
ASPIRING DARLINGTON PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT
QUARTER 3 2008

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Aspiring Delivery Plan 2008-2011
2. To inform Members of the progress to date on the overall performance against targets and actions contained within the Aspiring Delivery Plan

Summary

3. The delivery plan contains a 3 tier approach to monitoring performance at Sustainable Community Strategy, LAA and National Indicator level. The delivery plan (appendix 1) also sets out the actions to be implemented by the Children's Trust to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy work strands.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Murray Rose,
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	Monitoring absence from school, uptake of youth engagement and Education to Employment opportunities contributes to crime reduction. Young people who are positively engaged are less likely to become involved in crime or disorder.
Health and Well Being	The Delivery Plan outlines progress on the Parenting Strategy, and methodology for strengthening parental engagement. Parenting is fundamental to health and well being for children and young people
Sustainability	An Aspiring population promotes sustainability in all Wards. The Delivery Plan outlines Young People's improved success in GCSE and NVQ qualifications and their routes in to work, higher education or training after school.
Diversity	The Aspiring theme impacts on all groups in the community equally.

Wards Affected	The Aspiring Darlington Delivery Plan affects children living in all wards across Darlington
Groups Affected	Parents, Pupils, Schools and the community.
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no budget implications.
Efficiency	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Aspiring Darlington Delivery Plan is based on the principles of the Children and Young People's Plan, linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

MAIN REPORT

Performance Information and Analysis

1. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed incorporates 15 performance indicators (three for each of the five delivery themes). Overall the SCS is 'on target'. However, for the three indicators from Aspiring Darlington that measure a contribution to the SCS, there is currently no data available on one indicator due to data collection being on an annual basis.

Sustainable Community Strategy Performance Indicators	Leadofficer	Target 08-09	Current performance	Status
NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths	Rob Thompson	50.2%	47.50%	●
NI 82 Inequality gap in the achievement of level 2 qualifications by the age of 19	Helen Ellison	53%	N/A	!
NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at key stage2 and Key stage 4	Andrew Dunn	KS2 33% KS4 33%	21.5% 40.53%	●

2. Analysis shows that at SCS performance indicator level none of the 3 Aspiring indicators were below target overall. However NI 102 is above target at key stage 2 and below target at key stage 4. Reasons for variance are detailed below. There is not yet any data available for NI 82.

PI	Variance	Reason	Proposed Action
NI 102 KS2	-34.8%	The improvement is due to better tracking and targeting of pupils in vulnerable groups.	
NI 102 KS4	22.7%	Tracking of vulnerable pupils needs to improve.	The introduction of Assessing Pupil Progress initiative across Darlington schools will improve this situation.

3. The Local Area Agreement for Darlington is on Track. Analysis shows that at LAA performance indicator level, 2 indicators are above target, 9 are on target, 7 of the 22 indicators were below target and there is not data yet available for 4 indicators. Details and reasons for variance together with proposed ameliorative actions are detailed below. It should be noted that all the Key Stage 3 indicators have been deleted as SAT testing at Key stage 3 is no longer undertaken and future targets will not be set.

