

# Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09

Annual Action Plan 2008/09



LONDON BOROUGH OF  
**BEXLEY**



# Foreword

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) was approved by the Children and Young People's Trust in 2006 and is a three year plan until March 2009. However, the Plan contains an annual Action Plan which drives the improvement agenda for the coming year.

This document explains the 'high level' action plan and includes the targets which are required both as part of statutory processes and in relation to Bexley's Local Area Agreement.

The Action Plan takes into account the priorities within Bexley's Sustainable Community Strategy and new requirements included within the Government's Children's Plan published in February 2008.

The Action Plan has been produced in partnership with all partners represented on the Children and Young People's Trust Board.



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# Be healthy

## 1. Improving young people's health and well being

### Why are we doing it?

Improving the health and well being of children and young people is a critical aspect of successful outcomes. Young women who become mothers in their teenage years are more likely have poor outcomes. Babies conceived to teenage mothers are more likely to be similarly disadvantaged. Reducing teenage conceptions in Bexley is therefore the top health priority. Future ill health can also be prevented by halting the rise in the number of children who are overweight and obese. Effort to ensure children are protected against communicable diseases through immunisation needs to remain a high priority, including the introduction of the new immunisation for girls against cervical cancer. The emotional health of young people and the delivery of CAMHS services remains a high priority.

### So what are we going to do about it?

We will aim to deliver more focused programmes of sex and relationship education to young people aged 11 and over in order to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease. We will also increase the access to sexual health and contraception services.

To address the rising number of 11 year olds in Bexley who are obese, we aim to increase the numbers choosing a school meal over a packed lunch. Prevention of obesity starts as early as birth and is influenced by the choice of feeding. Babies

who are breast rather than bottle fed are less likely to become obese in later life. We will therefore seek to encourage mothers to breastfeed. When children and young people are overweight, additional support is needed to help with weight loss so we will develop community based weight management programmes.

Screening and immunisation are proven methods of reducing the health impact of common communicable diseases. In recent years the uptake of some childhood vaccines has been too low to guarantee immunity from diseases such as measles. We will therefore work to drive up the uptake of the MMR vaccine to protect children from measles, mumps and rubella, and we will implement the national Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) programme to protect young women from cervical cancer. The Chlamydia screening programme will be expanded to identify and treat a greater number of young people.

To ensure children and young people have access to comprehensive mental health provision at all stages of need, we will complete our analysis of existing care pathways for children whose needs are mild to moderate and will progress our plans for CAMHS involvement in the ambulatory model of paediatric services. We will prioritise recruitment and retention in the area of learning disabilities and forge links across three boroughs where appropriate. In response to the increasing number of young people presenting at risk of self-harm or suicide, we will develop an interagency protocol to ensure the best possible care and support for this vulnerable group.

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09
(NI 50) Emotional health of children this will measure the % of children who enjoy good relationships with their family and friends. This information will be obtained from four questions in the TellUs 3 survey.	81%	82%
(NI 51) Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services: this is a self assessment by the Local Authority and the Care Trust as to how effectively CAMHS meets children's mental health needs against four proxy measures. Each measure has a score of 4, the top score is therefore 16. A new outcome measure for CAMHS from 2009 is currently being developed by the DoH.	14pts	15pts
(LAA) Halt the year on year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010	13.5%	13.8% <sup>1</sup>
(NI 52) Increase the percentage of pupils and students taking school lunches	X <sup>2</sup>	X
(NI 53) To increase the percentage of mothers of breast feeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	X <sup>3</sup>	50.9
(NI 56) Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6: (a) Percentage of children in Year 6 whose height and weight are recorded;	85%	86% <sup>4</sup>
(b) Percentage of children in Year 6 whose height and weight are recorded who are obese	19.4%	19.7% <sup>3</sup>
(NI 112) Reduce the under 18 conception rate (per 1000 population under 18) by 50% by 2010 from the 1998 baseline rate of 37.2. It is expressed as a percentage reduction	0.8% <sup>5</sup>	-7.9% <sup>5</sup>
(LAA) Increase the percentage of all children aged 2 immunised against measles, mumps and rubella (first dose)	89%	90%
(LAA) Increase the percentage of children aged 5 who are immunised against measles, mumps and rubella	73%	74%

