



Optimistic signs of tackling exclusion

Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional problem, thus prevention requires a multi-faceted approach. Support, guidance and the provision of services for the vulnerable are just some of the solutions to improve educational achievement and prevent crime and teenage pregnancies. Partnership working within the county creates support by improving accessibility for residents via learning and transport schemes.

Indicator SE1 - Crime Re-offending (Recidivism Rates Hertfordshire Youth 10-17)

First time entrants into the Youth Justice system continued to drop in 2008, in line with Government expectations, with numbers falling by 12%. This reflects both focused prevention work and a more targeted approach by police towards more serious crime. Despite the reduced numbers coming into the system (and thus less likely to re-offend) the percentage of young people going into custody has remained stable at 3.1% which is 50 young people, six less than in 2006/07.

The Herts County Council Youth Justice Service has taken a significant step in taking "ownership" of the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities Parenting programmes which are offered to those on parenting orders or where there are clear signals that parents of young offenders are failing. In partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, the Youth Justice Service is looking to undertake a long term study of its effectiveness. The county has chosen as an LAA target the percentage of young offenders in education, training and employment with an expectation to improve current performance of 76.7% in 2007/08 to 82% by 2011.

Indicator SE1 - Crime re-offending in Hertfordshire in 2007 (Recidivism Rates Hertfordshire Youths 10-17 years)

| Type of Penalty | County Offending | County Re-offending | % |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Pre Court | 520 | 112 | 21.5 |
| First Tiers | 156 | 49 | 31.4 |
| Community | 118 | 62 | 52.5 |
| Custody | 11 | 7 | 63.6 |
| Overall | 805 | 230 | 28.6 |

Source: Herts County Council Youth Justice Service 2009

Indicator SE2 - Educational Attainment of Children in Care and Care Leavers

The low educational attainment of looked after children has long been identified as a critical issue which increases the risk of longer term instability and social exclusion. In contrast, positive educational achievement can give these children choices about their adult life. It improves the prospects for their employment, financial independence, personal and family life, health and well being. Research makes clear that their range of ability is similar to all children and that they have the potential to reach much higher standards.

In Hertfordshire there is:

- a dedicated advisory service for looked after children that offers advice and support to schools and individual children;
- additional budget for every looked after child in a mainstream school;
- training for designated teachers, carers and social workers on the barriers to educational achievement for these children;
- an extensive programme of study support out of school hours to complement and consolidate teaching and learning in school.

Central Government now wants clear accountability at every level for the improvements of this group of vulnerable children. This is demonstrated in:

- New statutory guidance for Designated Teachers (September 2009);
- A report by Department of Children, Schools and Families School Standards Advisers (November 2009);
- A new Ofsted inspection framework (September 2009);
- National Strategies standards meetings with local authorities;
- Proposals to revise the Care Planning, Education of Children in Care and Children Act 2004 guidance.

The outcomes for looked after children in Hertfordshire in 2008/09 showed improvement across all the key stages of the National Curriculum. Further work has been identified to increase performance in 2009/10.

National Achievement Targets

NI 99 and 100 - Looked after children reaching level 4 in English and Mathematics (respectively)



at key stage 2. Performance improved for both indicators. The national average at this level is a good indicator of success in achieving 5 good GCSEs at age 16.

OC2 indicator: The number of looked after children who were in care for at least one year who were in Year 11 and achieved the equivalent of at least 5 A*-C GCSEs or GNVQ equivalent. In Hertfordshire, 9% achieved at least 5 A*-C GCSEs, this figure increased to 21% for the attainment of at least 5 A*-C GCSEs or GNVQ equivalent.

Actions to progress achievement for looked after children

iLearn: Hertfordshire has developed an online-learning module and resource bank for designated teachers to prepare them for the increased role and responsibility outlined in the new statutory guidance. The module was launched to 100 teachers in October 2009 and was made available to teachers to coincide with the publication of the New Statutory Guidance for Designated Teachers in November 2009. The learning module will be adapted for use for other professional groups, school governors, carers and social workers.

Virtual School Database: A 'virtual school' database has been built to accommodate data on every looked after child to include both social care and education data. The database will also hold the most up to date information on pupil performance and current working levels for use by teachers in school, and will have the facility to assess the potential performance of every child. The database also holds information on the daily attendance at school of each child of statutory school age. This information will help the Education Support Service and teachers in school target support for these children in subject areas where they need it most.

Percentage of Care Leavers Engaged in Education

The number of students who succeeded in gaining places at university remained high again this year at 8% with 13 students taking up places. This figure still exceeds the national average of 6%.

| | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Care leavers at university | 3 | 21 | 14 | 12 | 13 |
| Hertfordshire County Council Corporate Parenting Unit 2009 | | | | | |

Hertfordshire County Council has developed a plan to increase the opportunity for work experience, training and actual employment for care leavers. 62 young people have already been placed in work placements with other employers, whilst 3 others have taken up apprenticeships with employers arranged by the Teenagers to Work project worker.