PI	Variance	Reason	Proposed Action
NI 72 Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional development and Communication, language and Literacy	-23.0%	Gap between Threshold Target and achievement in 2007 was 22.6% Gap between Threshold Target and achievement in 2008 is 14.4%. Darlington closer to meeting Threshold Target than in 2007.	
NI 74 Achievement of level 5 or above in both English and Maths at key stage 3 Now deleted	-19.2%	Assessing pupil progress' programme only just embedding in English and recently introduced in maths. This is projected to have impact on standards at KS3 in 2010.	
NI 87 Secondary School persistent absence rate	-37.3%	The target was set including the persistent absentees from Eastbourne school, the academy's figures are excluded from the actual performance.	All secondary schools have followed the good practice from our PA schools and introduced many of the measures consequently the number of secondary PAs has fallen across Darlington.
NI 95 Progression by 2 levels in English between KS2 and KS3 Now deleted	-19.2%	Assessing pupil progress' programme only just embedding in English and recently introduced in maths. This is projected to have impact on standards at KS3 in 2010.	
NI 96 Progression by 2 levels in maths between KS2 and KS3 Now Deleted	-23.0%	Assessing pupil progress' programme only just embedding in English and recently introduced in maths. This is projected to have impact on standards at KS3 in 2010.	
NI 97 Progression by 2 levels in English between KS3 and KS4 Now Deleted	-18.0%	Despite missing target there has been a 6.4% increase on 2007's figure of 50.2%, demonstrating a significant improvement in this area.	Further improvement will follow the roll out of 'assessing pupil progress', which enables teachers to track individual pupil progress through Key Stage 3 and use diagnostic information about pupils' strengths and weaknesses.
NI 98 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between KS3 and KS4 Now deleted	-44.7%	Further improvement will follow the roll out of 'assessing pupil progress', which enables teachers to track individual pupil progress through Key Stage 3 and use diagnostic information about pupils' strengths and weaknesses.	
NI 99 Children in care reaching level 4 in English at key Stage 2	20.1%	Large variance due to low number of looked after children, and movement within this cohort, i.e. target set 18 months prior to exams, and was based on a cohort of 6 children - only 5 children in actual cohort.	
NI 100 Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at key Stage 2	-39.9%	Large variance due to low number of looked after children, and movement within this cohort, i.e. target set 18 months prior to exams, and was based on a cohort of 6 children	

		- only 5 children in actual cohort.	
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4. There are currently 188 national indicators. There were previously 199 national indicators but a number, including the Key Stage 3 indicators previously referred to, are now deleted. 52 indicators are linked to the Aspiring Darlington Theme group, although some of these indicators are cross cutting and may also be reported in some of the other theme groups. Overall across the entire basket of national indicators, performance is on track for those indicators reporting data. Of the Aspiring Darlington related indicators which have not been previously reported above, analysis shows that 3 are below target, 8 are on target and 2 are currently above target. There are 14 indicators that show no data.

National Indicator	Leadofficer	Target 08-09	Current performance	Status
NI 78 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths	Rob Thompson	0	2	▲
NI 114 Rate of Permanent exclusions from schools: Number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of school population	Bernie Bowes	0.12%	0.15%	▲
NI 117 % of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	Lynn Kilpatrick	6.4%	8.3%	▲

PI	Variance	Reason	Proposed Action
NI 78 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths	200%	This is still a reduction on 07/08 from 3 to 2 schools. In one school there have been significant staffing issues in English and maths directly impacting on standards in the English and maths One school is the Eastbourne Academy, which has alternative school improvement arrangements to those brokered through the Local Authority.	In the other school there have been significant staffing issues in English and maths directly impacting on standards in the English and maths
NI 114 Rate of Permanent exclusions from schools: Number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of school population	50.0%	Rate of Permanent Exclusion has halved in one year from 47 to 23 students. Target therefore missed by 5 pupils.	Improvement due to partnership agreement with schools, which has resulted in HLTAs being positioned in each secondary school to run internal exclusion units. Actual performance for this NI is based on academic year 2007-08. Darlington performance from 01/04/08 to 31/12/08 is 8 students, representing 0.05% of school population.
NI 117 % of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	29.7%	Figure reported is November's figure, which is above target because numbers peak between June and September due to the turbulence caused by the final destinations of college leavers being unknown at this time.	Final actual for this NI is based on the average figure for the three months November 2008 to January 2009 inclusive.

PI	Variance	Reason	Proposed Action
		From October the figure has reduced - currently down 4%.	

- 5 The SCS contains 8 work strands in the Aspiring Darlington Theme. These work strands are supported by a total of 41 actions. 95% of the planned actions to support the implementation of the Aspiring Delivery Plan have been completed within target deadlines or are on target. There are only 2 actions that have slipped or which have been delayed.

Work Strand Action		Reason
To develop an Engineering Skills Project, working with approximately 6 key engineering employers within the Town offering subsidised work placements to young people and some form of cash incentive to the individuals upon completion.	▲	Engineering skills project slipped due to budget constraints, will hopefully go ahead next financial year. DBC Self Development Grant scheme still operational this year but fund likely to be exhausted this financial year so may not continue
Identify and map areas of greatest need for the enhanced provision of parental engagement	▲	This task will progress with the roll out of Integrated Working Project