### X New Indicator

- 1 Bexley's target for 2010 is 13.08% When the targets were set in 2007, it was recognised that the increase in obesity could not be stopped immediately and the focus would be to arrest the increase and then see a drop by 2010.
- 2 Awaiting publication of LA data by School Food Trust in coming year
- 3 New indicator, data not previously collected
- 4 This target relates to the 07/08 financial year
- 5 Performance in 2008 when compared to the 1998 baseline

# Stay safe

## 2. Improving the safety of all children and young people

### Why are we doing it?

Children and young people cannot enjoy their childhoods or achieve their full potential unless they are safe. Improving safety for children and young people includes keeping children safe from neglect and abuse, accidents, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour and providing a safe and stable home life. In Bexley, high priority is given to ensuring children and young people are safe with very good outcomes, especially for children who may be at risk of being harmed, and consulting with children and young people on the areas they want us to improve. To achieve these good outcomes, children and young people need to feel safe wherever they are, whether at home, at school, at college, out playing, on transport, at nursery, in public places or in a youth club. Some groups, such as children living in deprived areas, disabled children, looked after children, and children suffering abuse, are more vulnerable to harm than others. Improving children's and young people's safety depends on a wide range of people, including parents and children and young people themselves, working together with this aim.

### So what are we going to do about it?

To ensure we continue to promote positive safety outcomes for all children and young people in Bexley we will work to improve their everyday environments, this will include; making roads safer so that we reduce the number of children and young people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents, reducing the number of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries and reducing the numbers of children who run away from their homes placing themselves at risk. Through the Local Safeguarding Children Board we will ensure that children and young people's safety issues are regularly reviewed and we will use information from the newly created Child Death Overview Panels to improve practice as required. We will also focus on staying safe issues raised by young people such as tackling bullying, racism and harassment. We will continue to engage with children and young people in their groups and forums to ensure the safety issues that they are most concerned about are given priority. For those children and young people who are at risk of being harmed we will ensure that assessments of their needs are timely so that services can be provided quickly to improve their situation. For children and young people who require very targeted services to keep them safe, we will ensure that their plans are regularly reviewed so that they can enjoy a safe childhood and achieve their full potential.

#### New Indicator

- 1 The targets for this indicator were set in 2000. It compares the average for a rolling 3 year period, starting in 1994 eg 2005/6/7 compared with 2006/7/8 with the expectation of a fall in average percentage each year. The aim was to achieve an overall 50% reduction by 2010. Since 1998, Bexley has consistently done better than its target figure.
- 2 This is a new national indicator for 2008/09. Baseline data will be collected during 2008/09 and targets will be set in March 2009
- 3 Targets not due for implementation until 2009/10

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09
(NI 47) People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (this includes young people aged 16-18). This indicator contributes to the national casualty reduction target of reducing by 2010 the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents by 40%, compared with the average for 1994-98	103	98
(NI 48) Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (covers children aged 0-15) This indicator contributes to the national casualty reduction target of reducing by 2010 the number of children (under 16 years of age) killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents by 50%, compared with the average for 1994-98	9	16 <sup>1</sup>
(NI 59) Increase the % of Initial Assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral during the statistical year, April to March	82%	84%
(NI 60) Increase the % of Core Assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement during the statistical year, April to March	72%	75%
(NI 61) The percentage of Looked After Children (LAC) adopted during the statistical year (April to March) who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision made at adoption panel that they should be placed for adoption	100%	100%
(NI 62) Decrease the % of all LAC with 3 or more placements during the statistical year, April to March	13%	11%
(NI 63) Increase the % of LAC under 16 years old, at 31 March in the statistical year, who had been LAC for at least 2.5 years and were living in their same placement for at least 2 years	54%	56%
(NI 64) Decrease the % of children ceasing to be the subject of a child protection plan during the year ending 31st March, who had been the subject of a child protection plan continuously for 2 years or longer	9%	6%
(NI 65) Decrease the % of children who became subject to a child protection plan at any time between April and March, who had previously been the subject of a child protection plan, regardless of how long ago that was	3%	2%
(NI 66) The percentage of LAC cases which were reviewed within the required statutory timescales during the statistical year, April to March	100%	100%
(NI 67) The percentage of children with a child protection plan at the 31st March whose cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100%	100%
(NI 68) Increase the % of children who are referred to children's social care whose cases go on to initial assessment during the statistical year, April to March	37%	38%
(NI 69) Decrease the % percentage of children who have experienced bullying at least once or more in the past four weeks, based on responses to the TellUs survey	25%	24%
(NI 70) the number of finished in-year emergency admissions of children and young people to hospital as a result of unintentional and deliberate injuries per 10,000 of the population of children and young people	X <sup>2</sup>	X
(NI 71) An indicator to capture data on children and young people who run away from home/care overnight is currently being developed by the government	X <sup>3</sup>	X <sup>3</sup>
(NI 110) increase the % of young people who take part in positive activities: ie the proportion of young people in Year 10 responding 'yes' to the question "In the last four weeks, have you participated in any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts or a youth group)?" based on the analysis of the weighted TellUs survey data	74.7%	76.7%

