve 5+ grades A*-C. In Solihull, only 4% Looked After Children achieve this level of success.

Indicators for achieving stretching standards at secondary school:

- Young people are no longer tested at Key Stage 3.
- 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: 16 years achieving 5 A-C GCSEs**

Solihull trend

- Improving: attainment at KS4 most significant for 5+ A*-C. 73.9 %, above the 2008 target of 71%
- Improvements have also been seen for 5+ A*-C including English and Maths, with 54 % of pupils achieved this result in 2008. Provisional results for the 20008/9 academic year for GCSE 5A*-C including English and Maths show that we are moving in the right direction in terms of improvement, but not fast enough to meet our LAA target.

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 2005 to 200. This is most evident for 5+ A*-C including English and maths, where the 5.5 % point rise is higher than the national rate.

% of students attaining 5+ A*-C inc E,M (all Solihull)				
	2005	2006	2007	2008
LA	49.1	50.5	53	54.6
North	29.7	26.5	28.5	29.3
Central	na	57.9	61	59.8
South	na	68.5	70.7	74.9
Statistical Neighbours			51.7	54.0
National	44.7	45.6	45.4	47.9

- There is a noticeable attainment gap between pupils attending schools in North Solihull when compared to South Solihull, at Key Stage 4 the gap has increased

over the period 2005- 2008 in relation to pupils achieving 5 GCSEs including English and Maths at grades A*-C by 9.2 percentage points.

% of KS4 students attaining 5+ A*-C (all Solihull)				
	2005	2006	2007	2008
LA	64.1	66.8	69.2	73.9
North	43.3	44.7	50	61.5
Central	66.7	69.7	69.7	68.8
South	82.9	86.5	87.2	89.3
National	56.8	59.0	61.4	65.3

- The gap between north and south Solihull has decreased considerably in terms of the percentage of children achieving 5 or more grades A*-C by 13%.
- Particular groups of black and minority ethnic communities are achieving below the borough average at KS4. In particular young people from White and Black Caribbean and other mixed heritage backgrounds have consistently achieved significantly lower results.
- It is recognised that generally Looked After Children achieve poorer educational outcomes than the general population. Nationally, 14% Looked After Children achieve five or more grades A*-C. However in Solihull, only 4% Looked After Children currently achieve this level of success.

Key areas of Service Development

- An induction programme is offered for UASC to prepare them for school life and raise their cultural awareness to support effective integration.

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

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

4.1.1.

Headlines:

- Consultation with children and young people is viewed as good, with young people regularly involved in recruiting staff and quality assuring services in the Youth Service, but the numbers of young people who say they have given their views about the local area are lower than the national average
- High levels of participation of children in care to their statutory reviews, including unaccompanied asylum seeking young people
- 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
- Young people have been involved in commissioning a range of services, including positive 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.
- 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 30: Involvement in local democratic processes**

Solihull trend

- Improving: In 2008/9 Solihull fielded 11 candidates who stood for elections in UK Youth Parliament and 3026 young people took part in the election process from across the borough. This was an increase on previous year.
- In 2008/9 202 Young People participated in decision making and commissioning activity relating to Youth Opportunity, Youth Capital Funds and PAP activities. Of these 141 Young people have received a recorded outcome and 12 young people have received an accredited outcome.
- 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
- Outstanding rates of LAC participation in their reviews have been achieved; at 93% this is well above the level in comparable authorities and the national average.

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 people who answered no was slightly higher than the national figure at 78 % and 74% respectively.
- This pattern was repeated in the following TellUs 3 Survey. Here the question options, in addition to those above in TellUs 2, included giving views to school council and two additional catchall categories of 'something else' and 'don't

know'. The resulting percentage of young people that answered 'none of these' was 42% in Solihull, compared with 36% nationally.

- 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. In TellUs 3 this had increased to 50% and 57% respectively.

Impact on particular groups

- Young people with learning disabilities are specifically targeted, and members of the Youth Council who have a range of disabilities and are supported by a worker in order for them to be able to access and have a voice.
- A young person with a disability was recently been elected as one of two Solihull UK Members of Youth Parliament for 2008/9. He has now moved onto to be a member of the Core Myplace Project Group and represents the Young People's core Group as part of the overall process
- In the recent elections to the UK Youth Parliament two members were elected from Solihull. They were both young women. One was elected from the north and one from the south.
- High numbers of LAC are involved in their reviews, including chairing review meetings.