There has been a rising trend of participation in education, training and employment over the past three years. The 16+ specialist Connexions workers within the Education Support Service have focused on working with young people who are not in education or employment (NEET), and have had significant success in reducing the number of young people in this category. A further reduction is anticipated to be reported in March 2010.

Indicator SE3 - Access to Transport

Access to key services, i.e. healthcare, education, work and food shops requires the availability of car, passenger, community or sustainable transport. Those people who have difficulty getting to key services may find that social exclusion is exacerbated. Local accessibility is measured by **NI 175:** Hertfordshire's adaptation of this indicator is 'percentage of people who find it difficult to travel to a local hospital'. The figure for 2008/09 is 30%. The target is 24% by 2010/11.

In 2009, several schemes implemented from the Accessibility Strategy 2006-2011 continued to help socially excluded groups. Apart from road engineering improvements which created more accessible routes, noteworthy schemes are:

The Lister and Broxbourne Shuttles: two separate services that transport patients and their visitors to hospitals in the east and north of the county. Numbers of passengers continue to grow, many are referred to the scheme when they ring the Travellink number which advises patients on the most appropriate transport solution for their needs.

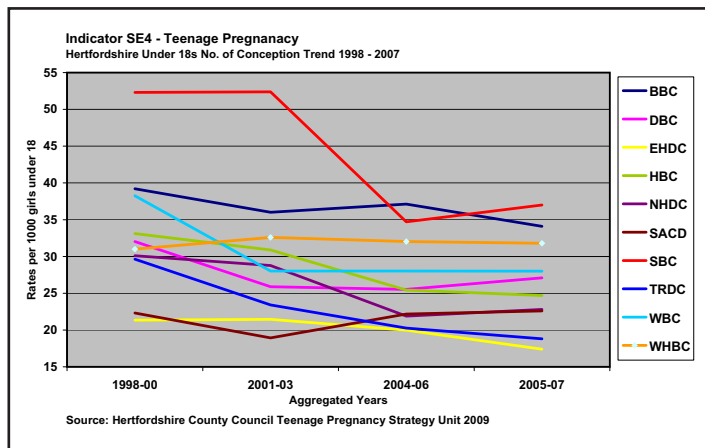
SCooTs: a scheme that lends scooters for a set period of time to young people accessing training and job opportunities where there is no available passenger transport. There are currently 28 people in the scheme, however over its lifetime it has helped 83 people. The take-up of the project continues to grow to the extent that there are now 5 people on the waiting list. In 2009 the scheme had 30 scooters and 2 electric scooters, all were in use by young people.



Hertfordshire Partnership to Support Independent Travel met regularly in 2009 to discuss potential projects; the group continued to monitor the use of a training DVD for bus drivers to understand the needs of disabled passengers, as well as monitoring the number of orange travel wallets that have been distributed to disabled passengers who use buses. A booklet was also launched, along with posters, to help people who are disabled, older or mobility impaired to find contact details of community transport providers and help them access transport to a variety of services including health.



Indicator SE4 - Teenage Pregnancy (Under 18 Conception Rate)



Data received in 2009 from the Office of National Statistics show that Hertfordshire's under 18 conception rate was 26.3 per 1,000. This compares favourably with East of England under 18 conception rates – 33.1 per 1,000, and all of England 41.9 per 1,000.

The Ten Year Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, which commenced in 1998, gave Hertfordshire a target of a reduction in rates of 45% by 2010. This target would have taken our rates down to 17.6. Hertfordshire will not now meet its planned trajectory.

However, the Hertfordshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Unit and its partner agencies are working very closely together to improve services and facilities for young people and young parents.

Indicator SE5 - Child Well-being Index

| Indicator SE5 – Local Authority districts ranked by average score on the Child Well-Being Index | |
|---|---|
| District | CWI rank of average scores ¹ |
| East Hertfordshire | 4 |
| St Albans | 16 |
| North Hertfordshire | 40 |
| Three Rivers | 51 |
| Dacorum | 61 |
| Hertsmere | 86 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 106 |
| Stevenage | 147 |
| Watford | 154 |
| Broxbourne | 164 |

Source: Local Index of Child Well-being 2009
Communities and Local Government January 2009

The Child Well-being Index (CWI) is an index designed to cover the major areas of a child's life that have an impact on a child's well-being. It is not an index of deprivation, as many of the variables are not strictly related to deprivation. The CWI is produced at Lower Super Output Area level (LSOAs) and is made up of seven areas: material well-being, health, education, crime, housing, environment and children (at risk of being) in need.

East Herts is ranked the fourth highest area within the CWI out of 354 districts in England. 80% of the district's LSOAs are within the best 20% in the country. By contrast Broxbourne is ranked 164th although it is still within the top 50%. It has, however, five LSOAs within the lowest 20% in the country. There are four other districts who also have one or two LSOAs in the worst 20%; Dacorum, Hertsmere, Three Rivers and Watford.

It is of note that although Stevenage is ranked 147th in the country with only 6 LSOAs in the best 20%, it does not have any within the worst 20%.

¹ 1 is the highest well-being and 354 the lowest well-being