See new indicator left

# Enjoy & achieve

## 3. Improving children's educational progress

### Why are we doing it?

The London Borough of Bexley has had significant success in improving pupil progress at school across all key stages. Levels of attainment have consistently risen and fewer schools are underperforming. In the last year more schools have been deemed to be outstanding than ever before. However, a small minority of Bexley schools are not doing as well as we would wish and we want all our pupils to make at least two levels of progress at each key stage, achieve their full potential and benefit from a range of enjoyable and productive activities at their school both during and at the end of the school day. In order for this to be achieved we have to refocus our attention on the progress of individual pupils, track and monitor that progress rigorously and intervene when, for whatever reason, the level of progress is below expectation. We also need to continue to enhance the opportunities that are available to our pupils in sport, culture and the arts both within and outside of the school day and in the holidays.

### So what are we going to do about it?

We will continue to intervene where school performance is below an acceptable level and support the Making Good Progress national pilot in raising levels of progress in the core subjects at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. We will provide targeted training for English and Maths teachers and increase the number of pupils who receive targeted interventions on a one-to-one basis because they have fallen behind. Where schools have been placed in an Ofsted category we will offer both support and challenge and deal robustly with unacceptable practice or inadequate teaching through building strategic partnerships or using existing expertise from other schools. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we will continue to invest in new Children's Centres attached to schools or other community facilities and target children who come from deprived backgrounds to raise their levels of achievement and close the gap between their performance and other children in Bexley. Together with maintained and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nursery provision, we will raise overall standards in the Early Years to enable children to start reception classes at school with a firm foundation.

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09 <sup>1</sup>
(NI 72) Percentage scoring 6+ in Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) with a total of 78 points or more	45%	47%
(NI 73) Achievement at Level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	74%	80% <sup>2</sup>
(NI 74) Achievement at Level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3 (Threshold)	70%	77% <sup>2</sup>
(NI 75) Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSEs and equivalent including English and Maths	50%	57%
(NI 83) Achievement at Level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3	71%	80%
(NI 84) Achievement of 2 or more A*-C grades in Science GCSEs and equivalent	45.1%	X <sup>2</sup>
(NI 92) Narrowing the percentage gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest.	37.5%	32.0%
(NI 93) Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stages 1 & 2	87%	90% <sup>3</sup>
(NI 94) Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stages 1 & 2	78%	86% <sup>3</sup>
(NI 95) Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stages 2 & 3	29%	38% <sup>3</sup>
(NI 96) Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stages 2 & 3	58%	65% <sup>3</sup>
(NI 97) Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stages 3 & 4	55%	64% <sup>3</sup>
(NI 98) Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stages 3 & 4	28%	35% <sup>3</sup>
(LAA) Percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils in Bexley attaining Level 4 in Maths	75%	77%
(LAA) Percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils in Bexley attaining Level 4 in English	81%	83%
(LAA) Attainment in targeted schools (MAIS):		
a. % achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE	21.6%	24%
b. % Key Stage 2 pupils attaining Level 4 in English	60.3%	63%
c. % Key Stage 2 pupils attaining Level 4 in Maths	53.1%	55%