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.
- The Solihull Partnership Pledge to Children and Young People was launched at the Assembly in October 09
- An Active Involvement Strategy is in development, to be published in Spring 2010
- A Young People's Participation worker has been appointed in August 09, and a new contract in place with The Children's Society from September 09 will support active involvement work, with a specific strand around engagement of disabled children and young people.

4.1.3. Indicator 31: Voluntary and community engagement

Solihull trend

- Improving: Young People have been at the heart of the Myplace developments (£5.5 million 'World Class Youth facility' in the North of the Borough) with over 20 young people involved in the Young People's Steering group and 2 Young People who represent that group sit of the Myplace Core Group
- Since April 2008, the National Youth Volunteer Team (involved) in Solihull, have worked with 418 16 - 19 year olds volunteers of which 301 are 16 or 17. This is an upward trend from previous years, with 34.5% of the volunteers signing up to volunteer again.

Impact on particular groups

- Solihull involved encourage a full spectrum of young people to volunteer. In the last year
 - 48% volunteers were female
 - 14.6 % volunteers were Black and Minority Ethnic
 - 6% of volunteers have a learning difficulty or a disability
 - 21% of volunteers have achieved below level 2 in educationThis is in line with the demographic profile of Solihull's population.

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 and performance is well above regional national and family group comparators.
 - There has been considerable reduction in re-offending rates - strong performance compared with national, regional and statistical neighbour averages

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 32: 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. This was further reduced in 2007/08.

Comparisons

- April 2008 - March 2009 shows a reduction in first time entrants to the Youth Justice System of 32.8% against regional West Midlands reduction of 28%, family of 19.4% and national of 18.7%.
- North Solihull has the highest concentration of young offenders
- Reported crime levels for children and young people aged 10-17 years old across the area at 1410 per 100,000 were below the average for England/Wales of 1901 per 100,000 and also below those of the West Midlands which were 1814 per 100,000. These figures are for 2007/08.²¹

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.²²
- The offending rate for LAC in 2008/09 was 1.4 times the rate for the local general population. This lies within the better of the two bands set for this indicator.

Offending Rate of LAC compared with general population

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	1.6	1.4
West Midlands		
National	2.3	
Stat Neighbours	2.5	

²¹ Places Analysis Tool - <http://www.pat.communities.gov.uk/>

²² Solihull Strategic Assessment 2008

Key areas of Service Development

- Both YISP and YISP + (which target young people at risk of anti social behaviour or offending) have been reviewed as part of IYSS Project
- NS Fusion, a 5 year sport and physical activity programme has targeted crime hotspots, which has resulted in noticeable reductions in recorded crime. For example, since the introduction of the mobile football pitches in Shirley and Bentley Heath in October 2008, the number of ASBOs has fallen by 75% in Shirley and 95% in Bentley Heath of the previous year's rate.

4.2.3 Indicator 33: Youth Re-offending rates

Solihull trend

- Improving: 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.
- The baseline 2005 figure of 13% re-offending has been reduced down to cumulative 4.1% for quarter 4 for 2008/9. Currently we are well on track to meet the national target of 10% reduction in offending, based on the 2005 cohort return, despite the fact that this is considered to be quite a stretch target, given the current baseline as well as predictions of increasing crime rates within the current economic downturn.

Comparisons

- Solihull's figures compare very favourably with national and regional averages as well as those of statistical neighbours for NI 19, Rate of Proven Re-offending rates of Young Offenders aged 10-17.²³

Impact on particular groups

- There is a correlation between young offenders not engaged in education, training or employment and reoffending rates.

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. Whilst significant developments within IYSS impact positively on this cohort, the current economic climate will continue to make this a challenging target

²³ Places Analysis Tool - <http://www.pat.communities.gov.uk/>

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

4.3.1

Headlines:

- National evidence shows that some children and young people, particularly those from black and minority ethnic groups, are more likely to suffer severe bullying.
- There is sparse local evidence as to the trend in relation to racist bullying

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

4.3.2.1 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.

4.3.2.2 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 34: Reporting in schools on racist incidents**

Solihull trend

- Declining :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

- Schools are now required to report on recorded bullying incidents as well as racist incidents, with the introduction of a new electronic reporting system by end of 2009
- Commissioned service through The Children's Society delivers anti racist work in schools- Embrace
- More required to improve rates of Racist incidents reporting and additional analysis of tend information needed.

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:

- 98.9% of young people surveyed reported an increase in confidence as a result of using the Youth Service.