### X New Indicator

- 1 Except where stated, these are the targets for the 07/08 academic year
- 2 The Government has yet to agree local targets for this indicator
- 3 These are targets for the 2008-09 academic year – there was no Government requirement to set targets for the 2007-08 academic year

# Enjoy & achieve

## 4. Narrowing the gap in performance of vulnerable groups

### Why are we doing it?

The London Borough of Bexley achieves comparatively well with children who come from vulnerable groups particularly those from different ethnic backgrounds, those with disability and those who have specific learning needs. However, there are still areas that can be improved further, particularly in relation to the educational performance of looked after children and those who come from deprived neighbourhoods. We want pupils who are disadvantaged in any way to achieve. In the last year, the Authority has signed up to the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' charter to demonstrate our commitment in this area. If we can closely monitor and track these children we can provide support and focused interventions to ensure they achieve in line with expectation and at the same levels as all other children and young people.

### So what are we going to do about it?

We will monitor and continue to improve services for disabled children and ensure that careful consideration is given to support both them and their families through closely co-ordinated service provision. We intend to focus resource and attention on the educational performance of our looked after children and will appoint a "Head Teacher" to monitor and support the performance for all looked after children who either originate from Bexley or who are educated in a Bexley school. We intend to track these children carefully, set challenging but realistic targets for each one of them and put in targeted interventions to support both their individual needs and aspirations. A cross-agency Looked After Children Steering Group will be established to oversee this work. In addition, we intend to target selectively young people who are from deprived backgrounds to support them into Higher Education through the ASPIRE/AimHigher programme. We will also establish a number of specialist provisions in mainstream schools to support children with special needs to encourage inclusion and integration whilst providing both additional capacity and specialist help for our most disadvantaged children and young people. We also intend to improve the range and quality of provision for our post-16 students with learning difficulties and disabilities by working closely with Bexley Further Education College.

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09
(NI 54) Services for disabled children	X	X
(NI 62) The % of all Looked After Children with 3 or more placements during the statistical year, April to March	13%	11%
(NI 99) Looked After Children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	62%	65%
(NI 100) Looked After Children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	50%	55%
(NI 101) Percentage of Looked After Children achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A* to C (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 to 59% (including English & Maths)	0%	8% <sup>1</sup>
(NI 102a) Percentage achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2	33%	21%
(NI 102b) Percentage achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4	28.3%	28.2%
(LAA) Percentage of looked after children in year 11 attaining a graded GCSE result	41.2%	75%
(LAA) Percentage of looked after children aged 11 or over who were permanently excluded from school	2.3%	0.5%

### X New Indicator

This is a new indicator for 2008/09. We do not have the figures yet because the Government is going to provide and trial a survey of parents/carers to see if they are satisfied with the services for disabled children. The Government will set targets once it has some baselines of parental satisfaction.

<sup>1</sup> This target is for the 07/08 academic year

# Enjoy & achieve

## 5. Improving children's attendance and behaviour

### Why are we doing it?

If children are to achieve their potential, it is vital they attend school regularly and are able to behave appropriately whilst in the school setting. Levels of attendance and exclusions in some Bexley schools, especially in the secondary sector, have not always been in line with the national picture.

In September 2006 central government stated its concern about falling attendance levels and identified 'Focus Schools' across the secondary sector. In September 2007 the Focus School criteria was those schools with 70 or more pupils who made up at least 9% of the school roll, as persistent absentees (ie those with more than 52 sessions of absence from the first two terms). Those local authorities with more than four Focus Schools were designated Focus Authorities. Bexley fell into this category in both 2006/07 and 2007/08, having five such schools in each year. An audit of local primary schools identified eight that would potentially be a focus school if the secondary definition is brought in for the primary sector in future academic years.

### So what are we going to do about it?

To promote improved school attendance across Bexley, the local authority launched its 'Every Day Counts' strategy in September 2007. The new Access Service is now responsible for ensuring children do not miss education by securing for them a school place, or an alternative education arrangement, or support to enable them to stay in learning. Current practice has been reviewed to improve the level and types of support available, especially for those named as Focus Schools, and those primary schools with low attendance rates.

A Fair Access and Managed Moves protocol has been introduced across the Borough and Head Teacher Panels are agreeing a collective response across all schools, to achieve a reduction in exclusions. A Behaviour Federation is currently being established between the Pupil Referral Service and the special schools for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. This will create a new model of 'behaviour related' provision that all schools across the Borough can access and will help to drive down the local exclusion rate. This has been a high priority in 2007/08 and is being overseen by the Behaviour and Attendance Strategy Group, chaired by the Director of Children and Young People's Services and will continue in 2008/09.

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09 <sup>1</sup>
(NI 86) The percentage of secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	80%	87%
(NI 87) The percentage reduction in the number of pupils in secondary schools with persistent absence rate (20% absence or above)	7.00%	6.1%
(NI 114) Reduce the percentage of pupils permanently excluded from school	0.16%	0.15%
(LAA) Reduce the percentage of half days missed due to absence in the six primary schools and one secondary school involved in the MAISI pilot	8.6%	8.3%
(LAA) Reduce the percentage of half days missed in targeted secondary schools maintained by the Local Authority	9.67%	9.62%
(LAA) Reduce the percentage of half days missed due to total absence in those primary schools maintained by the Local Authority	5.9%	5.7%
(LAA) Reduce the percentage of half days missed in those secondary schools meeting the DCSF criteria to be 'Focus Schools'	9.67%	9.62%

<sup>1</sup> These figures relate to the 2007/08 academic year

# Positive contribution

## 6. Implementing the Integrated Youth Strategy

### Why are we doing it?

In 2005 all partners including statutory, voluntary and private providers delivering youth provision formed a steering group, and agreed that service delivery needed to be better co-ordinated if Bexley was to meet the changing needs of local young people. A series of consultations with young people had been undertaken in which they identified gaps in provision and demonstrated how they sometimes had to visit a range of practitioners situated on different sites. The steering group mapped provision already available, drafted an overarching strategy designed to include all local young people, and all the service providers they might need to access throughout their childhood, and as they move into adulthood.

In 2006, Government launched the Targeted Youth Service agenda, and as part of this, all local authorities are required to develop an Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) by December 2008. The work of the steering group (now called the Youth Strategy Partnership - YSP) underpinned this, and has taken this forward very positively.

### So what are we going to do about it?

In the autumn of 2007 the Bexley Integrated Youth Strategy was launched, together with an annual action plan which sets out how we will take forward the five priorities set out in the Integrated Youth Strategy, namely:

- embedding partnership working across all agencies
- improving the involvement of young people in the design and delivery of youth services
- improving the range of local provision (the Youth Offer) available to all young people, and make it more accessible
- raising the quality of local youth provision
- developing a commissioning model that assures services provide value for money and deliver what young people need and want

Two sub groups are taking this work forward, and good progress is being made. The Government Office for London has confirmed Bexley is on line to meet the December 2008 deadline to create a local IYSS. Practitioners from across all agencies are being involved in developing the IYSS, and are committed to working together and developing a co-ordinated approach. This will include setting up a multi-agency One Stop Shop, so that young people are able to access a range of targeted and universal services in one place.

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09
NI 19 Reduction in the re-offending rate by young offenders	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>
NI 43 Reduction in the percentage of young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court, who are sentenced to custody	8.8%	5%
NI 45 Increase the percentage of young offenders in education, employment or training at the point their supervision order ends	64.1%	90%
(NI 110) The percentage of young people who take part in positive activities: ie the proportion of young people in Year 10 responding 'yes' to the question "In the last four weeks, have you participated in any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts or a youth group)?" based on the analysis of the weighted TellUs survey data	74.7%	76.7%
NI 111 Reduce the number of young people aged 10-17 who enter the youth justice system for the first time	252	240
NI 115 Reduce the percentage of young people either frequently misusing drugs or alcohol or both	X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>2</sup>

**1** The Youth Justice Board has recently made changes to the cohort selection basis for recidivism data. The base line exercise and initial data submission will be completed by July 2008, at which point data relating to the new definition and collection arrangements for NI19 can be completed.