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 35: Self esteem and confidence**

Solihull trend

- Stable :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.
- 98.9% of young people surveyed via baseline reviews conducted while using the Youth Service reported an increase in confidence.²⁴ This is a considerable increase on the figure of 76.3% reported last year.

Comparisons

- Not available for this report

Impact on particular groups

- Self esteem usually increases with age, but more boys record levels of high esteem than girls in HRBQ survey.

²⁴ 2008/2009 – Youth Service Customer Satisfaction Survey

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

4.5.1.

Headlines:

- New services have been 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.

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 36: 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	37. Young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) (NI 117) 38. Retention rates for 16, 17 and 18 year olds on education and training programmes
5.2 Ready for employment	39. 19 year olds achieving a Level 2 or higher NVQ (NI 79)
5.3 Live in decent homes and sustainable communities	40. Social housing in decent condition
5.4 Access to transport and material goods	41. Access to services
5.5 Live in households free from low income	42. Children living in low income households 43. 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?

- 5.1.1. **Headlines:**
- 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.
 - In 2008/9 Solihull had the lowest percentage of NEETs of all Metropolitan Councils.
 - 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
 - In terms of Young Offenders engaged in suitable education, employment or training, Solihull is performing less well than national and regional averages.

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 37: 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 6.35% in 2008/9 meeting the target for that year. This improvement has been maintained with the NEET rate averaging at just under 6% over the Jan 08-May 08 period.
- The percentage of young offenders engaged in suitable education, training and employment dropped significantly in the last quarter 2008/9 which produced a cumulative return of 70.6% for this year - well below the LAA target of 75%.

Comparisons

- For 2008/9, Solihull was ranked 26th out of 62 local authorities, and 1st out of all Mets.²⁵
- The proportion of NEETs in Solihull is well below the national rate of 6.7 %.

% of 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training

	2007/8
Solihull	5.9
West Midlands	7.0
National	6.7
Stat Neighbours	6.1

(Data Source: - DCSF: Local Authority Measures for National Indicators)

Impact on particular groups

- North Solihull has a larger proportion of NEETs but there are hotspots in Shirley West, Lyndon and Silhill.
- 30% of Teenage Parents known to Connexions are in Education, Employment or Training; this is slight higher than the England average of 29% and equal to the West Midlands average of 30%, but is still too low.
- 80% of LDD young people are in Education, Employment or Training which is higher than the England average of 76.7% and West Midlands average of 77.9%
- Although 83% of young people from dual heritage White and black Caribbean backgrounds are in Education, Employment or Training, 11.5% of the group are in NEET, which is slightly lower than the West Midlands average of 11.8%, although it is 0.6% higher than the previous year²⁶
- In terms of Young Offenders engaged in suitable education, employment or training, Solihull is performing less well than national and regional averages.

Key areas of Service Development

- A range of delivery plans and an extensive contact strategy are in place to ensure resources are directed to the areas of need
- There is a September guarantee to ensure that 16 and 17 year olds know that they are entitled to an offer of an appropriate place in education or training.
- 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.
- Renewed focus on improving performance of support for Young Offenders

5.1.3. **Indicator 38: Retention rates for 16, 17 and 18 year olds on education and training programmes**

Solihull trend

- Improving: In 2008/09, 83.2% of 16-18 year olds were in education and training programmes compared with the 2007/08 figure of 82.5%. This is an increase of 0.7% and compares favourably with the average participation rate in England for 2008/09 which was 76.8%

²⁵ PWC Benchmarking Club, 2008/9 End of Year Data

²⁶ All data in this section are provisional (non-validated)

% of 16-18 year olds in Education or Training

	2007	2008
Solihull	82.5	83.2
West Midlands	78.6	77.6
National	78.1	76.8
Stat Neighbours	-	76.0

(Data Source: - LA November Report)

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. In the 2008/9 survey with Yr 11 leavers, 96.2% stated that they intended to stay on in education and training, whilst 1.78% stated they intended to go into employment.
- The proportion of care leavers in 2008/09 who at 19 were in employment education or training was 69%, which is classed as very good in the PAF banding.

% of care leavers in Employment, Education or Training at 19 (NI 148)

	2007/8	2008/9
Solihull	69	69
West Midlands	62	-
National	65	-
Stat Neighbours	62	-

Key Service Developments

- The commissioning responsibility for post 16 provision is moving from the Learning and Skills Council to Solihull Council in line with national policy

Are young people in Solihull ready for employment?

5.1.4.

Headlines:

- 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.