**2** The indicator will be based on the results of the Ofsted TellUs Survey. The first full baseline will not be available until Autumn 2008.

# Economic well-being

## 7. Improving parenting

### Why are we doing it?

The role of the parent or parents is critical in ensuring that children have the very best start possible in their lives. Where good parenting skills are less developed or where, because of other difficulties that are being faced, children are not exposed to effective learning experiences through play, the ability to successfully engage with more formal learning when they enter compulsory education is reduced. In Bexley, there has been a dramatic change in the levels of support provided to the most disadvantaged families and there are now Children's Centres fully operational in the most deprived wards in the Borough. We want to ensure that all children have parents well equipped to provide the level of support, care and guidance so critical for a positive start to their children's lives.

### So what are we going to do about it?

Bexley is highly regarded nationally for the number and quality of its Children's Centres. The programme has to be completed by 2011 and so further Children's Centres will be designated and operational during the coming year. We want to further increase levels of family support and parenting across the Borough and will be working across all agencies to refresh our parenting strategy and provide a coherent and co-ordinated range of services to support parents who are in need. We will use the extended services programme in schools to complement this work and ensure that parents have access to high quality childcare either in the maintained or private, voluntary and independent sector and within each local community access to the extended offer of services to support the needs of their child and the family.

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09
(NI 88) Number of extended schools providing extended services expressed as a percentage of all schools	47%	65%
(NI 109) Number of Sure Start Children Centres operational and as a percentage of annual target	100%	100%

# Economic well-being

## 8. Helping more young people into education, employment and training

### Why are we doing it?

Improving outcomes for all young people and enabling them to achieve a sound basic education raises aspirations and enables them to have the potential to be economically successful throughout their future lives.

Ensuring that young people move into further education, employment or training (EET) as they leave school has been a local priority for some years. In 2007 central government raised the profile nationally, and required local authorities to set themselves a 'stretched' target for accelerating the rate by which young people move into EET, to be reached by 2010. We are committed to reaching a target of less than 5.4% of the local population aged 16–18 years not being in EET (NEET) by March 2010 as this is a key indicator for the further life chances of young people.

### So what are we going to do about it?

A multi agency NEET Strategy Group was established in 2007 to take forward the work required to meet the target of 5.4% by 2010. A NEET Strategy is in place and an annual action plan is agreed. The Strategy Group analyses statistical information each month so that activity is targeted where it is most needed. Interventions are evaluated for their effectiveness to maximise their impact.

Funding streams available through the Learning and Skills Council are applied for and assist in developing new provision and setting up short term projects targeting vulnerable groups such as pregnant teenagers. Dedicated Connexions services and careers advice, information and guidance are provided in all schools and colleges within Bexley, as well as from the two Connexions One Stop Shops in Northumberland Heath and Bexleyheath. Proposals are being developed to co-locate this provision in 2008 to increase the range of services young people can access from one site, particularly for those who need additional support to prepare them for education, employment or training

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09
(NI 91) The percentage of 17 year-olds in education or training	87.1%	X
(NI 117) Reduce the percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 who are not in education, employment or training	6.5%	5.7%
(NI 148) Increase the percentage of Care leavers aged 19 who are in employment, education or training	68.75%	70%

X New indicator; data for target setting purposes awaited from DCSF

# Economic well-being

## 9. Extending the range and availability of vocational learning opportunities

### Why are we doing it?

Although students in Bexley achieve very well at Key Stage 4 in comparison to national levels of performance and statistical neighbours, we wish to raise the aspirations and achievements even higher for all our young people. Schools have embraced the increasing range of flexibilities in the last few years and have made real progress in developing a more diverse and wider range of opportunities for their pupils. However, for a sizeable minority of pupils, the current curriculum offer remains inaccessible and de-motivating and whilst considerable progress has been made in order to respond to and address these needs, there remains much to do. We want to extend the range of vocational opportunities available to our pupils in order to retain our young people in education and training and provide successful career paths for a sizeable number of pupils for whom the “academic” traditional curriculum has been unsuccessful. Progress in extending the range of vocational learning opportunities in Bexley is reliant on substantial capital investment and until very recently this has been a major barrier to further development. As a result we have too many of

our young people not actively engaged in education or learning both pre and post-16 and too few opportunities in our schools, FE College or elsewhere to support the vocational curriculum.