5.1.5. **Indicator 39: 19 year olds achieving a Level 2 or higher NVQ**

Solihull trend

- Improving: 76.9% achieving Level 2 or higher NVQ in 2007/8
- In 2003/4 (the baseline year) the percentage achieving Level 2 or higher was 68.4. Since then the percentage has been increasing year on year.

Comparisons

- Since 2003/4, Solihull has consistently performed better than the National and West Midlands average, and in line with its statistical neighbours. These are all reflecting an improving trend.

% 19 year olds achieving a Level 2 or higher NVQ (NI 79)

	2006/7	2007/8
Solihull	74.0	76.9
Statistical Neighbours	74.2	76.3
West Midlands	68.9	71.3
National	69.7	72.4

(Data Source: Places Analysis Tool - <http://www.pat.communities.gov.uk/>)

Impact on particular groups

- Not available for this report.

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

Headlines:

- 5.2.1.
 - As at 1st April 2009, 88% of Solihull Community Housing properties met the Government's 'Decent Homes' standard. This was an increase of 7% on the previous year and SCH are on target to complete the programme by 2010/11

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.

5.2.2. **Indicator 40: Social housing in decent condition**

Solihull trend

- Improving :In April 2008, 81.42% of SCH homes in the borough met the Government's 'Decent Homes' standard. As at 1st April 2009 88% of SCH properties met the Government's 'Decent Homes' standard and are on target to complete the programme during the 2011/12 financial year (the only exception will be those properties where tenants refuse SCH access to complete work on their property)
- 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

- 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.

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

5.3.1. Headlines:

- Although Solihull is regarded as affluent, many children, young people and families in north Solihull live in circumstances of material deprivation and this has been impacted further by the economic downturn.
- Families in central and south east Solihull have to travel further for services which impacts 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.

5.3.2. Indicator 41: Access to services

Solihull trend

- In a survey of citizen's views in 2006, 23% of respondents said that public transport needed improving in Solihull. This is slightly below the all England average of 24.1% and well above the Mets at 18.9%.²⁷
- Public transport links are limited from the rural to the urban area and from the Regeneration Zone to south Solihull and services are more limited for people working non-standard hours.

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.

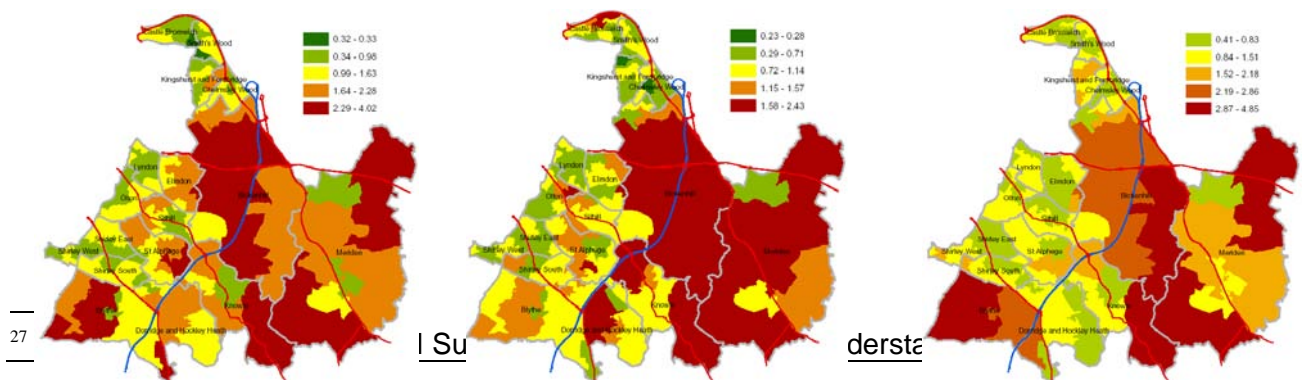
Impact on particular groups

- Families in central and south east Solihull have to travel further for services due to the semi-rural nature of much this area. This impact particularly on those with lower incomes.

Distance from a GP

Distance from a primary school

Distance from a supermarket



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

5.4.1.

Headlines:

- Nearly 20% of under fives in Solihull lives in a home dependant on workless benefits
- The percentage of children living in income deprived families has increased although this is still well below the national average.
- 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.

5.4.2. **Indicator 42: Children living in low income households**

Solihull trend

- Declining :15.6% of children in 2008 lived in families that are income deprived, up from 15.3 % in 2007, and this is likely to have increased further due to the impact of the recession.
- Nearly 20% of under fives in Solihull lives in a home dependant on workless benefits

% of Children dependent on workless benefits (April 2007)

	% All Dep't Children	% Dep't Children 0-4 yrs	% Dep't Children 5-15 yrs
Solihull	15.6%	19.1%	14.3%
National	19.7%	21.3%	19.0%
Stat Neighbours	14.8%	16.1%	14.2%

(Data Source: - LA November Report - DWP)

Comparisons

- 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. Of the 133 super output areas in Solihull only 41 (38%) are within the lower 50%. This includes 10 super output areas in north Solihull which fall into the most deprived 10% in the UK. The numbers of children living in Solihull families that are income deprived is lower than the national average of 19.7%.
- 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.

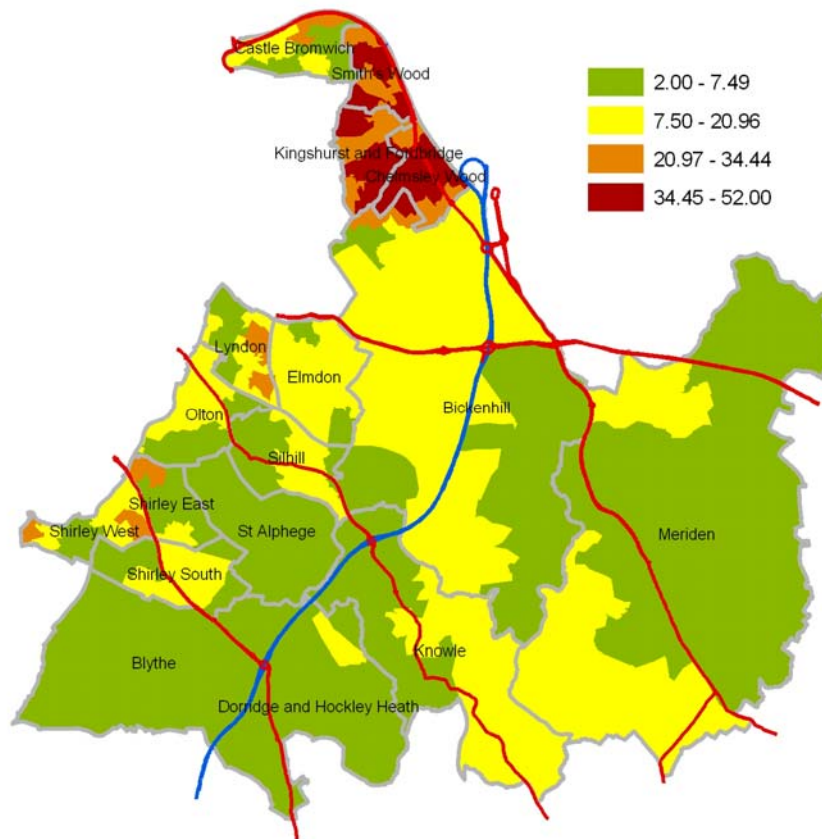
- There are 5 super output areas in the south of the Borough, which are now also within the 40% nationally most deprived, with Greenhill Way and Hobs Moat North most notable in terms of worsening deprivation since 2004.²⁸ Additionally Parkfields, in Castle Bromwich, is another area outside the regeneration zone that is in the bottom 30%.

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 on income support and deprivation within an area. Kingshurst and Smiths Wood have the highest concentration of single parents in the Borough

Income Deprivation affecting children (IMD 2007)²⁸

The map below shows % of children under 16 who live in families whose income is below 60% of median income before housing costs.



5.5. **Indicator 43: Stock and take-up of childcare for all families**

Solihull trend

- Improving: Stock of available childcare in Solihull has increased by 5.6% in the last year (²⁹).
- Use of informal childcare remains constant since 2000, at around 39%, despite the growth in childcare places ³⁰
- 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

²⁸ Understanding Solihull 2007

²⁹ Ofsted Early Years Profile Aug 2008

³⁰ Solihull Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2007

that there was good choice available

Comparisons

- Take up of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit was 22.2% in April 2009, compared with the national average of 18.9. This is up from 19% (2005-2006)³¹. 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

- 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+³⁰
- 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
- DCATCH (Disabled Children's Access to Childcare) aims to increase disabled children's access to childcare and leisure opportunities and has 40 parents of disabled children engaged in the programme as well as a Family Information Officer supporting the development of information to parents of disabled children
- Free childcare places being made available for two year olds in North Solihull from September 2009

³¹ HMRC April 2009

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 10.

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.