### So what are we going to do about it?

We intend to ‘refresh’ the 14-19 Strategy for the Borough during 2008/09. We will develop a cohesive plan to deliver an increased range of vocational options in purpose built accommodation strategically located across the Borough. We now have the potential opportunity to invest in new accommodation to support a greater range of vocational opportunities through the relocation and rebuilding of Bexley College and the potential of new opportunities through Building Schools for the Future. We will continue to improve the overall performance of pupils at Key Stage 4 and produce successful vocational collaborations to deliver diplomas or other accredited courses as soon as possible and certainly by 2010. As a result of these actions we will increase the number of 19 year olds who have obtained Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications.

## Targets

Indicator	Baseline or current performance	Target 2008/09
(NI 78) Percentage reduction in the number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSEs and equivalent including English and Maths	50%	50%
(NI 79) Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	70%	73.9%
(NI 80) Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	42.4%	44.4%
(NI 90) Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>
(NI 91) The percentage of 17 year-olds in education or training	87.1%	X <sup>2</sup>
(NI 148) Increase the percentage of Care leavers aged 19 who are in employment, education or training	68.75%	70%

### X New Indicator

- 1 Learning Diplomas have yet to be introduced in Bexley. As yet, there have been no targets set for these years
- 2 Data awaited from DCSF to facilitate target setting

# Infrastructure to support delivery

## 10. Developing the infrastructure

### Why are we doing it?

This plan sets out ambitious proposals to improve services for Children and Young People in Bexley. We need the right infrastructure in place to support and enhance service delivery, involving all the partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors. Central to the delivery of high quality services is an effective workforce, working collaboratively across all services. Partners in Bexley's Children and Young People's Trust already work effectively together at the strategic level to plan services for children, young people and families. The Children and Young People's Trust has recently been reviewed to move to the next stage of development to support the implementation of commissioning arrangements across the Trust.

### So what are we going to do about it?

We will continue to improve the physical infrastructure – reflecting partnership and integrated working in the way in which broader services are incorporated in plans operating on extended services principles. The Primary Strategy for Change was the subject of consultation with stakeholders in May 2008 and will be submitted to the DCSF for approval in June.

It supports plans to roll out a significant investment in primary schools over the coming 14 years. Similar priorities will be incorporated within the Secondary Strategy which will also support a bid to the DCSF in the Autumn for allocation of resources through Building Schools for the Future.

We will also refresh and implement the Children's Workforce Development and Retention Strategy, concentrating on developing an integrated workforce that champions children. A key feature will be a joint approach to training, bringing partners together to develop integrated working practices, break down the boundaries to inter-professional co-operation and drive the change in culture necessary to promote information sharing and collaboration. We will implement new arrangements to enhance the commissioning process across all partner organisations. The voluntary and community sectors will be supported to engage in the commissioning process and as strategic partners in developing the commissioning arrangements. A key priority for commissioning will be an ambulatory model of paediatric care for Bexley children to maximise the numbers treated outside the in-patient setting.

## Infrastructure to support delivery: outcomes

There are no national indicators that relate directly to this aspect of the plan. In this section we set out key outcomes for 2008/09.

### Outcomes

1.	A revised Children's Workforce Development and Retention Strategy is in place, based on a clear understanding of current and future needs	September 2008
2.	Workforce development activity is delivered which enhances integrated working in Bexley	March 2009
3.	A Primary Strategy for Change is approved by the DCSF	October 2008
4.	Initial primary school building projects are briefed and designed for implementation in 2009	March 2009
5.	A Secondary Strategy for Change is agreed following consultation	October 2008
6.	A Harris Academy opens to replace Westwood College	September 2008
7.	Establish a Commissioning sub-group of the Children and Young People's Trust	March 2009
8.	Voluntary sector representatives appointed as members of commissioning panels	March 2009
9.	Health partners to agree a redesigned model of acute care for children to minimise admissions to hospital	March 2009





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